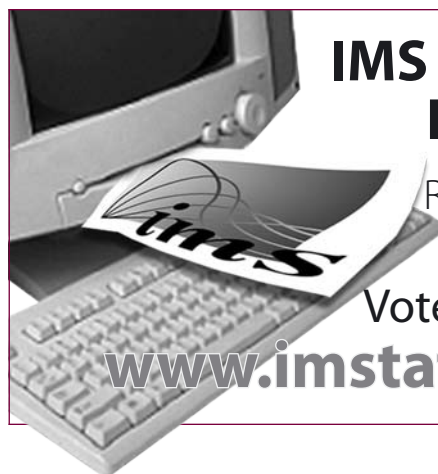# IMS Bulletin

May 2008

CONTENTS

IMS wants your vote!

Is it that time of year already? IMS elections are here, and it's time to vote for the IMS President-Elect and Council members.

This year's nominee for IMS President-Elect is J. Michael Steele, the CF Koo Professor of Statistics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. As in previous years, there are ten IMS Council nominees, of whom five will be elected to serve on IMS Council. In alphabetical order, they are: Anton Bovier, Berlin University of Technology and Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics, Berlin; Peter Hall, University of Melbourne and University of California, Davis; Marc Hallin, Université libre de Bruxelles; Bruce G. Lindsay, Pennsylvania State University; Zhi-Ming Ma, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Enno Mammen, University of Mannheim; Michael Newton, University of Wisconsin–Madison; Timo Seppäläinen, University of Wisconsin–Madison; Jane-Ling Wang, University of California, Davis; and Bin Yu, University of California, Berkeley.

You can read more about each of the candidates, and their personal statements, on pages 8–12.

Voting is open now, and closes on **May 31, 2008**. All IMS members are encouraged to use their vote: you can vote securely online, and although electronic voting is preferred, paper ballots are also accepted. You should have received an email with voting instructions: if you haven't, please check your spam filter! You'll need your Member ID for voting, which you will find in the top left corner, above your name, of the mailing label of an IMS journal or this *Bulletin*. If you prefer a paper ballot, or don't know your Member ID, please contact Elyse Gustafson, IMS Executive Director, at erg@imstat.org, or phone 1-216-295-2340.

IMS Council Elections 2008

Read the candidates' statements inside

Vote online at
www.imstat.org/elections

IMS Members' News

Nancy Reid and Marvin Zelen awarded 2008 Parzen Prize for Statistical Innovation

The Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University will proudly award two 2008 Emanuel and Carol Parzen Prizes for Statistical Innovation to Nancy Reid (University Professor of Statistics at the University of Toronto) and Marvin Zelen (Lemuel Shattuck Research Professor of Statistical Science at the Harvard University School of Public Health) for their significant research and contribution to the discipline of statistics. The prize ceremony is on May 13, 2008 at Texas A&M University.

During the ceremony, Dr. Emanuel Parzen will present the first lecture, *"United Applicable Statistics, Confidence Quantiles, Philosophy of Statistical Science, Statistical Education"*. Nancy Reid's lecture is titled *"Composite Likelihood Inference in Complex Models"* and Marvin Zelen's is *"The Early Detection of Disease and Stochastic Models"*.

Nancy Reid has an international reputation for outstanding achievements, and is a role model for women in the mathematical sciences. Nancy received her degrees in 1974 (BMath, University of Waterloo), 1976 (MSc, University of British Columbia), and 1979 (PhD, Stanford University). She is currently a University Professor of Statistics at the University of Toronto. Some of her many accomplishments include, the coveted COPSS Presidents' Award (1992), IMS Wald Lecturer (2000), and election to Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (2001). She has also served as President of the Statistical Society of Canada, President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and Vice President of the International Statistical Institute. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Statistical Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She also coauthored a book, *"Applied Asymptotics: Case Studies in Small Sample Statistics"* (with Brazzale, A.R., Davison, AC, and Reid, N. (2007) Cambridge University Press).

Marvin Zelen has an international reputation as one of the founders of biostatistical science. His current title, as Lemuel Shattuck Research Professor of Statistical Science at Harvard University School of Public Health, was awarded to him (around his 80th birthday) in 2007 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Harvard and the profession and discipline of biostatistical science. Marvin received degrees from the City College of New York (BS, 1948), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (MA, 1951), and the American University (PhD, 1957). From 1952 to 1961, he was a statistician at the National Bureau of Standards (NIST), mentored by W. J. Youden and Churchill Eisenhart. From 1963 to 1967 he was Head of the Mathematical Statistics Section of the National Cancer Institute. From 1967 to 1977 he was a faculty member at the State University of New York at Buffalo where he not only pioneered the Statistical Laboratory for high impact collaboration between biostatistical science and cancer research, but he also founded the Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation. Since 1977, he has directed extensive research programs at Harvard (Dana Farber Cancer Institute and School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics). His honors include the Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Medal of the American Statistical Association (2006), and the title of Docteur Honoris Causa, Université Victor Segalon Bordeaux II (2003). Additional honors include election as Fellow of the International Statistical Institute, American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Science.

2008 IMS Laha Awards

The IMS is pleased to announce the 2008 Laha Award recipients, each of whom will present a paper at the 2008 World Congress/ IMS Annual Meeting in Singapore. If you're at the congress, be sure to catch their talks!

▲ *Paul D. Baines*
Harvard University

▲ *David Croydon*
University of Warwick, UK

▲ *Chongzhi Di*
Johns Hopkins University

▲ *Siegfried Hörmann*
University of Utah

▲ *Silja Kinnebrock*
Oxford-Man Institute of
Quantitative Finance, UK

▲ *Chen Quin (Eric) Lam*
The Ohio State University

▲ *Qunhua Li*
University of Washington,
Seattle

▲ *Tyler McCormick*
Columbia University

▲ *Pál Rakonczai*
Eötvös Loránd University,
Budapest, Hungary

▲ *Daniel Remenik*
Cornell University

▲ *Deena Schmidt*
IMA, University of
Minnesota
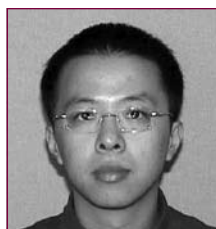
▲ *Chengyong Tang*
Iowa State University

▲ *Amanda Turner*
Lancaster University, UK

Winfried Stute receives Honorary Doctorate from the University of Santiago de Compostela

IMS Fellow Winfried Stute, Professor of Mathematical Stochastics at the Justus-Liebig-University of Giessen, Germany, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, Spain. The university was honoring his achievements in the area of stochastic processes and their applications to statistics, and his continuing cooperation with Galician statisticians. The celebration took place on April 1, in the historic setting of the Fonseca auditorium, Santiago. During this medieval ritual, at the request of the rector, the tokens of the doctorate — the Santiago ring and medal of honour and the "book of wisdom"— were delivered by the '*padriño*', Professor Wenceslao González Manteiga.

[right]: Winfried Stute at the awards ceremony

A conjecture on **Maximum Likelihood Estimation**

Ning-Zhong Shi, School of Mathematics and Statistics, Northeast Normal University, P.R. China, writes:

The method of maximum likelihood is generally credited to Fisher, although its roots date back to as far as Lambert, Daniel Bernoulli, and Lagrange in the eighteenth century (*Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences*, Volume 5).

This method is by far the most popular general method of estimation in statistics. Its widespread acceptance can be seen in the very large body of research dealing with its theoretical properties, such as consistency and efficiency.

However, many of these good theoretical properties are proven for large samples. In small samples, usually it is very difficult to achieve similar results. Based on our intuition, we give the following conjecture.

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ be an independent and identically distributed random sample with density $f(\cdot, \theta)$, where θ is an unknown parameter, and let $\hat{\theta}_n$ denote the maximum likelihood estimator of θ based on the sample. Now, suppose that we obtain an additional observation, say X_{n+1}, from the same distribution. In this case, $\hat{\theta}_{n+1}$ denotes the maximum likelihood estimator of θ based on the $n+1$ observations. We probably prefer to use $\hat{\theta}_{n+1}$ to estimate θ since it uses more information than the original $\hat{\theta}_n$. Can we quantify the comparison between $\hat{\theta}_{n+1}$ and $\hat{\theta}_n$?

We know that the mean squared error is a widely-used criterion for judging estimators, especially in small samples. It is defined as the expected value of squared-error loss in estimating θ by its estimate $\hat{\theta}$, that is, $\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2]$. As a result, we conjecture that

$$\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_{n+1}) \le \mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_n).$$

It is easy to show that the above result is true when θ is the expectation and $\hat{\theta}_n$ is the sample mean, as long as X_i has finite variance. We believe that this result still holds for any maximum likelihood estimator under some regularity conditions such as $\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta})$ is finite.

Babies good at statistics? What are the odds?

Researchers have found that babies appear to have an intuitive grasp of statistics. According to their paper, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Fei Xu and Vashti Garcia of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, suggest that 8-month-old infants can work out the likelihood of an event occurring.

In Xu and Garcia's study, red and white ping-pong balls were placed in boxes. Babies were shown examples of mostly red or mostly white balls, to give them an idea of what the boxes might contain. Then an investigator brought out another box of red and white balls, shook it up, and drew out five balls: four of one color and one of the other. They then opened a panel showing the babies the contents of the box from which the balls were drawn, and recorded how long the infants gazed at the contents. Babies stare at unexpected events longer than expected outcomes.

If the box contained mostly red ping-pong balls, the infants looked longer if a mixture of mostly white ping-pong balls were pulled out, compared to a mixture of mostly red ping-pong balls. Conversely, if the infants were shown a mixture of mostly red ping-pong balls being pull out, they expected to see the big box containing mostly red ping-pong balls.

"The infants' performance in these studies is impressive," says the team. Their findings, they say, "provide evidence that infants possess a powerful mechanism for inductive learning, either using heuristics or basic principles of probability."

Xu and Garcia argue that the ability to make predictions from a small sample is central to survival: "Our hunter-gatherer ancestors may have tasted a few berries on a tree and then decided that all berries from the same kind of tree are edible. They may have encountered a few friendly people from a neighboring tribe and made the inference that people in that tribe are likely to be friendly in general."

Whatever the evolutionary advantage, it seems that babies may have a working knowledge of probability and statistics years before they even go to school.

COPSS Fisher Lecturer: Ross Prentice

Madhuri S. Mulekar, University of South Alabama, is the Secretary/Treasurer of COPSS. She writes:

Dr Ross L. Prentice has been selected by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) to deliver the 2008 Fisher Lecture. The COPSS awards the Fisher Lectureship to recognize the contributions of a leading statistician to scientific investigation, through the development and promotion of statistical methods. This award was established in 1963 to honor Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher and his role in the development of statistics as a discipline.

The Fisher lecture will be delivered at the COPSS Awards Session at 4:00pm on Wednesday, August 6, 2008, at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, Colorado. Professor Prentice will discuss the Women's Health Initiative—the first randomized control trial of women to study the impact of low fat diet and hormone replacement therapy on cancer and cardiovascular disease—in his lecture, "**The Population Science Research Agenda: Multivariate Failure Time Data Analysis Methods.**" His talk will include a comparison of traditional and preventive intervention methods of postmenopausal hormone therapy.

A graduate of the University of Toronto (in 1970), Dr Prentice joined the University of Washington in 1974, having worked at the University of Waterloo, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Radian Effects Research Foundation in Japan. In 1984, he agreed to head the newly-expanded Division of Public Health Sciences at the Hutchinson Cancer Research Center where he directed the intellectual growth of the largest research group in what has become a major cancer institute. Currently he serves as the Senior Vice President and interim Director of Public Health Sciences, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington.

Dr Prentice is well known for his contributions to statistics through his over 300 publications, including a book on survival analysis. He has supervised a large number of PhD students and has been associated with the editorial responsibilities of many leading journals. His research spans statistics across other disciplines although concentrated in cancer-related problems. In his early work, he established the theoretical foundation for partial likelihood and the proportional hazards model for survival analysis. Later he expanded it to include methodology for the design and analysis of observational studies including case control studies.

His work as a mentor and teacher, and his leadership, is recognized by awards such as the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award (Harvard University), Mortimer Spiegelman Award (American Public Health Association), and the American Association of Cancer Research IACS Presentation Award. His achievements have been recognized by COPSS by awarding him the prestigious Presidents' Award, and by the University of Waterloo that granted him an Honorary Doctorate in Mathematics. Because of his leadership role in the expansion of the Cancer Research Center, he has served on the External Advisory Committees of many cancer research centers across the USA.

The Women's Health Initiative can be considered the crown of Dr Prentice's accomplishments. This initiative studies impact of a low fat diet, hormone replacement therapy, and calcium supplements in women on cancer and cardiovascular disease. It is the largest trial ever conducted in women and Dr Prentice led the statistical and data coordinating center for it. The results of this study have made major contributions to women's health issues by demonstrating that contrary to popular belief and medical opinions, hormone replacement therapy did not reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in women, in fact, it increased the risk of stroke.

The Fisher Lectureship is appropriate recognition of Dr Prentice's work. His co-author Professor Jack Kalbfleisch described in his letter, "… Like Fisher, he (Dr Prentice) has kept himself integrally involved in a scientific area that has motivated his statistical work and contributions. At the same time, these contributions have contributed immediately to other scientific areas."

The 2008 Fisher Lecture Committee was chaired by Lori Thombs (ASA) and the other members of the committee include Hal Stern (COPSS), Michael Newton (IMS), Donald McLeish (SSC), Jeremy Taylor (ENAR), and Loveday Conquest (WNAR).

