After a short welcome by our chair Mark van de Wiel, Pariya was once more congratulated, but now for a bigger public. She will receive a physical award later, and she may organize a BMS-ANed meeting with speakers of her choice. Afterwards, jury member **Ruth Keogh** started with her talk "Using sequential target trials to estimate causal effects of treatments from longitudinal observational data", using a UK registry with long-term data of cystic fibrosis patients. Over time, patients may switch treatment, and time-dependent confounders play a role in this process. This makes the modeling of the association between treatment and death a complex one. The sequential trial approach offers a tool to analyze these survival data, as well as the marginal structural model, but it seems the sequential trial approach needs less assumptions. Next, **David Causeur** spoke about "Adaptive Handling of Dependence in High-Dimensional Regression Modeling". He discussed the pros and cons of dependency between characteristics in prediction. He showed results of a simulation study comparing several regression methods such as OLS, Lasso, Ridge, PLS and PCR, using example data on orange juice with 700 covariables (available in the R package cggd). **Cécile Proust-Lima** ended with "Modeling inter-related longitudinal processes in cerebral aging", where she discussed the challenge how to understand the temporal influences between the multiple dynamic domains involved in the development of Alzheimer's disease. She discussed a dynamic model that quantified the temporal links between dimensions measured repeatedly over time, using structural models for the underlying (latent) dimensions. The presentations were very much appreciated by the public, and the PDFs of the presentations can be found on the VVS-OR website.

After the scientific part, we ended with the Annual General Meeting 2020 of BMS-ANed, i.e., the assembly of the BMS (Biometric Section of the Dutch Society for Statistics and Operations Research - VVS) and ANed (Dutch region of the International Biometric Society - IBS). There were a few changes in the BMS-ANed board: we said farewell to Rianne Jacobs [RUG] and Willem Kruijer [WUR], and there was a vote to agree with the new members Dennis te Beest [WUR, treasurer], Mar Rodriguez [LUMC; secretary], and Roula Tsonaka [LUMC, PR]. Further, an overview of past events was given, acknowledgements were given to non-board members with involvement in BMS-ANed activities, and the ANed financial report on 2019 was discussed, with special attention to the "Corsten fonds". It was decided to transfer this fund to the IBS, since the IBS also has a support program for researchers from developing countries which matches the purpose of the Corsten fonds.

We are looking forward to the online Spring meeting on Friday 18 June, which will be the meeting organized by Pariya Behrouzi.

Joanna in 't Hout, on behalf of BMS-ANed

Nordic Baltic Region (NBR)
https://ibsnbr.org/

The 8th NBBC Conference 2021 will be organised fully virtually, we are happy to share with you the latest news about the event! We are glad to announce that three distinguished professors, Prof. Susan Holmes and Prof. Persi Diaconis from Stanford University, USA and Prof. Elja Ajas from the University of Helsinki, Finland have agreed to be keynote speakers of the Conference. More about the scientific program of the conference can be found on the conference website.

Invited Sessions: You will find an excellent invited speakers list and topics here.

Pre-conference Course: We are also eager to share with you the program of 2-day pre-conference course Graphical Models and Bayesian Networks (with R), which will be held by Prof. Søren Højsgaard, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark on the 3-4 June 2021.

Abstract Submission: The deadline for abstract submission is **15 April 2021**! Be sure to submit your abstract before that date. Submit your abstract here.

Registration: Participation in the conference and in the pre-conference course are free for the members of the International Biometric Society (IBS). If you are not a member of the IBS yet then please become a member today. Click for more information on the membership of the IBS here. If your region is Nordic-Baltic then you may apply for membership, no later than **15 May 2021** by sending an email to member@ibsnbr.org. Please include your full name, affiliation and type of membership (regular, senior, or student) in the email.

Registration ends on 30 May 2021! - Click here to register.

Host: Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Gustaf Hällströmin katu 2, Kumpula Campus, University of Helsinki, Finland

