

## Special Issue on Adaptive Design

The Biometrical Journal, published by Wiley in collaboration with the German and Austro-Swiss regions of the IBS, has dedicated a full issue (Vol. 48, 4) to adaptive designs. It covers the state of the art issuing cutting-edge original contributions to the methodology, a review on the expanding usage of this technique, notes on implementation by practitioners from industry and comments by members of regulatory authorities on the issues of these methods. Many of the articles are accompanied by discussions with the authors, the disputing parties often being from different of the above mentioned groups. Anybody working on or using this flexible toolbox is welcome to peruse this reflection of the state of the art and the lively debate accompanying it. The article titles and a sample article can be viewed at the journal's homepage at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jissue/112749304>.

*Johannes Hüsing*

## Japanese Region (JR) Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

The annual Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting was held at Tohoku University in Sendai from 5 to 9 September 2006. Sendai is located in the northern part of Japan. The joint meeting was jointly organized by the Japanese Society of Applied Statistics, the Biometric Society of Japan and the Japan Statistical Society. It was also supported by other three statistics-related societies. At the meeting, the Biometric Society of Japan celebrated its 25th anniversary and the Japan Statistical Society celebrated its 75th anniversary. Over 850 people attended the meeting, and approximately 300 papers were read either in invited or in contributed paper sessions. The number of attendees was greater than anticipated, and the conference volume was sold out. This is one example that prediction is difficult even for trained statisticians.

Two tutorial sessions and one session for general audience were also held. The themes of the tutorial session and lecturers were "Adaptive and Flexible Designs in Clinical Trials" by Dr. Tatsuki Koyama of Vanderbilt University Medical Center and "Independent Component Analysis" by Dr. Noboru Murata of Waseda University. Over 230 people attended each of the seminars. The theme of the general audience session was "Society and Economics under Population Reduction Viewed from Statistical Data." It was pointed out that Japanese population is now at a peak and the number of people in Japan will decrease. Our economy is now at a peak or not? It is a question.

Sessions concerning biometrics at the meeting were almost full of participants. Actually I myself couldn't enter the seminar room after the session had started. One notable thing is that many papers were read by young people and also by female researchers. Our activity is not at a peak, it is still growing.

The Society thanks all the people who devoted their enormous energy and time in organizing the joint meeting. Particularly, the names Nobuhiko Terui of Tohoku University, Yoshihiro Yajima of University of Tokyo and Hiroko Nakanishi of Seikei University should be mentioned here. Without their efforts the joint meeting would never have become successful.

During the meeting we had the good news that the imperial family had

a newborn baby – it's a boy.

The 2007 joint meeting will be held at Kobe University from 6-9 September.

*Manabu Iwasaki*

## Poland Group (GPol)

On 11–14 September 2006, the 36th International Biometrical Colloquium was organized in Olsztyn. This year, the annual meeting of the Polish Biometric Society was hosted by the Department of Plant Breeding and Seed Production at the University of Warmia and Mazury. The Colloquium attended 65 biometricians from Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Belgium and the USA. During the conference 26 oral presentations and 18 posters on the application of biometrics and mathematical statistics to biological and natural sciences were presented, mainly in English. Most of the presented papers have been published in the 36th volume (281 pages) of the Biometrical Colloquium which is, since 1970, the official periodical of the Polish Biometric Society. The abstracts were also published (24 pages).



*Local Organizing Committee*

Thanks are due to the Local Organizing Committee, Anna Zareba, Dariusz Załuski, Janusz Golaszewski (Chair), Aneta Stawiana-Kosiorek, Anna Kalinowska-Sawczuk (see picture from the left), Jozef Tworowski

and Pawel Sulima. The scientific atmosphere was complemented by a campfire, conference dinner and trips for admiring the beauty of the Warmia and Mazury region and the historical treasures of Reszel, Lezany and Swieta Lipka (Saint Linden). This trip was ended by a super dinner in some beautiful agrotouristic place with many attractions. There were horses, good Polish eating, dancing and singing. Many thanks!