Ross Prentice, the 2008 COPSS Fisher lecturer
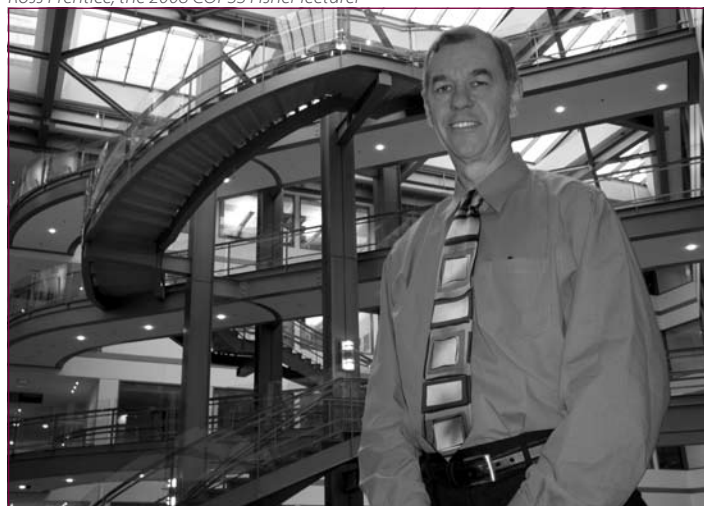
LECTURE NOTES – MONOGRAPH SERIES

LNMS Volume 55:

Asymptotics: Particles, Processes and Inverse Problems
Festschrift for Piet Groeneboom

Editors: Eric A. Cator, Geurt Jongbloed, Cor Kraaikamp, Hendrik P. Lopuhaä, and Jon A. Wellner

At the occasion of the official retirement of Piet Groeneboom as professor of statistics at Delft University of Technology and the VU University in Amsterdam, a workshop was held in Leiden in July 2006. This volume contains papers presented at that workshop as well as other contributions. A wide field of research is covered, reflecting Piet's broad interests. The main theme is Asymptotics, in particular related to interacting particle systems, stochastic processes and shape-constrained estimation, as often encountered in inverse problems. The reader can, however, also find papers on other more or less related subjects.
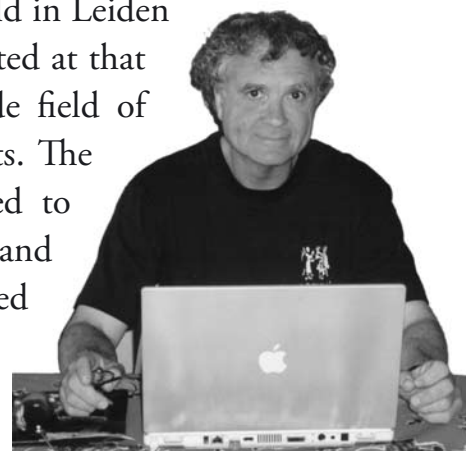
Piet in a characteristic pose. Amsterdam, 2003.

In Conversation: *Sourav Chatterjee*

In the last issue we announced that the recipient of this year's Tweedie New Researcher Award is **Sourav Chatterjee**, who is Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley. Sourav will be delivering the Tweedie New Researcher Invited Lecture, given in memory of Richard L. Tweedie, at the IMS New Researchers' Conference, which will be held this year in Boulder, Colorado, from July 29 to August 2. Details on that conference at http://www.stat.rutgers.edu/~rebecka/NRC/index.html
We asked him a few questions:

Can you briefly describe your current research interests? Why do you choose to work on those problems?

I am currently working on a number of problems arising from random matrices, spin glasses, Stein's method, and a bunch of other topics. Typically, I work simultaneously on a large number of problems—some with collaborators and some on my own—and some of them are eventually taken to completion. In the process, I keep learning new things. Fortunately, probability is a field that goes with an immense diversity of interesting problems, perhaps more so than most other branches of math. Moreover, I have a feeling that there are many fundamental issues that are unresolved, and these are the ones that attract me the most. It is a very exciting time to be a probabilist!

Your work touches upon both probability and statistics. Do you think that these two fields are moving closer or further apart? What would you suggest to make them more integrated (if desirable in your view)?

Both subjects are expanding rapidly in independent directions, and therefore I don't think it is surprising that they are drifting apart. It is analogous, for example, to the interdependence between astronomy and differential equations in the nineteenth century, and how they evolved as vast, independent subjects afterwards. What I believe, though, is that students of statistics should learn some essential probability (just as astronomers did not stop learning differential equations), and students of probability should be aware of the field of statistical applications and the opportunities it presents. Some young statisticians lack the skills for correctly proving elementary results about their models; some young probabilists—particularly those from a math background—aren't even aware that there are interesting theoretical issues in statistics. It's pretty clear that there are thousands of clever people out there hacking out whatever they can, and the only way we as statisticians can retain our edge in the long run is by sticking to our tradition of thinking in mathematically sensible ways.

Are you generally happy with how the IMS journals handle their reviews? Do you have any response to the special issue of the *IMS Bulletin* in March on refereeing?

The special issue on refereeing was a very nice effort indeed. The four articles were very nicely written, and fun to read. As for the reviewing process in IMS journals, I think I've not had much to complain about so far. I think one thing that may help immensely is setting up a system of automatic reminders to referees; frankly, I don't know why some IMS journals don't have that already.

You spent one year as a visiting assistant professor at Berkeley before starting your tenure-track position. Based on your personal experience, do you think that new PhDs in statistics or probability should consider visiting positions or postdoc positions before taking tenure-track positions?

I think taking a postdoc or a visiting position may be a handy path for getting better jobs. Of course, that is contingent on the capability and confidence of the student. A talented person, for example, may not get an ideal job right after PhD, but may be in a much better position after finishing some wonderful work in their postdoc. I have seen a number of such examples. Postdoc positions in top places are far easier to get than tenure-track offers from the same places, and it gives a terrific opportunity to interact with great minds. They may just want to "keep" you, after they've observed you for one or two years! From the perspective of employers, too, it is a good way to have promising young people under surveillance. Successful postdocs are much surer bets as tenure-track candidates than fresh PhDs. The problem is, unlike some other academic disciplines, new PhDs in statistics can often find tenure-track positions, and it's very hard to give up a reasonably good tenure-track offer, even if you know that it's not good enough for you. As long as that opportunity exists, I think most people are going to take it.

IMS Elections: *Meet the Nominees*

President Elect Nominee

J. Michael Steele

C. F. Koo Professor of Statistics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Education: PhD Stanford University 1975, A.B. Cornell University 1971
Research Interests:
Applications of Probability
Financial Time Series
Stochastic Modeling
Inequalities
Previous Service to the Profession:
Editor, *Annals of Applied Probability* (1990–1993)
Associate Editor, *Annals of Statistics* (1983–1985)
IMS Council Member (2005–2007 and 1988–1991)

IMS Committee to Select Editors, Chair (2002–2004)
Chairman, IMA Special Year on Emerging Applications of Probability (1993–94)
Brief Statement: :
The past and present purpose of the IMS is to promote the intellectual and practical development of probability and statistics around the world. We do this primarily through our journals and conferences. Going forward we should be keenly attentive to every possibility for high quality extensions of these core activities. The IMS has made great progress in recent years, and our challenge now is to sustain and enhance our core even as we seek and engage new initiatives.
Web: http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~steele/

Council Nominees (presented in alphabetical order)

As in previous years, there are 10 candidates standing for five places on the IMS Council. Those elected this year will serve on Council for three years, from July 2008 until August 2011 (the exact dates depend on the timing of the IMS Annual Meetings). You can vote online until May 31, 2008, at http://imstat.org/elections/

Anton Bovier

Professor, Institute for Mathematics, Berlin University of Technology, and Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics, Berlin
Education: Habilitation, Berlin University of Technology, 1996; Dr. sc. nat (PhD), ETH Zurich, 1986; Diploma, Bonn University, 1981
Research Interests:
Statistical Mechanics
Disordered Systems
Markov Processes
Previous Service to the Profession:
Member of the Review Board of the German Research Council (DFG) (since 2008)
Scientific Coordinator, International Research Training Group "Stochastic models of complex processes" (since 2006)
Member of the Bernoulli Society Council of Stochastic Science Institutes (since 2004)

Member of the Steering Committee of the Random Systems Group at EURANDOM, Eindhoven (since 2004)
Member of the Steering Committee of the ESF Programme RDSES (2002–2007)
Member of Organising and Scientific Committees of more than 20 workshops and conferences
Associate Editor, *Electronic Journal of Probability/Electronic Communications in Probability* (since 2006)
Scientific Director of Les Houches Summer School "Mathematical Statistical Physics", 2005
Associate Editor, *Markov Processes and Related Fields* (since 1996)
Associate Editor, *Journal of Statistical Physics* (1996–1999)
Brief Statement: :
I have a strong interest in graduate and postgraduate education with a special focus in joint international activities in this area. As IMS board member I would hope to be able to help strengthen the role the IMS can play in this area. This includes in particular fostering the possibilities for involvement of young researcher in developing countries.

Peter Hall

Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Melbourne; additionally, Hall has a fractional appointment at the University of California, Davis

Education: DPhil (Oxford, 1976); MSc (Australian National University, 1976); BSc (Sydney, 1974)

Research Interests:

Theoretical statistics

Applied statistics

Related aspects of probability theory

Previous Service to the Profession:

President, Bernoulli Society

President, Australian Mathematical Society

Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee, Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute

Served on advisory boards, review committees and editorial boards, in Australia and other countries, including the *Annals of Statistics* editorial board since 1982

Served twice previously on IMS Council

Brief Statement: :

Internationally, the field of statistics is undergoing transformations on a variety of fronts, as it strives to meet the challenges posed by many new applications and new research problems. These opportunities are reinvigorating the subject, but at the same time they are placing it under stress. For example, in a number of countries, conventional university statistics departments are struggling, despite substantial demand from industry, business and government for their graduates. The IMS, and in particular the IMS Council, should grapple with these and other issues that concern the profession.

Marc Hallin

Professor, Department of Mathematics, Université libre de Bruxelles

Education: Doctorat en Sciences (Université libre de Bruxelles, 1976); Licence en Sciences actuarielles (Université libre de Bruxelles, 1972); Licence en mathématiques (Université libre de Bruxelles, 1971)

Research Interests:

Time series

Rank-based inference

Asymptotics

Semiparametric inference

Multivariate analysis

Large panels

Previous Service to the Profession:

Associate Editor, *JASA* (2005–), *Journal of Time Series Analysis* (1994–), *Sankhya* (2006–2008), *JSPI* (1990–), *International Statistical Review* (2007–), *Statistical Inference for Stochastic Processes* (1997–)

Editorial advisor: Springer series *Mathématiques et Applications* (2000–2008) and *Statistique et Probabilités Appliquées* (2000–)

President of the Belgian Statistical Society (1993–1996)

Vice-President of the Société française de Statistique (2004–2006)

Chair of the Program Committee for the annual meeting of the Société française de Statistique (1992, 1999, 2000); of the joint meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada and the Société française de Statistique (2008); of the annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society (1993, 2003)

Fellow of the IMS and the ASA; ordinary member of the ISI; member of the Royal Academy of Belgium

Brief Statement:

The statistical community today is facing a huge challenge of maintaining the high standards of rigor that are essential to its scientific credibility and social utility, while addressing the exploding flow of new problems originating from contiguous fields, under a continued shortage of well-trained statisticians. Therefore, it is essential for the future of our profession that the IMS remains, both within and outside the statistical community, the undisputed international methodological reference in the field.

Bruce G. Lindsay

Willaman Professor and Department Head, Department of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University

Education: PhD 1978 University of Washington; B.A. 1969 University of Oregon

Research Interests:

Mixture models
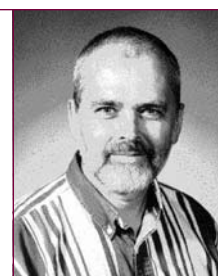
Statistical distances

Clustering and projection pursuit

Computation

Previous Service to the Profession:

Associate Editor, *Advances in Statistical Analysis*, the new journal of the German Statistical Society (since 2006)

IMS Ad Hoc Committee on a new journal (2006)

Associate Editor, *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics* (1987–2004)

IMS Elections: *Council Nominees continued*

Bruce G. Lindsay, continued

Chair, Organizing committee for the NSF Workshop on the Future of Statistics in May 2002, and lead editor for the resulting workshop report

Program Secretary and member of Executive Council for the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (1997–2000)

Associate Editor, *Annals of Statistics* (1985–1992 & 1994–1997)

Member of IMS Council (1991–1993 & 1994–1997)

IMS Committee on special invited papers (1993–1995, Chair 1995)

Brief Statement:

What might I bring to the IMS Council? As a scholar, I have long appreciated the many opportunities this fine organization provides its members, especially in terms of meetings and publications. I would certainly work to continue and extend, where possible, these activities. I would also bring the perspective of an active department head for a large U.S. department, and thereby some understanding of the evolution of the statistical world, and the needs of its participants.

Zhi-Ming Ma

Professor, Institute of Applied Mathematics, Academy of Math and Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Education: Doctor of Sciences, 1984, Academia Sinica

Research Interests:

Markov processes and Dirichlet forms

Stochastic analysis and applications

Applied probability

Random networks and information retrieval

Previous Service to the Profession:

Co-chair, Scientific Committee of IMS-China International Conference 2008

President, Chinese Mathematical Society (2000–2003, 2008–2011)

Vice President, Executive Committee of International Math Union (2007–2010)

IMS Fellow, elected 2007

Member, Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes (2004–2007)

Member of Executive Committee, International Math Union (2003–2006)

Member of Council, Bernoulli Society for Math Statistics and Probability (2003–2007)

Member, IMS Committee on Nominations 2004–5

Chairman of the Organizing Committee, International Congress of Mathematicians 2002

Brief Statement:

From theoretic disciplines to applied sciences and technology, from developed countries to developing countries and districts, we see that Statistics and probability is being more and more essential. The IMS plays an outstanding role as a worldwide institution for fostering and disseminating the influence of Statistics and probability. I will do my best to work with other IMS members to enhance and to increase the influence of Statistics and probability in various aspects, through the IMS's existing and newly invented excellent activities.

