



October 2010

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IMS Short Courses Proposal

New IMS President Peter Hall outlines a proposed IMS program of short courses and short meetings:

The IMS is considering developing a program of short courses and short meetings, reflecting all of the research areas encompassed by our journals. The motivation is at least two-fold. Firstly, we are not very widely involved in specialist meetings, and from this point of view our scientific leadership can probably be enhanced. Secondly, in the area of short courses, there is an opportunity for both the IMS and its members to earn a little extra income, by sharing the profits earned by delivering those courses.

The best way in which to operate our short courses and short meetings will probably be learned over time, but a few principles can be predicted in advance. In particular, the short courses and meetings should be held in places not in direct competition with relevant, major existing conferences, for example the Joint Statistical Meetings. Of course, there are many opportunities for avoiding clashes such as these. The concept of "IMS Winter Workshops" in North America, perhaps held in early January in southern US, is only one suggestion. Proposals for activities outside North America, for instance in Europe or Asia, will also be welcome. More than one meeting could be held at the same time, most likely at different locations, provided the topics were sufficiently different.

One model for these activities is to run a short course on a weekend, followed by a short meeting addressing the same general area and held during the subsequent few days. However, proposals that involve only one of these components will be welcome. The short meeting should not include any parallel sessions, but might include a poster session.

The IMS Executive is still putting together the details we need, but we expect to call for proposals in the near future. We'll probably ask for suggestions in the first instance for activities that could run sometime between now and the end of June 2012. As well as the information that you would expect to have to be provided (e.g. a title for the activity, scientific motivation, likely key speakers, projected attendance, and of course, a budget), we'd want a report on the activity, so that information about it could be broadcast to IMS members.

For our part the IMS will advertise the activity through its website and the *IMS Bulletin*, and in its regular emails to members. We'll offer organisers a loan, to help secure conference facilities and pay other costs incurred before any income is received from registration fees. We'll make our credit card facilities available for payment of those fees. In my experience, the lack of access to a secure means of payment is a major impediment to operating short meetings.

We'll set up a committee to assess proposals. We aim to ensure that none of the meetings make a loss, and proposed budgets will be scrutinized with this in mind. Stay tuned for further developments!

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IMS members' news

Marta Sanz-Solé elected President of European Mathematical Society

On Saturday, July 10, 2010, the Council of the European Mathematical Society unanimously elected Professor Marta Sanz-Solé as new President of the EMS. She will serve her four-year term starting January 1, 2011, succeeding the current president, Prof. Ari Laptev. Marta's homepage is at http://www.mat.ub.es/~sanz/



Marta Sanz-Sole

Statistical Society of Canada SSC Honorary Membership awarded to David Brillinger

Former IMS President David R. Brillinger, Professor of Statistics at the University of California at Berkeley, is now an Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC). This award recognizes Professor Brillinger's outstanding distinction and his contributions to the development of the statistical sciences in Canada.

David Ross Brillinger was born in 1937 in Toronto. In 1959 he graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA (Hons) in Pure Mathematics, while also serving as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Naval Reserve. He was one of the five winners of the Putnam mathematical competition in 1958. He then went on to obtain his MA and PhD in Mathematics at Princeton University, in 1960 and 1961, the latter under the guidance of John W. Tukey.

During his career, David has held appointments at Princeton, Bell Laboratories and London School of Economics, and has been at Berkeley since 1970. He has supervised 40 doctoral theses and published over 220 papers in a wide variety of books, scientific journals, and conference proceedings. David has made seminal contributions to the theory of time series and point processes. His outstanding methodological work has always been motivated through collaborations with researchers from other fields. His techniques for spike train analysis are widely known in neurophysiology, and his work on modeling earthquake risk is equally well known in seismology. More recently, David has also contributed to the advancement of environmental statistics by developing techniques for animal tracking and wildfire risk. He has also written papers on sports statistics, particularly hockey and soccer.

David's record of scholarship and his work with the Canadian statistical and mathematical communities have been recognized through receipt of the SSC Gold Medal (1992), fellowships in the Royal Society of Canada (1985) and honourary doctorates at the universities of Western Ontario (1999), Waterloo (2003) and McMaster (2008). He was President of the IMS in 1994–5 and of The International Environmetrics Society (2006–8); he has also been a member of numerous international grant and scientific review panels, and has served in editorial or advisory capacities for Springer's *Series in Statistics* and *Lecture Notes in Statistics* and for 12 respected journals. Internationally, David's contributions have led to many honours, including Fellow of the IMS, ASA and AAAS, Elected Member of the ISI, Guggenheim Fellow, IMS Wald, Neyman and Medallion Lecturer, and several other awards. A fuller list of David's many achievements is on the SSC website at http:// www.ssc.ca/en/award-winners/2010#honorary

The citation that accompanied David's award read, "For unwavering support over many years of statistical and other sciences in Canada; for fundamental contributions to the theory of time series and point processes and their applications to seismology, geophysics and population biology; for contributions to the Statistical Society of Canada, particularly as President; and for numerous editorial contributions."