Contact: nbbc21.info@helsinki.fi

The Spanish Region (REsp)
http://www.biometricsociety.net/

The 5th Student Conference of the Spanish Region of the International Biometric Society (REsp) was successfully held on January 27-29, 2021. This edition of the Student Conference of the REsp was to be held in Valencia, but finally was celebrated online due to the covid-19 pandemic. Even so, it was a very successful
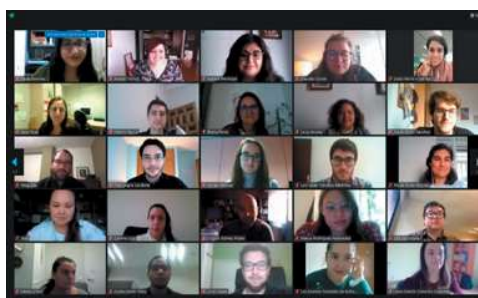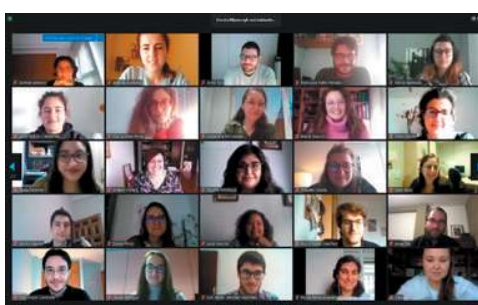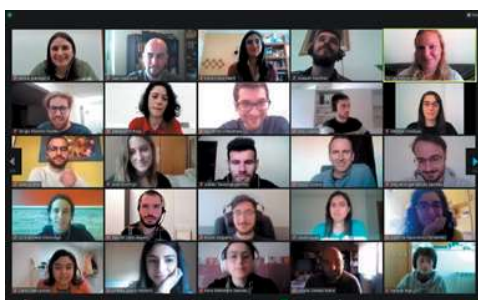
edition and a total of 68 contributions were presented, even more than in previous editions (almost twice as many as in the 3rd edition held in Bilbao in January 2018, in which 36 works were presented).

The scientific program of the conference included a total of 11 oral and 2 poster sessions. The contributions covered a wide range of topics, including but not limited to software, survival analysis, medical studies, genomics and gene expression analysis, covid-19 and infectious disease analysis, spatial analysis and modelling.

In addition, the program also included a course entitled "My research is not reproducible/replicable, should I be worried about it?" given by Dr. Miguel Ángel Martinez Beneito from the University of Valencia. A round table was also held in which Prof. Carmen Armero (University of Valencia), Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls (University of Valencia), Prof. Rosa Lillo (University Carlos III of Madrid) and Dr. Virgilio Gómez (University of Castilla-La Mancha) discussed on the similarities and differences between statistics and machine learning.

The Organizing Committee, exclusively composed of students from the Spanish Region, is very grateful to the REsp and to the University of Valencia for all the received support. In addition, the Organizing Committee wants to thank and congratulate all participants in this conference for their participation and the high quality of all contributions.

For more information, visit this website and the hashtag #VJSEB on Twitter.

Western North American Region (WNAR)
http://wnar.org/

2021 WNAR Election Results

After needing to cancel the 2020 meeting due to COVID-19, Congratulations to WNAR President-Elect Gary Chan from University of Washington, Secretary-elect Jessica Minnier from Oregon Health Sciences University, Program, Coordinator Elizabeth Juarez-Colunga from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and Regional Committee Representatives Charlotte Gard from New Mexico State University and Julia Palacios from Standard University.

Special thanks go out to outgoing WNAR Past-President Katerina Kechris, outgoing Program Coordinator Dongseok Choi, and outgoing Regional Committee Representatives Ed Bedrick and Cristina Murray-Krezen for their efforts and dedication to WNAR.

We would like to thank all the WNAR members who volunteered to be candidates for these offices. WNAR is fortunate to have so many talented members willing to dedicate their time and energy to WNAR, which makes each election a choice among outstanding individuals.

2021 WNAR/IMS meeting

The 2021 WNAR/IMS meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the Hilton Anchorage in downtown Anchorage, Alaska from 14-17 June 2021. Decisions on whether the meeting will involve an in-person component will be made in the next month. The WNAR website, www.wnar.org, will have the most up-to-date status of the meeting.

Anchorage is Alaska's largest city and is picturesquely located on the Cook Inlet. The Chugach mountains, multiple national parks, and 60 glaciers are all a short drive away. The WNAR conference is held in June, when the long summer days can be enjoyed. Jiaqi Huang (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) is the Local Organizer, Yingqi Zhao (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center) is the Program Chair, and Harold Bae (Oregon State University) is the Student Competition Chair. Registration information and other details about the meeting will be posted to the WNAR site www.wnar.org as they become available.

2021 WNAR Student Paper Competition

WNAR sponsors students who enter the student paper competition. All WNAR-region entrants receive their registration fees and banquet dinner ticket for free. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the best papers in written and oral competitions. Information on the 2021 WNAR Student Paper Competition, registration information, and program details for the meeting will be posted as they become available: http://www.wnar.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

Megan Othus (WNAR Secretary)