Web: http://www.amt.ac.cn/member/mazhiming/eindex.html

Enno Mammen

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Mannheim

Education: PhD University of Heidelberg 1983; Equivalent of MSc University of Heidelberg 1980

Research Interests:

Nonparametric statistics

Resampling Methods

Econometrics

Previous Service to the Profession:

Scientific Secretary of the Bernoulli Society, 2000–2004

Organisation of several meetings and workshops

Associate Editor: *Annals of Statistics*, 1997– , *Bernoulli*, 2000–2004, *Computational Statistics*, 1995–2005, *ESAIM: Probability and Statistics*, 1995–2000, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B, Statistical Methodology*, 2001–2005, *Mathematical Methods of Statistics*, 1996– , *Statistical Surveys*, 2007– , *Statistics*, 1996– , *Test*, 1996–

Brief Statement:

The IMS plays a key role in the scientific community of statistics and probability. The journals and meetings of the IMS are a driving force for encouraging and stimulating high quality research in our fields. As a council member, I would try to help that IMS activities continue to keep their high standards. I would enjoy to contribute ideas that IMS plays further its prominent role in our scientific life. In particular, I am interested in international contacts of the IMS, its relation to the Bernoulli Society and the role of IMS in Europe.

Web: http://mammen.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/362.0.html

Michael Newton

Professor, Departments of Statistics and of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Education: BSc 1986, Dalhousie University; MS 1988, University of Washington; PhD 1991 University of Washington

Research Interests:

Statistics in molecular biology and genomics

Bayes and empirical Bayes methods

Statistical computing

Previous Service to the Profession:

Biological sciences editor, *Annals of Applied Statistics* (since 2006)

Member, Committee of Applied and Theoretical Statistics, NAS (since 2006)

Member, Savage Thesis Award Committee, ISBA (2004–2006)

Member, Fisher Lecture Committee, COPSS (since 2005)

Associate editor, *JASA* (2003–2006), *Biometrics* (1997–2004)

Conference organizer, IMA workshop on statistics in gene expression (2003)

Member, Genome Study Section, National Institutes of Health (2000–2003)

Brief Statement:

The IMS connects diverse scientific domains by fostering research into their essential statistical components. I'm interested in supporting IMS activities that maintain the highest publication standards, that continue to push towards open access options, and that help to bring students and young investigators into the field.

Web: http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~newton/

Timo Seppäläinen

Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Education: PhD 1991 School of Mathematics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; MSc 1986 Industrial Engineering and Management, Helsinki University of Technology, Helsinki, Finland

Research Interests:

Interacting particle systems

Random walk in random environment

Large deviation theory

Previous Service to the Profession:

Associate editor: *Annals of Probability* 2003–2008. *Annals of Applied Probability* 2003–2008. *Statistics and Probability Letters* 1999–2002. IMS: Committee on Nominations 2003–2004

Conference organizing: Ames Workshop on Particle Systems, 2001. Member of the program committee, 23rd Midwest Probability Colloquium, 2001. Summer Internship Program in Probability and Stochastic Processes, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2002. Session on Scaling Limits, Fourth International Symposium on Probability and its Applications, Banff, 2002. Special Session on Probability, 2002 Fall Central Section Meeting of the American Mathematical Society, Madison. Workshop on Interacting Stochastic Particle Systems, CRM, Montreal, 2009.

Brief Statement:

High-quality publications and meetings are the central contribution of the IMS. As a Council member I would continue to support these activities. If anything more can be done to support junior members of the profession I would be very much in favor of such actions.

Web: http://www.math.wisc.edu/~seppalai/

Jane-Ling Wang

Professor, Department of Statistics, University of California at Davis

Education: PhD (1982), Statistics, University of California at Berkeley; MA (1978), Mathematics, University of California at Santa Barbara; BS (1975), Mathematics, National Taiwan University

Research Interests:

Functional Data Analysis

Joint Modeling of Survival and Longitudinal Data

Dimension Reduction Methods

Semiparametric Models

Previous Service to the Profession:

Associate Editor, *JRSS Ser. B*, 2006+

Associate Editor, *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*, since 2008

President, International Chinese Statistical Association, 2008

Member, NIH Study Section on Biostatistical Methods and Research Design, 2006+

Member, Life Sciences Committee for the International Institute of Statistics, 2004+

Member, Deming Lecture Committee, American Statistical Association, 2004+

Member, Awards Committee of the International Chinese Statistical Association, 2002–2006

Co-Chair Editor, *Statistica Sinica*, 2002–2005

Member, IMS Council, 2002–2005

Member, Fellow Committee, American Statistical Association, 2000–2003

IMS Elections: *Council Nominees continued*

Jane-Ling Wang, continued

Member, Fellow Committee, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2000–2003

Chair, Bernoulli Section of the Program Committee for the 56th Session of the International Statistical Institute, 2007, Lisbon, Portugal

Member, Bernoulli Section of the Program Committee for the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute, 2005, Sydney, Australia

IMS Program Chair for Joint Statistical Meeting, San Francisco, 2003

Chair of the Organizing Committee, Joint AMS-IMS-SIAM Summer Research Conference on "Emerging Issues in Longitudinal data Analysis", Mount Holyoke College, 2002

Associate Editor, *Sankhya* (the Indian Journal of Statistics), 1999–2001

Brief Statement:

The IMS has been proactive in promoting science and education through various modes, such as co-sponsoring meetings and journals, offering courses and special lectures in regions with less resources, and advocating open access to professional information. I support all these activities and will work to enhance and enlarge the scope of them. In particular, it would be desirable to increase and broaden the international contacts of the IMS with other probability and statistics organizations, and to find creative ways to attract more members from around the world.

Web: http://anson.ucdavis.edu/~wang/

Bin Yu

Professor, Department Statistics and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of California at Berkeley

Education: PhD Statistics, UC Berkeley, 1990; MA statistics, UC Berkeley, 1987; BS Mathematics, Peking Univ., 1984

Research Interests:

Statistical Inference

Machine Learning

Information Theory and Minimum Description Length Principle (MDL)

Stochastic modeling of data from Remote Sensing and Atmospheric Science, Sensor Networks, Neuroscience, and Finance

Previous Service to the Profession:

Co-Chair, National Advisory Council (Scientific Advisory Board),

SAMSI (Statistics and Applied Mathematical Science Institute (NSF-sponsored), 2008–2010.

Member, National Advisory Council, SAMSI, 2006–2008.

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors, (1999–2001; 2002–2004) (elected)

IMS Council, (2001–2004) (elected).

Associate Editor for *Annals of Statistics* (1998–2000, 2001–2003, 2004–2006)

Associate Editor for *Technometrics*, (2007–)

Associate Editor for *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.*, (2005–)

Action Editor for *Journal of Machine Learning Research* (2001–)

Associate Editor for *Statistica Sinica* (1996–1998, 1999–2001, 2005–2008)

Associate Editor for *Sankhya*, (2003–)

Associate Editor for *Statistics Surveys*, (2005–)

Editorial Board Member, *Foundations and Trends on Communications and Information Theory*, (2003–)

Editorial Board Member, *Foundations and Trends on Machine Learning*, (2007–)

Guest Co-Editor for the Special Issue on Bioinformatics, *Statistica Sinica*, 2001

Co-editor of *Nonlinear Estimation and Classification*, Springer, 2002

Guest Co-Editor for the Special Issue on Machine Learning, *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*, 2004

IMS Committee on Selection of Editors (2004–2006; Chair, 2006)

IMS Committee on Special Invited Lectures (2001–2003; Chair, 2003)

Chair, program committee, Pau-Lu Hsu Statistics Conference, Peking University, 2007

Chair, IMS program committee, Joint Meeting of CPSP and IMS, Beijing, China, July, 2005

Chair, Program committee, Graybill conference on statistics and information technology, Fort Collins, CO, June, 2005

Brief Statement:

IMS's future depends on its young researchers in and outside the US. By organizing conferences and workshops, I intend to encourage young researchers to get involved in interdisciplinary research in areas of importance such as information technology and environmental science. I also intend to encourage core statistical formulations and developments of relevance to interdisciplinary research in these conferences and workshops.

Web: http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~binyu

Terence's Stuff: *Intelligent Designs*

Simplicity is usually seen as a virtue. But Fisher pointed out that sometimes embracing complexity is the way to go…

Not long ago I arrived at another university to visit for a few days, when my host unexpectedly asked me would I like to speak at his next experimental design class. The invitation came about noon, just as we were going to lunch, and the class was at 2:00pm, right after my 1:15pm meeting with a person from the local genomics core facility. I had no time to prepare anything, but nevertheless agreed at once, and began quizzing him about progress in his course to that point. Had he explained replication? Yes. Randomization? Yes. Local control (blocking)? No. Factorial experiments? No. So there was plenty I could do. My mind turned to paper #48 in Fisher's Collected Papers, now conveniently web accessible at the University of Adelaide Digital Archive (thanks to Prof Henry Bennett, a former student of Fisher). This 1926 paper is a gem, because, in just over ten pages, it explains everything that most of us need to know about the principles of experimental design. Published in the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture of Great Britain*, and most likely aimed at farmers, this paper contains no numbers and no formulae.

Why are we statisticians keen on replication? Suppose that we have a good knowledge of the error associated with a single measurement, and find it acceptable; wouldn't an unreplicated experiment be okay? If not, why not? Would Fisher disagree? About 10 years ago, a well-known biologist publicly disputed with me the need for replication of a certain kind of microarray experiment, asserting that he would rather spend his limited resources on assaying something new, rather than repeating what he had already done. At the time I argued vigorously against this, thinking that to let this view pass unopposed would be to set a very bad example indeed. Last Saturday I found myself presenting precisely his view to one of our (slightly surprised) students.

Why randomize? This question has been asked thousands of times since the 1920s, and so I asked it of the class that day. Their course to that point had been very model-based, so I delighted in pointing out that whether or not they randomized played no role in their analysis. Why not, I asked? We went on to talk about randomization analyses, and the relative merits of design-based versus model-based inference. Fisher's 1926 rationale for randomization is quite subtle, and is not one likely to be offered by anyone reflecting on the topic today, being all about getting a good estimate of the error. Does it follow that if we know the error, we don't need to randomize, or that we can use a systematic design? Discuss.

I spent most of my time with the class addressing the question: why block? In Fisher's paper randomized blocks are introduced as "a useful method", followed by Latin squares, with the emphasis being on "eliminating differences" in fertility. My preferred approach to this topic begins with paired designs, such as in an experiment to compare two forms of sunscreen on the arms of test subjects. This gives me the opportunity to point out that the difference of two positively correlated quantities has smaller variance than it would were they uncorrelated. In this approach, the power of blocking stems from this simple fact.

What I didn't have the time or courage to attempt with so little notice was to explain the virtues of factorial experiments (§39 of Fisher's 1935 book *The Design of Experiments*). This class of experiments has to rank at or near the top of the contributions of statistics to humanity (think agriculture, education, psychology, engineering, WWII anti-aircraft artillery accuracy, and industry). In Fisher's 1926 paper and for about the first ten years of their life, factorial experiments were called **complex** experiments, and I've long wondered why. In the previous volume of the same journal, Sir John Russell, Fisher's boss, had written (my emphasis):

> "A committee or an investigator considering a scheme of experiments should first … ask whether each experiment is framed in such a way that a definite answer can be given. The chief requirement is **simplicity**: only one question should be asked at a time."

As if in reply, Fisher wrote:

> "No aphorism is more frequently repeated in connection with field trials, than that we must ask Nature few questions, or, ideally, one question at a time. The writer is convinced that this view is wholly mistaken. Nature, he suggests, will best respond to a logical and carefully thought out questionnaire."

It is not often I am tempted to compress a whole course into one lecture, but it is not often I read a short paper which makes that seem possible.

A 5x5 Latin square laid out at Bettgelert Forest in 1929 to study the effect of exposure on tree species [from J F Box, R.A. Fisher: The Life of a Scientist, New York: Wiley 1978]
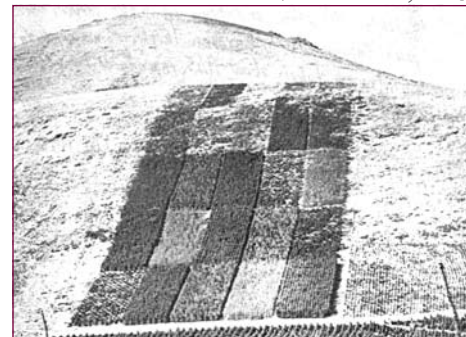
OBITUARY: Samuel Karlin

1924–2007

PROFESSOR SAMUEL KARLIN made fundamental contributions to game theory, analysis, mathematical statistics, total positivity, probability and stochastic processes, mathematical economics, inventory theory, population genetics, bioinformatics, and biomolecular sequence analysis. He was the author or coauthor of 10 books and over 450 published papers. He guided more than 70 PhD students. It is easy to argue that he was the foremost teacher of advanced students in his fields in the twentieth century.

Karlin was born in Yonova, Poland on June 8, 1924 and died at Stanford, California on December 19, 2007. He came to Chicago as a young child and graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology with a BS in 1944. He earned his PhD in Mathematics from Princeton University in 1947 under the direction of Salomon Bochner. His first academic position was at the California Institute of Technology, where he attained the rank of Professor in 1955. In 1956, Karlin moved to Stanford University, where he was Professor of Mathematics and of Statistics. From 1978 onwards, he was Robert Grimmett Professor of Mathematics. For six years, starting in 1970, Karlin divided his time between Stanford and the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, where he rose to be Head of Applied Mathematics and Dean of what is now the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Professor Karlin was an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the National Academy of Sciences, USA; and the American Philosophical Society. He received a National Medal of Science in 1989. He gave the first Abraham Wald Memorial Lectures of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and served as its President in 1978–79.