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ASA Awards recognize Sen, Levina, Friedman, Kou

Among this year's American Statistical Association annual awards, presented at the ASA President's Address at JSM in Vancouver, were several IMS members.

Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award: The Wilks Memorial Award recognizes outstanding contributions to statistics that carry on the spirit of Wilks' work. The 2010 Wilks Award was presented to Pranab K. Sen of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for outstanding contributions to statistical research, especially in nonparametric statistics and biostatistics, and for exceptional service in mentoring doctoral students.

The two Gottfried E. Noether Awards recognize distinguished researchers and teachers, and supports research in nonparametric statistics. The Gottfried E. Noether Young Scholar Award winner for 2010 is Elizaveta Levina, University of Michigan, for outstanding early career contributions to nonparametric statistics. The Gottfried E. Noether Senior Scholar Award for 2010 winner is Jerome H. Friedman, Stanford University, for outstanding contributions to the theory, applications, and teaching of nonparametric statistics.

Outstanding Statistical Application Award: Each year, the ASA recognizes a paper that is an outstanding application of statistics in the physical, biological, or medical sciences.

The 2010 winner is Samuel Kou, Harvard University, for opening the door between statistics and one of the newest areas of research: single-molecule experiments.

Emily Berg wins SSC Student Paper Award

The Survey Methods Section of the Statistical Society of Canada announced that Emily Berg from Iowa State University has won the 2009 Best Student Paper Award of C\$500 for her paper co-authored with Wayne A. Fuller, also from Iowa State University, entitled *"A SPREE Small Area Procedure for Estimating Population Counts"*. You can read all the submitted papers at www.ssc.ca/survey/SMSProceedings_e.html JASA new Theory and Methods editors

Xuming He (University of Illinois) and Jun Liu (Harvard) have been appointed as the co-editors-elect of the Theory and Methods section of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, starting 2011.

Georgia Tech junior faculty advance CAREERs Four IMS members Yajun Mei, Nicoleta Serban, Roshan Joseph Vengazihiyil and Ming Yuan—all junior faculty at Georgia Tech's Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering—have earned the National Science Foundation CAREER Award over the past four years. More in the next issue.



IMS Editors

IMS Journals and Publications

Annals of Statistics: Peter Bühlmann and Tony Cai http://imstat.org/aos

Annals of Applied Statistics: Bradley Efron, Stephen Fienberg, Michael Stein, Karen Kafadar & Samuel Kou http://imstat.org/aoas

Annals of Probability: Ofer Zeitouni http://imstat.org/aop

Annals of Applied Probability: Andrew Barbour http://imstat.org/aap

Statistical Science: David Madigan http://imstat.org/sts

IMS Lecture Notes – Monograph Series http://imstat.org/publications/lecnotes.htm

IMS Collections

http://imstat.org/publications/ imscollections.htm

NSF-CBMS Regional Conference Series in Probability and Statistics: http://imstat.org/publications/nsf.htm

IMS Co-sponsored Journals and Publications

Electronic Journal of Statistics: David Ruppert http://imstat.org/ejs

Electronic Journal of Probability: Bálint Tóth http://www.math.washington.edu/~ejpecp

Electronic Communications in Probability: Timo Seppäläinen http://www.math.washington.edu/~ejpecp /ECP/index.php

Current Index to Statistics: George Styan http://www.statindex.org

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: Richard Levine

http://www.amstat.org/publications/jcgs Statistics Surveys: Lutz Dümbgen

http://imstat.org/ss

Probability Surveys: Geoffrey Grimmett http://imstat.org/ps

IMS Supported Journals

Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré (B): Alice Guionnet http://imstat.org/aihp

Bayesian Analysis: Herbie Lee http://ba.stat.cmu.edu

Bernoulli: Richard Davis http://isi.cbs.nl/bernoulli

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics: Silvia Ferrari http://imstat.org/bjps

IMS Affiliated Journals

ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Statistics: Claudio Landim http://alea.impa.br/english

Probability and Mathematical Statistics: M. Musiela, J. Rosiński,W. Szczotka, A. Weron & W.A. Woyczyński http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms

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IMS 2010 Gothenburg meeting

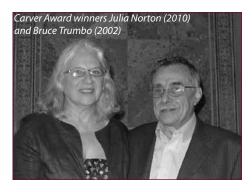
The IMS annual meeting took place in Gothenburg, on the west coast of Sweden, from August 9-13. It was held on the campus of Chalmers University of Technology, which owes its existence to the Scottish-Swedish merchant William Chalmers who earned a fortune trading with China and left a bequest for an "Industrial School." Today, with the University of Gothenburg, it makes the city a center for mathematical statistics. As Peter Jagers, Chair of the Organizing Committee, commented in the program book, Gothenburg is the "home of Volvo cars, buses, and trucks, as well as branching processes, particle systems, extremal theory, multivariate statistics, and simultaneous inference."

Peter Hall (now the IMS President) spoke in the opening session of the meeting about how the program committee, which he had chaired, was pleased to have been able to include equal numbers of sessions in probability/stochastic processes and in statistics (22 of each), plus seven joint sessions. Each had three speakers. It was important, Peter said, to give probability and stochastic processes a high profile in this IMS meeting, since when the IMS annual meeting is held at JSM (in odd-numbered years), statistics gets priority. In addition, of course, there were the three Wald lectures presented by Jean-François Le Gall; the IMS Rietz lecture by Michael Stein; three Medallion lectures—Marek Biskup, Laurens de Haan and Hans Föllmer—and a special lecture by Reto Knutti.

There were many opportunities for informal discussions, an advantage of a relatively small meeting (there were 475 participants). The program included a reception at the Börsen, or City Hall, attended by the Mayor of Gothenburg, and a boat trip along the canals (thankfully the rain held off), followed by a banquet.

The wide range of session titles can be found at the meeting website, www.imsgothenburg.com, as can photos from the meeting.

The next IMS Annual Meeting will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami, Florida, from July 30 to August 4. See http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/ for details. Hope to see you there!