*Zofia Hanusz*

## Spanish Region (REsp)

### Joint Meeting of the Spanish Region of the Biometric Society and the Spanish Epidemiology Society (GUDO III)

The 3rd joint meeting of the Spanish Region and the Spanish Epidemiology Society was held at the University of Valencia on 23-24 June 2006. The Scientific Committee prepared an exciting program with two invited sessions, two contributed sessions, one poster session and one discussion session. On the 22nd of June, Guadalupe Gómez gave a very interesting short course on "Introduction to Survival Analysis: What do Health Professionals Need? What Can Biostatisticians Provide?"

The invited talks covered several topics, among them, Guadalupe Gómez talked about "The Analysis of Sequential Times Subject

to Dependent Censoring,” Roberto Pastor discussed topics on “Development and Application of Change-point Models for the Analysis of Dose-response Relations in Epidemiology,” and Joan Benach gave an interesting talk on “Differences in Mortality in Spain: What do we Know and What Should we Do?” Nick Best gave an invited talk on “Extensions of Bayesian Disease Mapping Models and their Application in Spatial Epidemiology.” The contributed sessions included talks on geographical analysis of risks, time series, survival analysis, prediction of mortality rates, and other topics. The poster session was very successful with more than 30 contributions. The meeting was closed with a discussion session on “Epidemiology and Statistical Analysis in Cancer Registry.” Abstracts of talks and posters can be found at <http://www.uv.es/~gudo/programa.html>.

On the fun side of the meeting, the participants attended a soul-funky concert on the evening of the 23rd and, of course, enjoyed the beautiful city of Valencia.



Arizona Snowbowl (Photograph by Elizabeth Thompson)



Meeting participants

**Maria Durban**

## Western North American Region (WNAR) 2006 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/IMS was held at the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ from 27-30 June, with approximately 150 participants.

The meeting began with a short course on “Statistical Methods for Analysis of Missing Data” by XH Andrew Zhou from the University of Washington. Xiao-Li Meng from Harvard University gave a stimulating presentation entitled “(Data) Size Does Matter, But You Might be in for a Surprise ...” for the WNAR Presidential Invited Address.



Grand Canyon

Excellent presentations were given by invited speakers: Cynthia Cooper from Oregon State University, Ron McRoberts from the USDA Forest Service, and Mary Christman from the University of Florida in the session “Spatial Aspects of Sampling and Estimation in the Environmental Sciences;” Heping Zhang from Yale University, David Allison from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Pengfei Li from the University of Waterloo in the session “Statistical Applications in Genetics;” Jon A. Wellner from the University of Washington, Kani Chen from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Donglin Zeng from the University of North Carolina in the session “Semiparametric Models for Counting Processes and Event Time Data;” Mariza de Andrade from the Mayo Clinic, Zailong Wang from Ohio State University, and Lang Li from Indiana University in the session “Statistical Methods for Epigenetic Analysis;” Robert Serfling from the University of Texas at Dallas, Jana Jureckova from the Charles University in Prague, and Matias Salbian-Barrera from the University of British Columbia in the session “Robust and Nonparametric Multivariate Analysis;” Xiaoping Xiong from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Robert Elashoff from UCLA, and Jane-Ling Wong from the University of California at Davis in the session “Advances in Survival Analysis and Clinical Trials;” Siddhartha Chib from the Washington University, Ming-Hui Chen from the University of Connecticut, and Jim Hobert from the University of Florida in the session “Monte Carlo Methods;” Alan Hubbard from the University of California, Berkeley, Nilanjan Chatterjee from the National Cancer Institute, and Maya Petersen from the University of California, Berkeley in the session “Advances in Statistical Methods in Epidemiology;” Misha Belkin from Ohio State University, Feng Liang from Duke University, and Sasha Rakhlin from MIT in the session “Statistical learning Theory and Its Applications;” Peter Bacchetti from the University of California, San Francisco, Richard Simon from the National Cancer Institute, and Xin Tu from the University of Rochester in the session “New Developments in Sample Size Planning;” Tanya Apanasovich from Cornell University, Erica Moodie from the University of Washington, and Leilei Zeng from Simon Fraser University in the session “New Researchers in Longitudinal Data Analysis;” Richard Davis from Colorado State University, Mohsen Pouramahi from Northern Illinois University, and Raquel Prado from the AMS at UCSC in the session “Analysis of Nonstationary Time Series;” Armin Schwartzman from Stanford University, Daniel Rowe from the Medical College of

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