Early in Karlin's career he was part of the group at RAND that extended von Neumann' analysis of two-person, zero sum games to games with continuous spaces of strategies. Karlin's work on game theory opened the way for analysis of games of pursuit and evasion.

Karlin was a major developer of dynamic inventory theory, adapting the calculus of variations to situations where the relevant variables are subject to constraints. Karlin was the first to give sufficient conditions for the optimality of so-called (s,S) policies when the distribution of demands satisfies a certain determinental inequality that is satisfied by some Gaussian and double-exponential distributions, and logistic distributions.

Karlin's book *Total Positivity, Volume One* was published in 1968. Total positivity is defined by positivity of an obvious determinant of the matrix/kernel as a function of any two of its dummy variables, alternatively in terms of a certain variation-diminishing
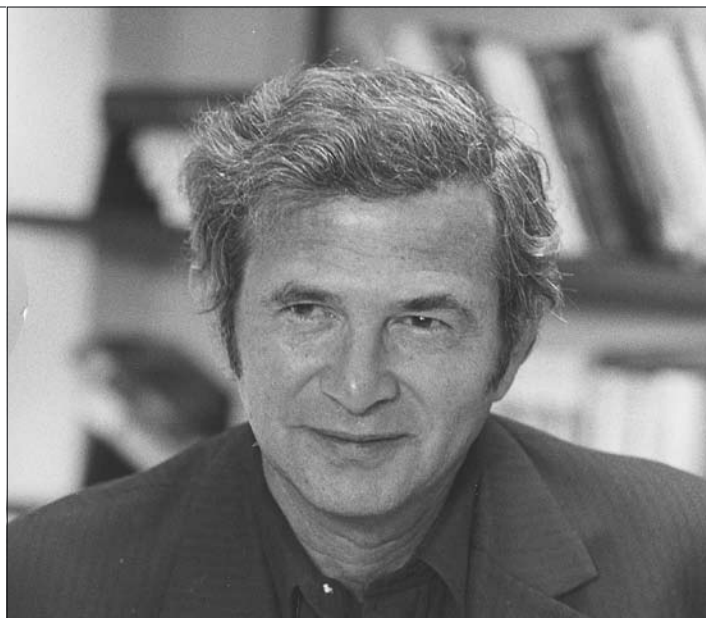
Sam Karlin

property. He discovered that totally positive kernels appear in the exponential family of distributions; in approximation theory; in stochastic processes as transition kernels; and in differential equations. The variation diminishing property implies preservation of properties of functions that can be expressed by changes of sign.

An important example of a totally positive kernel was discovered by Karlin and his student, and later Stanford faculty colleague, James McGregor. It allows calculation of the probability of non-collision, up to any given time, of an adjacent pair of an arbitrary number of particles arranged in some order on a line, and then allowed to undergo independent random motions. The probability of non-coincidence is the determinant of a matrix of transition probabilities. Karlin recognized in this example the germ of a general idea that unified and extended a literature in combinatorics with applications to voting behavior.

Tchebycheff (T-) systems are ordered, discretely indexed sets of functions of a single variable for which an associated kernel of the two variables, one the index and the other the dummy variable of the function, is totally positive. T-systems are the subject matter of *Tchebycheff systems: With applications in analysis and statistics*, by Karlin and his former student William Studden, that appeared in 1966. T-systems enable study of "moment spaces" and maxima and minima of functionals of probabilities.

Karlin's interest in total positivity was central to his work in approximation theory. Karlin proved the total positivity of the B-spline collocation matrix, a result of some practical consequences in the design of curves and surfaces. He used topological methods to describe a function that passes through prescribed data and that has the least maximum absolute derivative of specified degree in a prescribed interval. He clarified the importance of "perfect splines" that enabled solution of the Landau-Kolmogorov problem. Karlin

proved a fundamental theorem of algebra for monosplines and established a Gaussian quadrature for B-splines, resolving a conjecture of I. J. Schoenberg.

Branching processes, as Sam Karlin formulated them, are "Markov" processes. Path-breaking work by Karlin and McGregor about total positivity concerned transition kernels for branching and related birth and death stochastic processes. The transition semi-groups for birth and death processes are "self-adjoint." An explicit spectral decomposition is possible. Karlin studied the asymptotic behavior of stationary distributions in the difficult critical case. Also, he studied embedding discrete time branching processes and urn schemes into continuous time Markov branching processes, and branching processes in "random environments."

Karlin published a widely used textbook on stochastic processes, with second and later expanded editions written in collaboration with Howard Taylor.

He began his work on theoretical population genetics in the early 1960s. Karlin applied probability theory and mathematical analysis to models of genetic evolution. Karlin and McGregor used their earlier research on branching processes to produce generalizations of the Wright-Fisher process. This led to studies of the role of diffusion theory approximations in these stochastic evolutionary models. Karlin's earlier work on population genetics resulted in formalization of the theory of evolution under mutational processes and multiple loci, evolution under fluctuating sizes of populations, as well as what might be expected for the frequency distribution of protein variants collected in finite populations subject to mutation.

Karlin's studies of evolution under the joint effects of linkage and selection became the standard for future work on multilocus theory. His efforts led to new mathematical formulations of the evolution of quantitative traits, population subdivision, sex determination and the sex ratio, and the evolution of altruism.

In recent decades, Karlin's principal areas of concern were molecular biology and bioinformatics. He pioneered the method for estimating the likelihood of molecular subsequences within genes and proteins. This work, published together with Stephen Altschul, formed the essential basis for the most highly used sequence similarity program, BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool). The program enables comparison of a new molecular sequence with a large database of protein sequences so as to discover strong similarities between the query sequence and a known sequence.

Karlin's comprehensive analysis of the nonrandom distribution of oligonucleotides within genomes demonstrated that the pattern of dinucleotide relative abundance is nonrandom and much more uniform within genomes than between genomes. He developed a more effective method to analyze patterns of codon usage than had been available and classified genes into 'highly expressed', 'poorly expressed', and 'alien', based on the correlations between codon usage and protein expression levels in well studied species such as *E. coli*.

With PhD student Chris Burge, Karlin developed a statistical model for human genes that enabled them to locate all putative genes in the human genome with high precision. Their method, GenScan, has been used to identify locations of genes in the Human Genome Project and, in modified form, in other genomes.

Karlin had an unparalleled role as adviser and teacher of PhD students. They have received much well-justified recognition themselves. One former student said that Karlin had, "an uncanny sixth sense about the capabilities, interests, and psychological makeup of each student. He … knew how to pull the maximum [from each], when to intervene with close guidance, [and] when to leave [each student] alone to struggle."

Karlin is survived by widow Dorit Carmelli of Israel, children Kenneth of Baltimore; Manuel of Portland, Oregon; and Anna of Seattle; step-son Zvi Carmelli of Germany and Israel; and nine grandchildren.

Richard Olshen, Stanford University,
and Burton Singer, Princeton University

Richard Olshen and Burt Singer acknowledge help in writing this obituary from many individuals: Ken Arrow, Krish Athreya, Doug Brutlag, Allan Campbell, Dorit Carmelli, Amir Dembo, Marc Feldman, Anna Karlin, Ken Karlin, Manny Karlin, Tom Liggett, Chuck Micchelli, and Yosi Rinott.

Seventh World Congress in Probability and Statistics
Singapore: July 14–19, 2008

Singapore's beautiful botanic gardens (above) are a popular visitor attraction. Be sure to visit them when you come to Singapore for the 2008 IMS annual meeting, in conjunction with the 7th Bernoulli Society World Congress. There's still time (just!) to register at the discounted rate: the deadline has been extended to May 15th. Details at http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/index.htm

OBITUARY: **Sándor Csörgő**

1947–2008

SÁNDOR CSÖRGŐ passed away on February 14, 2008, losing a valiant battle with cancer. He was the Professor in the Department of Stochastics of the Bolyai Institute, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary. His death is a tragic loss to the probability and mathematical statistics community.

He was born in Egerfarmos, Hungary on July 16, 1947. He graduated from high school in Eger, and went on to study mathematics at the University of Szeged, where he earned his university diploma. He completed his doctorate under the guidance of Professor Károly Tandori in 1972 with Professor Béla Szőkefalvi-Nagy serving on his examination committee. He obtained his Candidate Degree in 1975 at the Kiev State University under the supervision of Anatoli V. Skorohod, and earned a Doctor of Science Degree in 1984.

Professor Csörgő's scientific career was closely tied to the Bolyai Institute: he became an assistant in 1970, teaching assistant in 1972, Assistant Professor in 1975, Associate Professor in 1978, and Full Professor in 1987. He also held visiting appointments at the University of California, San Diego (1984–85) and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1989–90). He served as Professor in the Department of Statistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, during the eight academic years in the period 1990–1998.

Professor Csörgő's wide-ranging research interests included major areas of probability theory and mathematical statistics. He opened several new fields of research; his contributions to the theory of limit theorems form his most lasting mathematical legacy. He is the coauthor of one research monograph and author of 163 research articles published in international scientific journals.

He was elected IMS Fellow in 1984 and later, Member of the International Statistical Institute. He is one of the three Hungarian mathematicians who appear on the ISI–Highly Cited list of the Science Citation Index. In 2001 he was elected a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and in 2007, a full member.

Professor Csörgő founded the Graduate School of Stochastics at the University of Szeged. In fact, he was the first to pursue research in probability theory and mathematical statistics at the Bolyai Institute. Due to his ground-breaking research in this area his school soon won international recognition. One of his duties as head of the Bolyai Institute's Stochastics Program was to design, develop and maintain all of undergraduate and graduate probability and statistics courses at the University of Szeged. He was a dedicated and inspiring teacher and attracted talented students whom he launched into successful scientific careers. Six of his students went on to win prizes at the Hungarian National Scientific Students' Associations Conferences. He supervised four University of Szeged Doctorates, one Candidate Degree and four PhDs, and also advised one Michigan PhD student.

Professor Csörgő was a prominent and active member of the mathematical community. He served on the editorial boards of several international journals, including the *Annals of Statistics* from 1986–88, and regularly refereed research papers and doctoral dissertations. He sat on a number of university and national mathematical education committees, and had served as the Vice President of the Mathematics Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 2005.

For his distinguished scientific and educational achievements, he was awarded

Sándor Csörgő

the 1970 Rényi Kató Memorial Prize, the 1974 Grünwald Géza Memorial Prize, the 1986 Erdős Pál Mathematical Award, the 1999 Award of the Academy, the 2004 Szele Tibor Memorial Prize, the 2005 Master Professor Award of the Hungarian National Conference of Scientific Students' Associations, and the 2005 Szent-Györgyi Albert Prize. In 2007 he was awarded the Grand Prize of the Foundation for Szeged.

On March 15, 2008, Professor Sándor Csörgő posthumously received the prestigious Széchenyi Prize, the highest honour awarded to researchers by the Government of the Republic of Hungary; it is usually presented by the President, the Prime Minister and Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament on the 15th of March national holiday. His widow, Zsuzsi, accepted it in his name.

His untimely death clearly ended a brilliant and highly productive scientific career. His mind was full of research plans until the very end. He continued working with his graduate students even after he became gravely ill. Sadly, his monograph on the St. Petersburg paradox, which he was writing in collaboration with Professor Gordon Simons of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, remains unfinished. His strong and engaging personality, good humor and his unfailing sense of justice and fair play will be sorely missed at the Bolyai Institute as well as in the greater international academic community.

Bolyai Institute, University of Szeged, and David M. Mason, University of Delaware

OBITUARY: David Young

1947–2008

DAVID ALBIN YOUNG, retired associate professor of preventive medicine and biometrics at the University of Colorado, Denver, died on December 4, 2007. He was 52.

A native of Newton, Massachusetts, Dr Young graduated from Newton Junior College in 1975. He received his bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) from the University of Massachusetts in Boston in 1979 and did graduate work in physiology at Harvard Medical School. He received his master's degree in physiology in 1985 and his PhD degree in preventive medicine and biometrics in 1992, both from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

While in school, he worked as a research assistant at Boston Biomedical Research Institute, and was a teaching assistant at the University of Massachusetts in 1978–79. He was a research assistant at the CU School of Medicine and a programmer for Arapahoe Community College from 1981–85. He was a teaching assistant (1987–88) and student research assistant (1989–92) at the CU School of Medicine, and a senior biostatistician at National Jewish Medical and Research Center (1999–2000).

He began his faculty career as an assistant professor in the department of preventive medicine and biometrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 1992 and was promoted to associate professor in 2000, a position he held until deteriorating health forced him to retire in 2005.

Dr Young had been in an automobile accident at the age of 19, and was a quadriplegic. He used an electric wheelchair, a mouth stick and computers to aid him in his work. Gary Zerbe of UCD preventive medicine and biometrics said, "During his brief but colorful career, he did everything a health sciences center statistician was supposed to do. He covered most of his salary with grant money, he collaborated with many medical investigators resulting in many peer-reviewed manuscripts, including some as first author in the statistical literature. He presented papers at national and international conferences; he reviewed manuscripts and books; he taught and developed graduate-level courses; he mentored students; he participated in innumerable local, national and international conferences. But unlike most of us, he always did it with a smile that was an inspiration to us all."

