

Jhonny Rafael Demey, 1963-2016

It is with deep sadness that we inform about the passing of our regional vicepresident, Dr. Jhonny R. Demey, in Salamanca, Spain, on July 27, 2016. Jhonny was a very active member of the IBS, both at the regional level (founding member of the region and its predecessor network since 1992, regional president and vicepresident) and at the international level (member of Education Committee, Council and Representative Council Member for several years, currently he was in the International Program Committee for IBC 2018). He worked very hard for the Caribbean and Central American Network to transform into a region in 2001, and since 2006 he was one of the key persons organizing the biennial Iberoamerican Biometrical Meetings.

He was Senior Researcher (Prometeo Program, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Lab, FCNM-ESPOL, Guayaquil, Ecuador). Previously he worked as a professor, researcher, and dean at the Instituto de Estudios Avanzados (IDEA, Caracas, Venezuela), and as a professor at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He also held visiting research and teaching positions at Universidad de Salamanca (Spain), at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (Spain), and at Cornell University (USA).

He held a PhD in Statistics from the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain (2008), a MS in Statistics from Universidad Central de Venezuela (1993), and was an Agricultural Engineer (Universidad Nacional Experimental Francisco de Miranda, Venezuela, 1987). He had ample experience as a researcher in genetics and biotechnology, developing statistical approaches to quantify the genetic diversity using DNA molecular markers, to study the relationship genotype-phenotype, and to identify candidate resistance genes in plant diseases. As a statistical consultant, he worked for more than 20 years in biotechnology laboratories in the planning, design, analysis, and interpretation of results of trials. He taught courses in biostatistics, experimental design, and multivariate analysis for agriculture students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also taught advanced courses in genetic biodiversity, experimental design in biotechnology, phylogenetic analysis, analysis of gene expression data, and statistical methods for genetic analysis. He had multiple papers in diverse areas of biometry and biometrical applications.

He was a very sincere and cheerful person, with a big heart. He was an honest and loyal friend, who put family and friendship above all things. His passion for Biometry and Computing had him working tirelessly almost all day and night, but he always took things with a keen sense of humor.

He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, friend!