

Bayesian vs. Frequentist 'diatribe.'

People seemed to enjoy also the relaxed time together in the beautiful rooms and park of Villa Vittoria, the historic building where the auditorium was located. The Villa, built in 1886 for the noble and powerful Strozzi Family, was later owned by another noble family, Contini Bonaccossi, that took care of restoring it with the famous architect Giò Ponti in the 1930s, to its present form, so well preserved by the Municipality.



Welcome Reception in the park of the Villa Vittoria.

We are happy to be an active part of IBS and to have hosted its truly international conference.

Adriano Decarli
Chair of the LOC

Maria Grazia Valsecchi
IBS Italian Region President

Japanese Region (JR)

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan was held on 23-24 May at Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo, Japan. 174 people attended the meeting. In Japan, inappropriate handlings

of data in clinical trials of Diovan have been a great social issue. The Biometric Society of Japan has released a statement on clinical research and an ethical guideline for biostatisticians. In the invited session, ethical issues in clinical researches were discussed, including these guidelines. In the other invited session, various issues in statistical modeling in agricultural or ecological researches were discussed by four speakers. In addition, 12 oral and 13 poster presentations were made.

The Biometric Society of Japan is pleased to announce that the *BSJ Award* was conferred on Professor Shigeyuki Matsui (Nagoya University) for a series of his contributions to statistical methodologies and applications, in particular, in statistical methods in macro array data analyses. The Society also conferred the *BSJ Honorary Award* on Dr. Toshihiko Morikawa for his contributions to the Society and the *Young Biostatisticians Award* on Dr. Hisashi Noma for his publication in a recent issue of *Japanese Journal of Biometrics*.

The 2014 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

The Biometric Society of Japan is one of the six sponsoring organizations of the meeting and the 2014 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting will be held on 13-16 September at Hongo Campus of University of Tokyo. The Biometric Society of Japan will organize the *Biometric Symposium* on recent advances in meta-analysis, whose topics include network meta-analysis, meta-analysis of dose-response analysis and evaluation of surrogacy of endpoints. The Society will also organize a session for a lecture by the winner of the *Young Biostatisticians Award* presented by the Biometric Society of Japan. Dr. Noma will make a presentation on his research on statistical methods for epidemiologic researches. Two tutorial seminars will be provided. One topic is on secondary use of official statistics and the other is on matching techniques in observational studies.

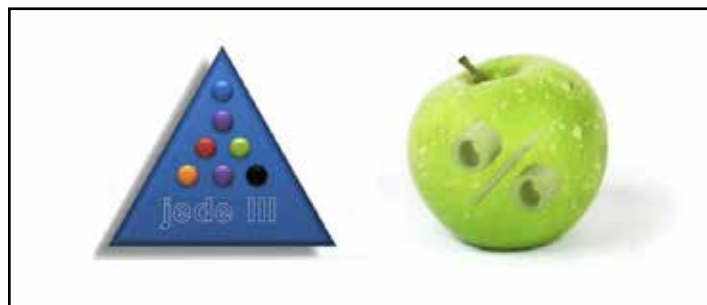
The 2014 Biometric Seminar

The *Biometric Seminar* will be held on 8-9 December, 2014 at Campus Plaza Kyoto. The seminar will provide tutorial lectures on multiplicity issues in clinical researches. The lectures will begin with classical closed testing procedures and cover advanced methodologies including gate keeping methods and graphical approaches. Practical issues are also discussed both from sponsor and regulatory view points.

Satoshi Hattori

Spanish Region (REsp)

FreshBiostats: A Blog for Young Researchers



FreshBiostats at the 'JEDE III Conference.'

Celebrating two years since first getting together, FreshBiostats blog-

gers marked the occasion at the *JEDE III Conference* in Pamplona (Spain) last July by presenting an overview of their project to friends and peers within the biostatistics community.

The blog started as a forum for online collaboration. Now, after more than 70 published posts, it has evolved into a virtual meeting point where the authors and other young researchers can comment on current topics in biometrics and related disciplines. Beyond this topical content, the bloggers share tips on statistical techniques and software, and make recommendations on general resources as they strive to facilitate the development and spread of research outputs.

While they all come from different areas of expertise, they share an interdisciplinary and collaborative spirit. This passion finds a voice through their web-based platform, inspired by popular virtual channels of dissemination and discussion of research that have become increasingly important in academic communication.

Despite acknowledging the difficulty of estimation of the real impact of this sort of resource and taking into careful consideration webometrics and altmetrics figures, the bloggers are nevertheless encouraged that more than 54,000 visits have been received from over 160 countries so far. Spurred on by this number of readers and followers across the different social media, the authors are hopeful of greater things to come for FreshBiostats and would like to invite any other IBS members interested in getting involved to leave their comments directly on the blog website at freshbiostats.wordpress.com or by email freshbiostats@gmail.com.

Anabel Forte

Western North American Region (WNAR)

2014 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/IMS was held at University of Hawaii from June 15-18 with over 180 participants.



Figure 1a-b University of Hawaii campus.

The meeting began with a short course on 'Introduction to large-scale genetic association studies' presented by Thomas Lumley from the University of Auckland and the University of Washington, and Christi Donnelly from Imperial College London presented 'Statistical Challenges in Understanding Disease Transmission and Control' for the WNAR Presidential Invited Address.

The conference included twelve invited sessions sponsored by WNAR, five invited session sponsored by IMS, four student paper competition oral sessions, twelve contributed paper sessions, and a poster session with more than twenty participants.