Dr Young was a member of IMS, the American Statistical Association, American Society for Neural Transplantation and Repair, International Biometrics Society, and the Foundation for Science and the Handicapped, among other organizations. He developed two courses for the CU School of Medicine. His research interests included functional-form and changepoint regression models and use of mixed models and best linear unbiased predictors as measures of correlation between behavioral and psychological processes of aging and development. He co-wrote numerous articles that were published in professional journals, including *Neuropsychobiology*, *Biometrics*, *Statistics in Medicine, Nature, Neurobiology of Aging* and *Synapse*, and had been a contributing editor for *New Mobility* magazine (and its predecessor *Spinal Network*) since 1994.

Among other honors, in 1991 Dr Young received the Strother Walker Award for outstanding performance as a doctoral candidate from the UCHSC department of preventive medicine and biometrics, and he was given a certificate of appre-

David Young

ciation presented by the Colorado Public Health Association, Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado, Colorado Society for Public Health Education and Colorado Minority Health Forum in 2002.

A colleague described him as "no ordinary statistician," adding, "David was a pleasure to work with. He was witty and enjoyed life, including dancing in a wheelchair, attending football games, skiing, skydiving and drinking with friends." His hobbies included freelance writing, bi-skiing, music and earnest conversation.

He is survived by his aunts, Kay Kenjeska and Blanche LeBlanc; a brother, Jack Young; and many close friends and aides.

Gary Zerbe, University of Colorado HSC

We publish obituaries of IMS members. If you hear of the passing away of a friend or colleague in the statistics and probability field, please let us know, as we may not have heard. You can email the news to bulletin@imstat.org. And of course, if you have happier news, you can email that, too.

IMS Meetings around the world

IMS sponsored meeting

**7th World Congress in Probability and Statistics
(71st IMS Annual Meeting and 7th Bernoulli Society World Congress)
July 14–19, 2008, National University of Singapore, Singapore**

w http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/index.htm

e wc2008_general@nus.edu.sg

Abstract submission now closed

Deadline for registration at discounted rate extended to May 15, 2008

Registration deadlines extended!

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee: Louis Chen; Chair of Scientific Program Committee: Ruth Williams
The seventh joint meeting of the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics will take place in Singapore from July 14 to 19, 2008. This quadrennial joint meeting is a major worldwide event featuring the latest scientific developments in the fields of probability and statistics and their applications.

The program will cover a wide range of topics and will include invited lectures by the following leading specialists: Martin Barlow, University of British Columbia (Medallion Lecture); Richard Durrett, Cornell University (Wald Lectures); Jianqing Fan, Princeton University (Laplace Lecture); Alice Guionnet, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (Lévy Lecture); Mark Low, University of Pennsylvania (Medallion Lecture); Zhi-Ming Ma, Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Beijing (Medallion Lecture); Peter McCullagh, University of Chicago (Neyman Lecture); Douglas Nychka, US National Center for Atmospheric Research (Public Lecture); Oded Schramm, Microsoft Research (BS–IMS Special Lecture); David Spiegelhalter, University of Cambridge and MRC Biostatistics Unit (Bernoulli Lecture); Alain-Sol Sznitman, ETH Zurich (Kolmogorov Lecture); Elizabeth Thompson, University of Washington (Tukey Lecture); Wendelin Werner, Université Paris-Sud (BS–IMS Special Lecture).

There will be **34 invited paper sessions** highlighting topics of current research interest (http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/invitedsessions.htm), as well as many contributed talks and posters. The conference schedule is available at the website above.

The venue for the meeting is the National University of Singapore. Singapore is a vibrant, multi-cultural, cosmopolitan city-state that expresses the essence of today's New Asia. It offers many attractions both cultural and touristic, such as the Esplanade and the Singapore Night Safari.

The IMS Child Care Initiative encourages and supports the participation at IMS Annual Meetings (including this Congress) of IMS members who have child care responsibilities. For application information see http://www.imstat.org/meetings/childcare.htm

NEW dates for Singapore Congress

31 March: Last day for notification of NSF travel award and financial support from Local Organizing Committee

15 April: Deadline for submission of abstracts

30 April: Notification of acceptance of abstracts

15 May: Discounted registration ends

15 June: Normal rate registration ends; Last day for cancellation of registration with partial refund of fee

16 June: Registration with walk-in rate begins

NUS satellite meeting

The National University of Singapore's Institute for Mathematical Sciences is organizing a satellite meeting to the Congress:
Symposium in honor of Kiyosi Itô: Stochastic Analysis and Its Impact in Mathematics and Science, July 10–11, 2008

w http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/kiyosi08/index.htm

7th World Congress in Probability and Statistics
Singapore, July 14 -19, 2008
Jointly sponsored by the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

2nd Announcement
Deadlines near!

This meeting is a major international event in probability and statistics held every four years. It features the latest scientific developments in the fields of probability and statistics and their applications. The program will cover a wide range of topics and will include plenary lectures presented by leading specialists and invited paper sessions highlighting topics of current research interest as well as many contributed talks and posters.

Congress Venue
National University of Singapore

Plenary Speakers
Richard Durrett, Cornell University (*Wald Lectures*)
Jianqing Fan, Princeton University (*Laplace Lecture*)
Alice Guionnet, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (*Lévy Lecture*)
Peter McCullagh, University of Chicago (*Neyman Lecture*)
Oded Schramm, Microsoft Research (*BS-IMS Special Lecture*)
David Spiegelhalter, University of Cambridge and MRC Biostatistics (*Bernoulli Lecture*)
Alain-Sol Sznitman, ETH Zürich (*Kolmogorov Lecture*)
Elizabeth Thompson, University of Washington (*Tukey Lecture*)
Wendelin Werner, Université Paris-Sud (*BS-IMS Special Lecture*)

IMS Medallion Lectures
Martin Barlow, University of British Columbia
Mark Low, University of Pennsylvania
Zhi-Ming Ma, Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Beijing

Public Lecture
Douglas Nychka, US National Center for Atmospheric Research

Invited Sessions

- Advances in Statistical Computing and Graphics
- Algebraic Statistics
- Applications of Probability/Statistics in Imaging
- Astrostatistics
- Gaussian Processes with Applications
- Geophysical Models: Inference, Prediction and Interpretation
- Graphical Modeling
- Lévy Processes
- Machine Learning and Data Mining
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo
- Model Choice for High Dimensional Data
- Multiple Tests and Selective Inference
- Probabilistic Analysis of Algorithms
- Probability Problems from Genetics
- Quantitative Risk Management
- Random Matrices and Applications
- Random Processes with Interactions
- Random Trees and Planar Maps
- Semiparametric Models
- Sparsity in High Dimensional Problems
- Statistical Challenges in the Study of Infectious Diseases
- Statistical Inverse Problems
- Statistical Learning Theory
- Statistics in Genomics
- Statistics in Quantum Information
- Statistics for Understanding Numerical Models of Climate Change
- Stochastic Control in Finance
- Stochastic PDE and Interacting Stochastic Systems
- Stochastic Loewner Evolution
- Stochastic Models with Spatial Effects
- Stochastic Networks
- Stochastic Neuronal Models
- Stochastic Processes in Physics
- Uncertainty in Computer Models

Sponsoring societies

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Department of Mathematics, NUS

Institute for Mathematical Sciences, NUS

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SINGAPORE EXHIBITION & CONVENTION BUREAU

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UNIQUELY Singapore

Further information and important dates are at Congress website!
http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/index.htm

IMS co-sponsored meeting
Workshop for Women in Probability
October 5–7, 2008
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

w www.math.cornell.edu/~durrett/wwp/

A conference for Women in Probability will be held October 5–7, 2008, at Cornell University. The conference begins Sunday morning and ends at noon Tuesday. The scientific program, which is being organized by Lea Popovic (Concordia) and Amber Puha (San Marcos), will feature talks by Jennifer Chayes (Microsoft), Nina Gantert (Muenster), Masha Gordina (U. Conn.), Elena Kosygina (Baruch), Elizabeth Meckes (Case Western), Tai Melcher (Virginia), Kavita Ramanan (CMU), Deena Schmidt (IMA), Anja Sturm (Delaware), and Ruth Williams (UCSD). Women probabilists, especially young researchers and advanced graduate students, are invited to participate. To register, and for information on how to apply for support for lodging and local expenses, go to the conference web page above. Funding for this conference comes from an NSF Research Training Grant to the probability group at Cornell, so preference will be given to supporting US citizens, nationals, and permanent residents. For questions about local arrangements, contact the conference secretary, Rick Durrett, rtd1@cornell.edu

IMS co-sponsored meeting
JSM2008
August 3–7, 2008
Denver, Colorado

w http://www.amstat. org/ meetings/jsm/2008/
The 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held August 3–7, 2008, at the Colorado Convention Center. **Online program now available.**
Deming Lecturer: Donald Berwick;
Fisher Lecturer: Ross Prentice

Key Dates

May 1: JSM registration opens; Preliminary PDF program online
May 12: Draft manuscripts due to session chairs
June 26: Early Bird Registration deadline, after which increased fees apply

IMS co-sponsored meeting
2008 Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology
May 19–21, 2008
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

w http://www2.isye.gatech.edu/src2008/

The 15th Annual Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology will be held on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology and the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. The purpose of the Spring Research Conference is to promote research in statistical methods that address problems in industry and technology. This focus will cover a wide range of application areas including manufacturing, logistics, health systems and information sciences. The conference is intended to stimulate interactions among statisticians, researchers in the application areas, and industrial practitioners. It will provide a forum where participants can describe current research, identify important problems and areas of application, and formulate future research directions.

Invited sessions will be announced soon.

If you have any questions, please contact the one of the 2008 SRC program co-chairs: Paul Kvam pkvam@isye.gatech.edu, Jye-Chyi Lu jclu@isye.gatech.edu, or Kwok Tsui ktsui@isye.gatech.edu.

IMS co-sponsored meeting
International Workshop on Recent Advances in Time Series Analysis
June 8–11, 2008. Protaras, Cyprus

w www.ucy.ac.cy/~rats2008/

IMS Rep: Rainer von Sachs (UC Louvain, Belgium).

Program includes: Murray Rosenblatt, Michael Neumann, Peter Brockwell, Rainer Dahlhaus, Peter Robinson, Dag Tjostheim, Richard Davis, Dimitris Politis, Anestis Antoniadis, Helmut Luetkepohl, Manfred Deistler, Thomas Mikosch.

IMS co-sponsored meeting
Bayesian methods that Frequentists should know
April 30 – May 1, 2008
University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

w http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/stat/workshop/

IMS Reps and organizers: Partha Lahiri and Eric V. Slud
The main purpose of the workshop is to assess the current state of usage of the Bayesian methodology in different disciplines and to discuss potential issues preventing the applications of the Bayesian methods. The workshop will highlight methods that have broad interest and appeal cutting across the Bayesian–Frequentist divide.

Invited Speakers: Snigdhansu Chatterjee, Malay Ghosh, Stephen Fienberg, Roderick Little, and Carl N. Morris.

IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability
June 11–13, 2008
Hangzhou, China

w http://www.stat.umn.edu/~statconf/imschina/

We are pleased to announce the IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability 2008 in Hangzhou, China, to observe the launch of IMS-China, a sub-division dedicated to IMS members in China. The meeting is open to all current and prospective IMS members by registration, until the maximum of 100 non-local participants is reached. Local participants are defined as those who reside in mainland China. It will feature plenary lectures (Zhidong Bai, Northeast Normal University, China; Lawrence Brown, University of Pennsylvania; Richard Durrett, Cornell University; Iain Johnstone, Stanford University; Shige Peng, Shangdong University, China), and invited and contributed talks in all areas of probability and statistics. Please register early through the IMS secure website. The official languages of the meeting are English and Chinese. If you live in China, contact Professor Zhengyan Lin (zlin@zju.edu.cn) for more information. If you live elsewhere, send your enquiries in English to Professor Xiaotong Shen (xshen@stat.umn.edu). Scientific Committee Co-Chairs: Zhiming Ma, Chinese Academy of Science, Xuming He, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ISNI2008: International Seminar on Nonparametric Inference
November 5–7, 2008
Vigo, Spain

UPDATED

w www.isni2008.com **[new URL]**

ISNI2008 is a three-day international meeting devoted to nonparametric statistics. It will be held in Vigo, Galicia (in the north-west of Spain) on November 5–7, 2008. Its aim is to facilitate the exchange of research ideas and to promote collaboration among researchers in the field. The meeting is promoted by the three Galician research groups in nonparametric statistics (Vigo, Santiago de Compostela, and A Coruña), as well as by a number of close scientific collaborators coming from different countries in Europe and the USA.

ISNI2008 is organized by the SiDOR (Statistical Inference, Decision and Operations Research) group at the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Vigo. It is co-sponsored or endorsed by the IAP Attraction Pole, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Section on Nonparametric Statistics of the American Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, and the Galician and Spanish Societies for Statistics and Operations Research, among many other institutions.

The Scientific Programme includes seventeen invited talks given by leading researchers in several areas of nonparametric statistics: Speakers: Peter Hall (Melbourne); Hans Georg Müller (UC Davis); Jianqing Fan (Princeton); Jan Swanepoel (Potchefstroom); Anthony Davison (Lausanne); Lutz Duembgen (Bern); Natalie Neumeyer (Hamburg); Gerda Claeskens (KU Leuven); Anestis Antoniadis (Grenoble); Juan Carlos Pardo-Fernández (Vigo); Holger Dette (Bochum); Philippe Vieu (Toulouse); Gábor Lugosi (Barcelona); Jean Opsomer (Colorado State); Stefan Sperlich (Göttingen); Winfried Stute (Giessen); and Geert Molenberghs (Hasselt).

Contributed papers are welcome (deadline 23 June 2008). The *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* will devote a special issue with contributions to the meeting.

Please visit www.isni2008.com for further information. Pre-registration is now open.

11th IMS North American Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability
July 29 – August 2, 2008
University of Colorado, Boulder

w http://www.stat.rutgers.edu/~rebecka/NRC
Local chair: Ryan Elmore.

The New Researchers' Committee of the IMS is organizing a meeting of recent PhD recipients in Statistics and Probability. The purpose of the conference is to promote interaction among new researchers primarily by introducing them to each other's research in an informal setting. All participants are expected to give a short, expository talk or contribute a poster on their research.

Anyone who has received a PhD in (or after) 2003, or expects to receive a PhD in 2008, is eligible to attend.

The meeting is to be held immediately prior to the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver (see previous page).

Abstracts for these papers and posters will appear on the website above. To apply, please submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae and title and abstract to:

Rebecka Jornsten, Department of Statistics, Rutgers University, NJ 08854
e rebecka@stat.rutgers.edu
OR
Ryan Elmore, Department of Statistics, Colorado State University Campus at Fort Collins, CO 80523
e elmore@stat.colostate.edu.

Electronic mail is preferred for abstract submission. Deadline for receipt of applications is February 1, 2008. Please apply promptly since the number of participants is limited.

Priority will be given to first time participants. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Also, contingent on the availability of funds, support to defray travel and housing costs will be offered.

2008 WNAR/IMS Meeting June 22-25 Davis, CA

The Statistics Department at the University of California, Davis, cordially invites you to participate in the 2008 western regional meeting of WNAR and the IMS. Following up on the traditions established at the two previous WNAR/IMS meetings hosted by the Davis campus, the meeting will feature an outstanding program of invited speakers, several plenary addresses, special sessions for student papers, sessions and activities for new researchers and a short course on widely applicable developing methodology. There will be a hosted wine-tasting reception on Sunday evening, June 22, and a Special Banquet on Tuesday, June 24 commemorating the Conference and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the campus.

WNAR Presidential Invited Address
Jerry Lawless
University of Waterloo
WNAR Program Chair
Patrick Heagerty
University of Washington

IMS Program Chair
Charles Kooperberg
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
IMS 2008 Medallion Lecturer
Peter Bartlett
University of California, Berkeley

Local Organizer
Frank Samaniego & Chris Drake
University of California, Davis

WNAR/IMS Western Regional Meeting Short Course: "R Survey Package Analyses for Two Phase Studies, with Applications in Epidemiology" by T. Lumley and N. Breslow.
June 22, 2008

w http://conferences.ucdavis.edu/wnar-ims2008
Hosted by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis.

WNAR/IMS Western Regional Meeting
June 23–25, 2008

w http://conferences.ucdavis.edu/wnar-ims2008
Annual west-coast meeting, hosted this year by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis, featuring invited and contributed paper sessions and plenary speakers Jerry Lawless and Peter Bartlett. Registration and wine-tasting reception (in the Davis tradition) on Sunday, exquisite Conference Banquet on Tuesday, Student Paper Competition, Young Researchers Luncheon. Program Chairs Patrick Heagerty heagerty@u.washington.edu and Charles Kooperberg clk@fhcrc.org; Local organizers: Chris Drake cmdrake@ucdavis.edu and Frank Samaniego fjsamaniego@ucdavis.edu.

IMS co-sponsored meeting:
2009 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting
March 15–18, 2009
Grand Hyatt San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

IMS co-sponsored meeting:
2010 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting
March 21–24, 2010
Hyatt Regency New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

IMS co-sponsored meeting
IWAP2008: International Workshop in Applied Probability
July 7–10, 2008
Université Technologie de Compiègne (UTC), Compiègne, France
w http://www.lmac.utc.fr/IWAP2008/
Contacts: Nikolaos Limnios **e** nikolaos.limnios@utc.fr and Joseph Glaz **e** joseph.glaz@uconn.edu (IMS Rep)
This workshop will be an interdisciplinary conference in the field of probability with applications to several areas of science and technology, including actuarial science and insurance, bioinformatics, biosurveillance, computer science, data mining, finance, learning theory and target tracking. Its aim is to bring together, and to foster exchanges and collaborations among, scientists working in applications to any field, including those listed above.

IMS co-sponsored meeting
4th Cornell Probability Summer School
June 23 – July 4, 2008. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
w http://www.math.cornell.edu/~durrett/CPSS2008/
This Fourth Cornell Probability Summer School will focus on probability problems that arise from ecology. The main lecturers will be Claudia Neuhauser (Minnesota), Sylvie Méléard (Paris), Simon Levin (Princeton), and Ted Cox (Syracuse). In addition there will be one or two one-hour talks by Steve Ellner (Cornell), Alan Hastings (U.C. Davis), Steve Krone (U. of Idaho), Nicolas Lanchier (Arizona State), and Rinaldo Schinazi (Colorado Springs).

The conference web page has more information. All participants should fill out the registration form found there. This meeting was partially supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the probability group at Cornell University.

IMS co-sponsored meeting
33rd Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications
July 27–31, 2009
Berlin, Germany
w http://www.math.tu-berlin.de/SPA2009/
Featuring two IMS Medallion Lectures, from Claudia Klüppelberg and Gordon Slade, a Lévy Lecture from Amir Dembo, and a Doob Lecture from Ed Perkins.

Organizing committee chair: Jochen Blath; co-chair: Peter Imkeller.

IMS Reps to Program Committee: David Aldous, Martin Barlow, Gérard Ben Arous, Mu-Fa Chen, Anna de Masi, Hans Föllmer, Luis Gorostiza, Dmitry Kramkov, Russ Lyons, Claudia Neuhauser, Ed Waymire, and Ofer Zeitouni.

Berlin's world-famous Philharmonie, designed by Hans Scharoun, is home to the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the world's leading orchestras, whose current principal conductor is Sir Simon Rattle, known for his championing of contemporary classical music. The BPO also supports several chamber music ensembles.

IMS co-sponsored meeting
NSF/CBMS Regional Conference on Convex Duality Method in Mathematical Finance
June 22–27, 2008
University of California at Santa Barbara
w http://www.pstat.ucsb.edu/projects/cbms/
The conference will be held on the seaside campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara. The program will focus on recent developments in applications of the convex duality method to problems in finance.
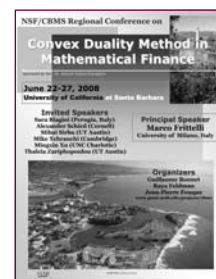
The distinguished Principal Lecturer, Dr Marco Frittelli, Professor of Mathematical Finance at the University of Milano, will deliver 10 invited lectures on the topic. Other one-hour talks will be given by invited speakers: Sara Biagini (Perugia, Italy), Alexander Schied (Cornell), Mihai Sirbu (UT Austin), Mike Tehranchi (Cambridge), Mingxin Xu (UNC Charlotte), and Thaleia Zariphopoulou (UT Austin).

There are no contributed talks, however, afternoons are reserved for informal discussion sessions modeled on the successful example of the Seminar on Stochastic Processes series of conferences. These informal sessions are designed to encourage interaction between young and more senior researchers. Social events include an opening reception, conference dinner and a tour.

Details on the website.

2008 NSF-CBMS Regional Research Conferences in the Mathematical Sciences

The National Science Foundation has announced support for nine NSF-CBMS Regional Research Conferences to be held during 2008. These conferences are intended to stimulate interest and activity in mathematical research. Each five-day conference features a distinguished lecturer who delivers ten lectures on a topic of important current research in one sharply-focused area of the mathematical sciences. The lecturer subsequently prepares an expository monograph based upon these lectures, which is normally published as a part of a regional conference series. Depending upon the topic, the monograph is published by the American Mathematical Society, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, or jointly by the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Support for about 30 participants is provided and the conference organizer invites both established researchers and interested newcomers, including postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, to attend. Information about an individual conference may be obtained by contacting the conference organizer. Information about the series and guidelines for submitting proposals for future conferences are found in the Call for Proposals for the 2009 NSF-CBMS Regional Research Conferences at http://www.cbmsweb.org/NSF/2009_call.htm. Questions should be directed to: *CBMS, 1529 18th St. NW, Washington DC 20036-1385.* **t** (202) 293-1170; **f** (202) 293-3412; **e** rosier@georgetown.edu or lkolbe@maa.org

Imaging in Random Media
May 12–16, 2008, Rice University
Lecturer: George Papanicolaou
Liliana Borcea, Danny C. Sorensen and William W. Symes, organizers
713-348-5723, borcea@caam.rice.edu
713-348-5193, sorensen@caam.rice.edu
713-348-5997, symes@caam.rice.edu
www.caam.rice.edu/~CBMS2008/

Water Waves – Theory and Experiment
May 13–18, 2008, Howard University
Lecturer: Harvey Segur
Mohammad F. Mahmood, organizer
202-806-6295, mmahmood@howard.edu
www.coas.howard.edu/mathematics/CBMS-Mahmood.html

Inverse Scattering for Radar Imaging
May 27–31, 2008, Univ. of Texas at Arlington
Lecturer: Margaret Cheney
Tuncay Aktosun, organizer
817-272-1545, aktosun@uta.edu
http://omega.uta.edu/~aktosun/cbms2008

Topology, C*-Algebras, and String Duality
June 2–6, 2008, Texas Christian University
Lecturer: Jonathan Rosenberg
Greg Friedman and Robert Doran, organizers
817-257-6343, g.friedman@tcu.edu
817-257-7335, r.doran@tcu.edu
http://faculty.tcu.edu/gfriedman/CBMS

Convex Duality Method in Mathematical Finance
June 22–27, 2008, University of California, Santa Barbara
Lecturer: Marco Frittelli
Jean-Pierre Fouque, Guillaume Bonnet, and Raya Feldman, organizers
805-893-5637, fouque@pstat.ucsb.edu
805-893-4188, bonnet@pstat.uscb.edu
805-893-2826 feldman@pstat.uscb.edu
www.pstat.ucsb.edu/projects/cbms/

Ergodic Ramsey Theory: A Dynamical Approach to Static Theorems
June 22–28, 2008, Eastern Illinois University
Lecturer: Vitaly Bergelson
Patrick R. Coulton, organizer
217-581-6276, prcoulton@eiu.edu
www.ux1.eiu.edu/~prcoulton/cbms07/

Knots and Topological Quantum Computing
July 9–13, 2008, Univ. of Central Oklahoma
Lecturer: Zhenghan Wang
Ara Basmajian (Short Course on Knots)
Charlotte Simmons and Jesse Byrne, organizers
405-974-5294, cksimmons@ucok.edu
405-974-5575, jbyrne@ucok.edu
www.math.ucok.edu/cbms/cbms.html

Malliavin Calculus and its Applications
August 7–12, 2008, Kent State University
Lecturer: David Nualart
Oana Mocioalca and Kazim M. Khan, organizers
330-672-9083, oana@math.kent.edu
330-672-9110, kazim@math.kent.edu
http://www.math.kent.edu/math/CBMS2008.cfm

Tropical Geometry and Mirror Symmetry
December 13–17, 2008, Kansas State Univ.
Lecturer: Mark Gross
Ricardo Castano-Bernard, Yan Soibelman, and Ilia Zharkov, organizers
785-532-0585, rcastano@math.ksu.edu
785-532-0584, soibel@math.ksu.edu
617-495-8797, zharkov@math.harvard.edu
www.math.ksu.edu/~rcastano/CBMS.html

Other Meetings Around the World:
Announcements and Calls for Papers

Workshop on Algorithms for Modern Massive Data Sets (MMDS 2008)
June 25–28, 2008
Stanford University, Stanford, CA

NEW

w http://mmds.stanford.edu

Organizers: Gunnar Carlsson, Michael Mahoney, Lek-Heng Lim, Petros Drineas

Contact: **e** mmds-organizers@math.stanford.edu

World Congress satellite meeting
Symposium in honor of Kiyosi Itô: Stochastic Analysis and Its Impact in Mathematics and Science
July 10–11, 2008
National University of Singapore, Singapore

UPDATED

w http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/kiyosi08/index.htm

The National University of Singapore's Institute for Mathematical Sciences is organizing a satellite meeting to the IMS Annual Meeting and Bernoulli World Congress in July. The objective of the symposium is to gather together leading mathematicians and scientists to deliver expository lectures on Itô's work, the historical development of stochastic analysis, and the influence and impact of stochastic analysis in various branches of mathematics and science. It will be aimed at mathematicians and scientists in general.

Details on the website.

Singapore's Marina Bay. Photo: Calvin Teo / Wikimedia Commons

Summer School on Stochastic Geometry, the Stochastic Loewner Evolution and Non-Equilibrium Growth Processes
July 7–18, 2008
ICTP, Trieste, Italy

NEW

w http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a07161

The discovery of the Stochastic Loewner Evolution (SLE) by Oded Schramm and the ensuing revitalization of 2D critical phenomena as a stochastic evolution of geometry has been the one of the most spectacular theoretical developments in recent years. This development was honored by a Fields Metal in 2006 awarded to Wendelin Werner for foundational work done on SLE with Schramm and Greg Lawler. SLE has a vast web of interconnections with many areas of theoretical physics, including 2D conformal field theory, 2D quantum gravity, random matrix theory, multifractal properties of stochastic media, stochastic growth phenomena and many others. Moreover, surprising connections with 2D fully developed turbulence and 2D spin glasses have just recently emerged.

The aim of this School is to provide an overview of these important and far-reaching recent developments by the leading experts in this field.

Topics include:
- Stochastic Loewner Evolution
- 2D Conformal Field Theory
- 2D Quantum Gravity
- Multifractal Properties of Stochastic Systems
- Stochastic Growth Processes
- Connections with 2D Turbulence and Spin Glasses

Specific questions about logistics should be addressed to the

Nonparametric Bayes 2008
Workshop held at ICML/UAI/COLT 2008
July 9, 2008
Helsinki, Finland

w http://npbayes.wikidot.com

Call for Abstracts and Participation

One of the major problems driving current research in statistical machine learning is the search for ways to exploit highly-structured models that are both expressive and tractable. Nonparametric Bayesian methodology provides significant leverage on this problem. In the nonparametric Bayesian framework, the prior distribution is not a fixed parametric form, but is rather a general stochastic process—a distribution over a possibly uncountably infinite number of random variables. This generality makes it possible to work with prior and posterior distributions on objects such as trees of unbounded depth and breadth, graphs, partitions, sets of monotone functions, sets of smooth functions and sets of general measures.

Applications of nonparametric Bayesian methods have begun to appear in disciplines such as information retrieval, natural language processing, machine vision, computational biology, cognitive science and signal processing. Because of their flexibility, they can also be used to express prior knowledge without restricting to small parametric classes. Furthermore, research on nonparametric Bayesian models has served to enhance the links between statistical machine learning and a number of other mathematical disciplines, including stochastic processes, algorithms, optimization, combinatorics and knowledge representation.

There have been several previous workshops on nonparametric Bayesian methods at machine learning conferences, including workshops at NIPS in 2003 and 2005 and a workshop at ICML workshop in 2006. This workshop aims to build on the success of these earlier workshops and to catalyze further research.

There are many problem areas that need additional attention; these include (1) the development of new Monte Carlo and variational algorithms for inference; (2) the combination of ideas from knowledge representation and nonparametric Bayesian analysis to develop formal languages for specifying and manipulating flexible Bayesian models; (3) the problem of finding objective priors that work in the nonparametric Bayesian setting; (4) theoretical analysis of the conditions under which nonparametric Bayesian methods succeed or fail; and (5) the ongoing need to find compelling applications that serve to exhibit recent developments and to drive further research. This workshop is intended to bring together the growing community of nonparametric Bayesian researchers to explore these and other issues.

Format:

The one-day workshop consists of three invited talks, three contributed talks, a round-table discussion on theory, methodology and applications, a round-table discussion on general-purpose language and software, a poster session, and a panel discussion.

Call for participation:

Researchers interested in presenting their work and ideas at the workshop should send an email to npbayes@googlemail.com with the following information:

- Title
- Authors
- Abstract (maximum 2 pages, ICML style pdf)
- Preferred contribution (talk, poster, and/or round-table participation)

We expect authors to provide a final version of their papers by late June for inclusion on the workshop home page. Papers chosen for contributed talks shall also be expected to liaise with a discussion leader who will be in charge of stimulating discussion of the work at the workshop.

Dates:

- Abstracts due: May 2, 2008
- Notifications: May 16, 2008
- Final paper due: June 20, 2008
- Workshop: July 9, 2008

Organizers:

Yee Whye Teh. Gatsby Unit, UCL
Romain Thibaux. Computer Science, Berkeley
Athanasios Kottas. Applied Mathematics and Statistics, UC Santa Cruz
Zoubin Ghahramani. Engineering, Cambridge
Michael I. Jordan. Computer Science and Statistics, UC Berkeley

Contact:

npbayes@googlemail.com

Fifth Colloquium on Mathematics and Computer Science
September 22–26, 2008
Blaubeuren, Germany

NEW

w http://www-computerlabor.math.uni-kiel.de/stochastik/
colloquium08/main.html

The topics of the colloquium are between mathematics and computer science, like Algorithms, Graphs, Trees, Combinatorics and Probabilities. The main speakers are Philippe Chassaing (Université Henri Poincaré, France); Jean-François Le Gall (Université Paris-Sud, France); Malwina Luczak (London School, United Kingdom); Ralph Neininger (Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Germany); Angelika Steger (ETH, Zürich, Switzerland); Wojciech Szpankowski (Purdue University, USA); Joseph E. Yukich (Lehigh University, USA).

Contact:

Uwe Roesler, Chair

Mathematisches Seminar C.A.-Universitaet Kiel

Ludewig-Meyn-Strasse 4, D-24098 Kiel

t +49-431-880 3690

f +49-431-880 4091

Summer school and workshop:
Stochastic Differential Equation Models with Applications to the
Insulin-Glucose System and Neuronal Modeling
August 3–16, 2008
Middelfart, Denmark

NEW

w http://www.math.ku.dk/~susanne/SummerSchool2008/

The Summer School will be held August 3–12, 2008, and the Workshop will be August 13–16, 2008. The list of courses and teachers at the summer school include: *Stochastic integrals* (Bernt Øksendal, University of Oslo; Martin Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen); *Statistical methods for stochastic differential equations* (Michael Sørensen; Susanne Ditlevsen, University of Copenhagen); *Stochastic neuronal models* (Kashayar Pakdaman, ISC PIF Paris; Laura Sacerdote, University of Torino); *Stochastic models for the glucose-insulin system* (Andrea De Gaetano, Biomathematics Laboratory CNR-IASI, Rome; Umberto Picchini, University of Copenhagen and Biomathematics Laboratory CNR-IASI, Rome); *Stochastic PK/PD models* (Søren Klim, Novo Nordisk, Denmark). The list of speakers on the Workshop include: Jerry Batzel, Carlos Braumann, Susanne Ditlevsen, Patrick Jahn, Michael Khoo, Petr Lansky, Vasilis Marmarelis, Cesar Palerm, Robert Parker, Umberto Picchini, Antti Saarinen, Laura Sacerdote, Adeline Samson

Organizers: Susanne Ditlevsen and Michael Sørensen

e SDEbioschool@math.ku.dk

NISS/ASA Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers
August 3 and August 6, 2008
Denver, Colorado (at JSM)

NEW

w http://www.amstat.org/meetings/wwjr/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.

The National Institute of Statistical Science (NISS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA) will hold a writing workshop for junior researchers. The goal of the workshop is to provide instruction in how to write journal articles and grant proposals. Participants will be required to provide a recent sample of their writing, which will be reviewed by a senior mentor. The sample could be a current draft of an article being submitted for publication, or it could be a grant proposal. (Submission of the manuscript will be required as part of the registration process. Prior experience suggests that the best results come from submitting an early draft of something that is written solely or primarily by the participant.)

The mentors will be former journal editors and program officers, who will critique (a portion of) the submitted material. Individual feedback will be provided at the opening session, and participants will be expected to prepare a revision. In addition to the individual feedback, there will be a one-day session of general instruction in effective writing techniques and a follow-up lunch.

The one-day session is scheduled for Sunday, August 3, in Denver. At the end of the session, mentors will meet with participants to go over the writing samples they submitted. The participants will prepare a revision of the critiqued portion of their paper and give it to their mentor by Tuesday evening, August 5. A lunch will be held on Wednesday, August 6, by which time the participants will receive additional feedback on their revisions. The lunch will also be used to provide general feedback to the participants, mentors, and organizers.

Attendance will be limited and will depend on the number of mentors available. To apply, see the web application form. Applications are due by June 1, 2008, and successful applicants will be notified by June 30. Applications received after June 1 will be considered if space is available. There is no fee for participation. Participants will receive lunch on Sunday, August 3, and Wednesday, August 6. Participants must agree to attend both the Sunday session and the Wednesday lunch. We anticipate funding for partial travel support.

An online application form is available at http://www.amstat.org/meetings/wwjr/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.

For more information contact Keith Crank, Assistant Director for Research and Graduate Education, American Statistical Association **e** keith@amstat.org.

Employment Opportunities around the world

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

At the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven), Department of Mathematics, a full-time tenured academic position in statistics is available.

The candidate is expected to have a strong research record in mathematical statistics or stochastics, and to have an open mind for applications and statistical consultancy. He/she will be part of the Section of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics (http://wis.kuleuven.be/stat) and will work in close cooperation with Leuven Statistics Research Centre (http://lstat.kuleuven.be).

Applications for this faculty position are accepted until September 30, 2008.

Starting date is October 1st, 2009.

More information and application forms are available at: http://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/vacatures/science.html

Cyprus: Nicosia

University of Cyprus

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

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Professor Jan de Leeuw
Department of Statistics
University of California at Los Angeles
8125 Math Sciences Building
Box 951554
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1554

The applicants should arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to Professor De Leeuw. Until the file is complete with the requested information, the application cannot be given full consideration.

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International Calendar of Statistical Events

IMS meetings are highlighted in maroon with the *ims* **logo and new or updated entries have the** *NEW* **symbol. t means telephone, f fax, e email and w website. Please submit your meeting details and any corrections to Elyse Gustafson at erg@imstat.org**

May 2008

May 1–3: Kozhikode, India. **International Conference on Statistics and its Applications in Management (ICSAIM2008).** G Chaudhuri **e** icsaim2008@iimk.ac.in **w** www. iimk.ac.in/forthcoming conferences/seminars

May 2–4: University of Wisconsin–Madison. **Second Graduate Student Conference in Probability. w** http://www. math.wisc.edu/~guettes/GSCP.html

May 5 – June 27: National University of Singapore. **Mathematical Imaging and Digital Media. w** http://www.ims.nus.edu. sg/Programs/imaging08/index.htm

May 9–11: University of Gujrat, Pakistan. **ISOSS Fourth National Conference on Statistical Sciences. w** http://isoss.com. pk/4thconference.html

May 11–13: Rutgers University, NJ. **99th Statistical Mechanics Conference.** In honor of Edouard Brezin and Giorgio Parisi. **w** http://www.math.rutgers.edu/events/smm/ index.html

ims May 12–16: Rice University. **Imaging in Random Media** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** www. caam.rice.edu/~CBMS2008/

ims May 13–18: Howard University. **Water Waves – Theory and Experiment** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** www.coas.howard.edu/ mathematics/CBMS-Mahmood.html

May 16–17: Michigan State University. **Recent advances in Statistics: Conference in honor of Professor H.L. Koul on his 65th birthday.** S.N. Lahiri **e** snlahiri@ stat.tamu.edu or Vince Melfi **e** melfi@ stt.msu.edu **w** http://www.stt.msu.edu/ conference2008/

ims May 19–21: Atlanta, Georgia, USA. **2008 Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology.** Program co-chairs: Paul Kvam **e** pkvam@

isye.gatech.edu, Jye-Chyi Lu **e** jclu@isye. gatech.edu, Kwok Tsui **e** ktsui@isye.gatech. edu **w** http://www2.isye.gatech.edu/src2008/

May 19–21: Pavia, Italy. **MolPAGE Training Work Package: Causal Inference w** www.unipv.it/molpage_training/training3

May 19–23: Centro Stefano Franscini, Ascona, Switzerland. **Sixth Seminar on Stochastic Analysis, Random Fields and Applications. w** http://www.math.univ-paris13.fr/~russo/ASCONA08/Ascona08.html

May 22–25: University of Connecticut–Storrs. **International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) conference on Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science.** Local organizers: Dipak Dey; Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Chair, **e** nitis. mukhopadhyay@uconn.edu and Nalini Ravishanker. **w** http://merlot.stat.uconn. edu/~nitis/IISA2008/

May 23–24: Penn State University, University Park, PA. **Nonparametric Statistics and Mixture Models: Past, Present, & Future. w** http://www.outreach. psu.edu/programs/nonparametric-statistics/

May 25–29: Ottawa, Canada. **2008 Joint Meeting of SSC and the Société Française de Statistique.** Local Arrangements: Pierre Lavallée **e** pierre.lavallee@ statcan.ca . Program: Bruno Rémillard **e** bruno.remillard@hec.ca **w** http://www.ssc. ca/2008/index_e.html

May 26–30: Luminy, France. **Fifth Conference on High Dimensional Probability.** Organizers: Christian Houdré houdre@math.gatech.edu, Vladimir Koltchinskii vlad@math.gatech.edu, David Mason davidm@udel.edu, Magda Peligrad magda.peligrad@uc.edu **w** http://www.math.gatech.edu/news/ conferences/hdp08/

ims May 27–31: Univ. of Texas at Arlington. **Inverse Scattering for Radar Imaging** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** http://omega.uta. edu/~aktosun/cbms2008

May 28–30: Sanya, Hainan, China. **2008 International Congress on Image and Signal Processing (CISP 2008). e** cisp2008@hainu.edu.cn **w** http://www.hainu. edu.cn/CISP2008

May 29–31: Pittsburgh, PA. **4th Workshop on Statistical Analysis of Neuronal Data (SAND4). w** http://sand.stat.cmu.edu

May 30–31: Madison, Wisconsin. **Statistics Theory and Practice. w** www.stat.wisc.edu

June 2008

ims June 2–6: Texas Christian University. **Topology, C*-Algebras, and String Duality** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** http://faculty.tcu.edu/ gfriedman/CBMS

June 2–7: CRM, Montréal. **Mathematical Aspects of Quantum Chaos: Probabilistic Methods in Mathematical Physics** *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal. ca/Mathphys2008/chaos_e.shtml

June 5–6: Kaiserslautern, Germany. **Workshop on Bootstrap and Time Series. e** bootstrap08@mathematik.uni-kl.de **w** www. mathematik.uni-kl.de/~bootstrap08

ims June 8–11: Protaras, Cyprus. **International Workshop on Recent Advances in Time Series Analysis.** IMS Rep: Rainer von Sachs, UC Louvain, Belgium. **w** www.ucy.ac.cy/~rats2008/

June 8–11: Charleston, South Carolina. **Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) Summer Research Conference: Modern Semiparametric Methods in Action.** Angela Williams **e** srcos08info@ musc.edu **w** www.musc.edu/dbbe/srcos2008

International Calendar *continued*

June 2008 continued

June 11–13: Hangzhou, China. **IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability.** Contact (China) Zhengyan Lin **e** zlin@zju.edu.cn or (elsewhere) Xiaotong Shen **e** xshen@stat.umn.edu **w** http://www.stat.umn.edu/~statconf/imschina/

June 11 – July 8: Vancouver, BC, Canada. **2008 PIMS/UBC Summer School in Probability. w** http://pims.math.ca/science/2008/08ssprob/

June 13–15: Princeton University. **Stochastic Analysis and Applications: from Mathematical Physics to Mathematical Finance. w** http://orfe.princeton.edu/r60/

June 16–19: Vilnius, Lithuania. **22nd Nordic Conference on Mathematical Statistics (NORDSTAT) w** http://www.nordstat2008.com/

June 16–28: French National Sailing School, Brittany, France. **2008 Beg Rohu Summer School: Manifolds in Random Media, Random Matrices and Extreme Value Statistics. w** http://www-spht.cea.fr/Meetings/BegRohu2008

June 18–20: Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge, UK. **Workshop on Inference and Estimation in Probabilistic Time-Series Models. w** http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/programmes/SCH/schw05.html

June 19–21: Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France. **First International Workshop on Functional and Operatorial Statistics.** Contact Karim Benhenni and Sonia Hedli-Griche, Université Pierre Mendes-France, Grenoble. **t** 04 76 82 57 07 **e** Karim.Benhenni@upmf-grenoble.fr **w** http://www.lsp.ups-tlse.fr/staph/IWFOS2008

June 22–25: University of California, Davis. **2008 WNAR/IMS Western Regional Meeting.** IMS Program Chair: Charles Kooperberg **w** http://www.wnar.org

June 22–27: University of California at Santa Barbara. **NSF/CBMS Regional Conference on Convex Duality Method in Mathematical Finance. w** http://www.pstat.ucsb.edu/projects/cbms/

June 22–28: Eastern Illinois University. **Ergodic Ramsey Theory: A Dynamical Approach to Static Theorems** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** www.ux1.eiu.edu/~prcoulton/cbms07/

June 23–27: Isaac Newton Inst, Cambridge, UK. **Workshop on Future Directions in High-dimensional Data Analysis: New Methodologies, New Data Types and New Applications. w** www.newton.cam.ac.uk/programmes/SCH/schw03.html

June 23–27: Pavia, Italy. **Design and Analysis of Genetic-based Association Studies. w** http://www.unipv.it/statistical_genetics.training/training3/

June 23–28: École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France. **Stochastic Networks Conference 2008.** Chairs: François Baccelli, J. Mairesse. **w** http://www.di.ens.fr/~baccelli/stonet08.html

June 23 – July 4: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. **4th Cornell Probability Summer School: Probability problems that arise from ecology. w** http://www.math.cornell.edu/~durrett/CPSS2008/

NEW June 25–28: Stanford University, CA. **Workshop on Algorithms for Modern Massive Data Sets (MMDS 2008).** Organizers: Gunnar Carlsson, Michael Mahoney, Lek-Heng Lim, Petros Drineas. **e** mmds-organizers@math.stanford.edu **w** http://mmds.stanford.edu

June 26–28: Coimbra, Portugal. **Workshop on Nonparametric Inference: WNI2008. w** http://www.mat.uc.pt/~wni2008

June 26–28: Padova, Italy. **DYNSTOCH 2008. w** http://www.isib.cnr.it/control/gombani/dynstoch2008/

June 30 – July 5: CRM, Montréal. **Integrable Quantum Systems and Solvable Statistical Mechanical Models** *[CRM program].* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/integrable_e.shtml

July 2008

July 1–4: Prague, Czech Republic. **ISBIS-2008:** International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics. Milena Zeithamlova **e** milena@action-m.com **w** http://www.action-m.com/isbis2008

July 6–11: Montreal, Canada. **MCQMC2008: 8th International Conference on Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods in Scientific Computing. w** http://www.crm.math.ca/mcqmc08/index_e.shtml

July 6–19: Saint-Flour, France. **38th Saint-Flour Probability Summer School. w** http://math.univ-bpclermont.fr/stflour/

July 7–10: Université de Technologie, Compiègne, France. **IWAP2008: International Workshop on Applied Probability.** Contact Nikolaos Limnios **e** nikolaos.limnios@utc.fr and Joseph Glaz **e** joseph.glaz@uconn.edu **w** http://www.lmac.utc.fr/IWAP2008/

July 7–11: Utrecht, The Netherlands. **23rd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM). w** www.fss.uu.nl/iwsm2008

NEW July 7–18: ICTP, Trieste, Italy. **Summer School on Stochastic Geometry, the Stochastic Loewner Evolution and Non-Equilibrium Growth Processes.** Marina de Comelli, school's secretary **e** smr1952@ictp.it **w** http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a07161

NEW July 9: Helsinki, Finland. **Nonparametric Bayes 2008. e** npbayes@googlemail.com **w** http://npbayes.wikidot.com

ims July 9–13: Univ. of Central Oklahoma. **Knots and Topological Quantum Computing** *[NSF-CBMS]*. **w** www.math.ucok.edu/cbms/cbms.html

July 10–11: National University of Singapore. **Symposium in honor of Kiyosi Itô: Stochastic Analysis and its Impact in Mathematics and Science.** **w** http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/kiyosi08/

July 13–18: Dublin, Ireland. **IBC2008: XXIVth International Biometric Conference.** **w** http://www.conferencepartners.ie/ibcdublin2008/

July 14–17: Berkeley, California. **Workshop on Integrating Computing into Statistics Curricula.** **w** http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/users/statcur/Workshop2/index.html

July 14–18: Sandbjerg, Denmark. **Efficient Monte Carlo: From Variance Reduction to Combinatorial Optimization.** In honor of Reuven Rubinstein's 70th birthday. Contact Oddbjørg Wethelund **t** +45 8942 3515 **w** http://www.thiele.au.dk/Rubinstein/

July 14–18: Crete, Greece. **International Conference on Statistical Physics (SigmaPhi2008).** **w** http://www.polito.it/sigmaphi2008

ims July 14–19: Singapore. **IMS Annual Meeting/7th World Congress in Probability and Statistics.** Local chair: Louis Chen. **w** http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/index.htm **e** wc2008_general@nus.edu.sg

July 15–17: Leeds, UK. **LASR 2008: The Art and Science of Statistical Bioinformatics.** Stuart Barber **e** workshop@maths.leeds.ac.uk **w** http://www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/lasr2008

July 21–25: Hamilton Island, Australia. **International Society for Bayesian Analysis 9th World Meeting.** **e** isba08@qut.edu.au **w** http://www.isba2008.sci.qut.edu.au

July 23–26: Tomar, Portugal. **17th**

International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS08) in Honor of Professor T.W. Anderson's 90th Birthday. Contact Professor Francisco Carvalho **t** +351 249 328 100; **e** fpcarvalho@ipt.pt **w** www.ipt.pt/iwms08

July 24–26: University of Vienna, Austria. **Current Trends and Challenges in Model Selection and Related Areas.** **w** http://www.univie.ac.at/workshop_modelselection/

July 28 – September 21: National University of Singapore. **Mathematical Horizons for Quantum Physics.** **w** http://www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/mhqp08/index.htm

ims July 29–August 2: Boulder, CO. **11th IMS North American Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability.** **w** http://www.stat.rutgers.edu/~rebecka/NRC

July 29 – August 2: University of Camerino, Italy. **International Conference on Strongly Coupled Coulomb Systems.** **w** http://sccs2008.unicam.mm.st/

August 2008

ims August 3–7: Denver, Colorado. **JSM2008.** **w** http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/

NEW August 3 and 6: Denver, Colorado (at JSM). **NISS/ASA Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers.** **w** http://www.amstat.org/meetings/wwjr/

August 3–9: Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. **XII Brazilian School of Probability (Escola Brasiliera de Probabilidade).** **w** http://www.mat.ufmg.br/ebp12

NEW August 3–16: Middelfart, Denmark. Summer school and workshop: **Stochastic Differential Equation Models with Applications to the Insulin-Glucose System and Neuronal Modeling.** **w** http://www.math.ku.dk/~susanne/SummerSchool2008/

August 4–9: CRM, Montréal. Stochastic Loewner Evolution and Scaling Limits *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/loewner_e.shtml

ims August 7–12: Kent State University. **Malliavin Calculus and its Applications** *[NSF-CBMS]*. **w** http://www.math.kent.edu/math/CBMS2008.cfm

August 17-21: Copenhagen, Denmark. **ISCB-29: International Society for Clinical Biostatistics.** **w** www.iscb2008.info

August 18–23: CRM, Montréal. Laplacian Growth and Related Topics *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/laplacian_e.shtml

August 25–30: CRM, Montréal. Random Matrices, Related Topics and Applications *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/matrices_e.shtml

August 26–29: Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute, UK. **Workshop and Conference on Sample Surveys and Bayesian Statistics.** **w** www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/ssbs08/

September 2008

September 1–5: East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, UK. **2008 International Conference of the Royal Statistical Society.** **w** www.rss.org.uk/rss2008

September 1–6: CRM, Montréal. Random Tilings, Random Partitions and Stochastic Growth Processes *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/tilings_e.shtml

September 8–12: Antalya, Turkey. **International Conference on Robust Statistics: ICORS 2008.** Organizer: Olcay Arslan, Cukurova University **e** oarslan@cu.edu.tr **w** www.icors08.org

International Calendar *continued*

September 2008 continued

NEW September 22–26: Blaubeuren, Germany. **Fifth Colloquium on Mathematics and Computer Science. w** http://www-computerlabor.math.uni-kiel.de/stochastik/colloquium08/main.html

September 25: Amsterdam, The Netherlands. **Fourth International Longevity Risk and Capital Markets Solutions Conference. e** emma.brophy.1@city.ac.uk

September 29 – October 4: CRM, Montréal. **Quantum Many-Body Systems, Bose-Einstein Condensation** *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/bose-einstein_e.shtml

October 2008

ims October 5–7: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. **Workshop for Women in Probability.** Program organizers: Lea Popovic and Amber Puha. Local Arrangements: Rick Durrett **e** rtd1@cornell.edu **w** www.math.cornell.edu/~durrett/wwp/

October 24–25: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. **30th Midwest Probability Colloquium. w** www.math.northwestern.edu/mwp (to be updated)

November 2008

ims November 5–7: Vigo, Spain. **ISNI2008: International Seminar on Nonparametric Inference. w** www.isni2008.com

December 2008

December 1–3: Hanoi, Vietnam. **2008 International Conference on Applied Probability and Statistics (CAPS 2008). w** http://www.action-m.com/CAPS2008/

December 8–12: Tropicana Casino Resort, Atlantic City, NJ. **64th Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics.** Walter R. Young **e** demingchair@gmail.com **w** http://www.demingconference.com/

December 13–16: Rutgers University, NJ. **100th Statistical Mechanics Conference. e** Joel Lebowitz lebowitz@math.rutgers.edu

ims December 13–17: Kansas State Univ. **Tropical Geometry and Mirror Symmetry** *[NSF-CBMS].* **w** www.math.ksu.edu/~rcastano/CBMS.html

January 2009

January 4–10: CRM, Montréal. **Random Functions, Random Surfaces and Interfaces** *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/functions_e.shtml

March 2009

ims March 15-18: Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas. **2009 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting. w** www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

May 2009

May 18–23: CRM, Montréal. **Interacting Stochastic Particle Systems** *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/stochastics_e.shtml

May 31 – June 3: Vancouver, Canada. **2009 SSC Annual Meeting.** Local Arrangements: Nancy Heckman (UBC). Program: Wendy Lou (Toronto) **w** http://www.ssc.ca/main/meetings_e.html

June 2009

June 8–13: CRM, Montréal. **Disordered Systems: Spin Glasses** *[CRM program]* **w** http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/Mathphys2008/spin_e.shtml

July 2009

July 12–15: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. **2009 Applied Probability Society Conference.** Co-organizers: Shane Henderson and Mark Lewis.

ims July 27–31: Berlin, Germany. **33rd Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications.** Organising committee chair: Jochen Blath; co-chair: Peter Imkeller. **w** http://www.math.tu-berlin.de/SPA2009/

August 2009

ims August 2–6: Washington, DC. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM2009**

May 2010

May 23–26: Québec City, Canada. **2010 SSC Annual Meeting.** Local Arrangements: Thierry Duchesne (Université Laval) **w** http://www.ssc.ca/main/meetings_e.html

August 2010

ims August 1–5: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. **JSM2010.**

NEW *ims* August 9–13: Gothenburg, Sweden. **IMS Annual Meeting 2010.**

August 19–27: Hyderabad, India. **International Congress of Mathematicians 2010.** Program Committee Chair: Prof. Hendrik W. Lenstra, Leiden University **e** hwlicm@math.leidenuniv.nl

July 2011

ims July 31 – August 4: Miami Beach, Florida. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM2011.**

July 2012

ims July 29 – August 2: San Diego, California. **JSM2012.**

August 2014

ims August 3–7: Boston, MA. **JSM2014.**

http://www.imstat.org/meetings

Membership and Subscription Information

Journals:

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8: October	*September 1*	September 15	October 1
9: November	*October 1*	October 15	November 1
10: December	*November 1*	November 15	December 1

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issue

June 2008

Special issue on China, in conjunction with the launch of IMS-China. Also members' news, meeting announcements, and new job opportunities.

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*The **purpose** of the **Institute** is to foster the **development** and **dissemination** of the **theory** and **applications** of **statistics** and **probability***

IMS: Organized September 12, 1935

Kakuro corner

How to play: Place single digits (1 to 9 inclusive) in the white boxes in the grid. The row or column of digits which make up a sequence must add up to the black box to the left or at the top. Each digit in a sequence must be different. In the example below, the first row sequence is to make 8:

| 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | ✗ | *No repeated digits in a sequence.* |

| 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | ✗ | *This row sequence doesn't add up to 8.* |

| 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | ✓ | *…this one does! (So does 1,2,5 and 3,1,4 and so on)* |

Solution 23 from last issue

Puzzle 24

Puzzle by www.yoogi.com