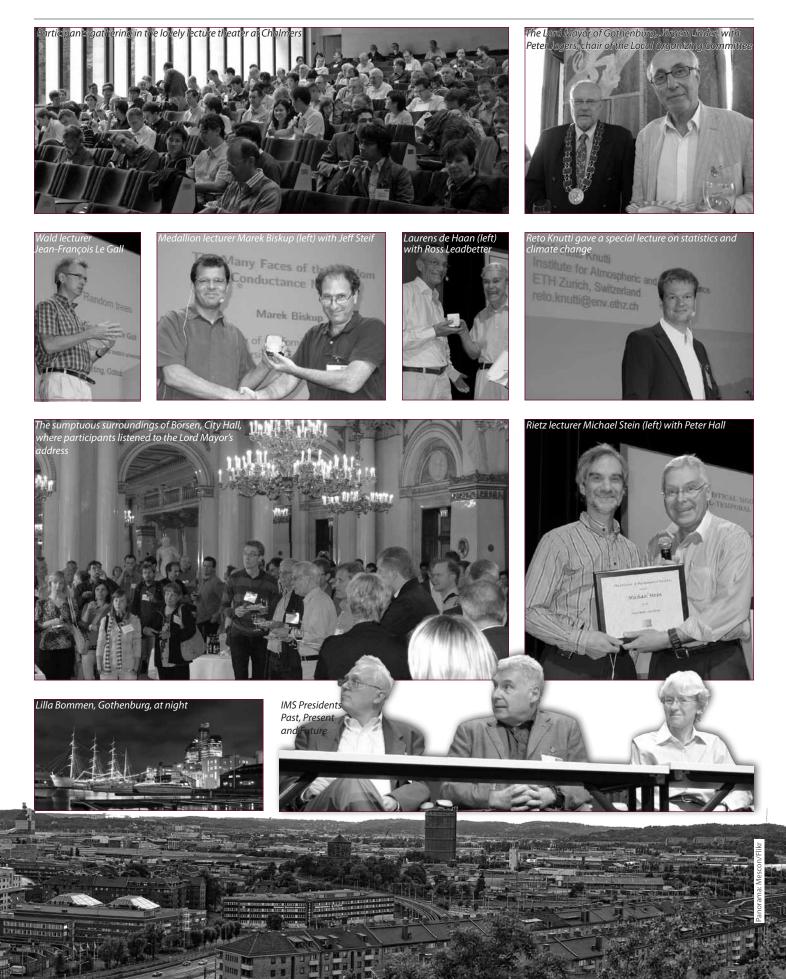
IMS 2010 Council meeting

As is usual at an IMS annual meeting, members of the IMS Council (or their proxies) met to discuss reports from editors and committees, and budgetary matters. The President (now Past-President) Mike Steele summarized IMS activities in the previous year, which included the decision to dispense with an automatic free print journal subscription for student members (who still get free electronic access to all journals with their free membership); the encouragement of all members to opt out of a print *Bulletin* subscription if they are happy with electronic-only; and the proposed restructuring of Life membership (we'll bring you details of this in the next issue). Mike set these against the backdrop of a marked decline in the institute's unencumbered net assets—now reversed. This had been as a result of a series of initiatives which ate into the reserves, as well as a decline in investment returns as has been widely experienced across the world. The IMS finances are now stable again and with these actions outlined above, the net assets will be rebuilt over the coming years.





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Peking University Establishes Center for Statistical Science

Peking University (PKU) has decided to inject fresh funds into the discipline of statistical science as part of its drive to become a top university in the world by 2020. As a result, Peking University is to establish a Center for Statistical Science. This is a major step that the university has taken to promote statistical science and integrate statistical faculties from several schools, including the School of Mathematical Sciences and Guanghua School of Management, to improve statistical research, education and collaboration. A long-term goal of the center is to be a center of excellence in statistical research and collaboration. Appointments at the center will be made jointly with a department in a school with the center, providing extra support to make these appointments internationally competitive and enable the university to recruit top-notch statisticians at all levels.

The joint directors of the center are Song Xi Chen and Zhi Geng with Dayue Chen as the deputy director. The international advisory committee is chaired by Wing Wong (Stanford) with Peter Bickel (Berkeley), Jianqing Fan (Princeton), Peter Hall (Melbourne and UC Davis), T. L. Lai (Stanford), Zhiming Ma (Chinese Academy of Science) and Jeff Wu (Georgia Tech) as its members. The scientific committee is chaired by Bin Yu (Berkeley) with Dayue Chen (PKU), Rong Chen (Rutgers), Song Xi Chen (PKU and Iowa State), Zhi Geng (PKU), Yonghua Hu (Public Health, PKU), Jun Liu (Harvard) , George Tiao (Chicago) and Qiwei Yao (LSE) being the members. The steering committee is chaired by the Provost of the PKU, Professor Jihua Lin with three members: Xiaoming Li (Assistant to the PKU President), Changping Wang (Dean, School of Mathematical Science) and Weiying Zhang (Dean, Guanghua School of Management).

The Center was formally launched on

July 5th which was well attended by about 200 guests and colleagues despite a very hot afternoon in Beijing. Many of the attendees were participants of a conference that celebrated the 100 year birth of the late Professor P.L. Hsu, the founder of Statistics in China and the Probability and Statistics program at Peking University. There were several generations of Chinese statisticians in the opening and many of them were students or students of students of Hsu.

The President of Peking University Professor Qifeng Zhou was the first speaker in the opening who outlined the basic missions and goals of the Center. The other speakers who congratulated the establishment of the center were Academician Zhiming Ma; Chief Statistician Zude Xian of National Statistical Bureau; Professor Wing Wong, Chairman of Stanford Statistics Department; President Ningzhong Shi of North East Normal University; Provost Wei Yuan of Renmin University; Dean Weiying Zhang of Guanghua School of Management, Dean Changping Wang of School of Mathematical Sciences and Professor Xiao-Li Meng, Chairman of Harvard Statistics Department.

The Provost of Peking University Professor Jihua Lin introduced members of the International Advisory and Scientific Committees who were at the opening and presented them and the Center directors with certificates of appointments. See http:// pkunews.pku.edu.cn/xwzh/2010-07/08/ content_179308.htm for a news piece (written in Chinese).

On July 12th, the International committee met on the campus of PKU (present at the meeting were Peter Bickel, Jiangqing Fan, Peter Hall, L.Z Lai, Zhiming Ma and Wing Wong) chaired by Wing Wong. Later the committee was joined by members of Steering, Scientific and Executive Committees of the Center in an extended meeting called by the Provost Lin of PKU. The International advisory committee submitted a set of suggestions to the Provost Lin of PKU, followed by lively and constructive discussions on various aspects and steps that should be taken to ensure the Center to achieve its goals in the years ahead. The Provost Lin has conveyed the university's strong support for the Statistics Center and outlined university expectations. The Center is now actively seeking applications for its open rank positions at all levels, and will start to solicit proposals for short scientific programs which are designed to benefits of the statistical faculties and graduate students and to improve the growth of statistical capacities at the university. For more information on the Center, please visit www.stat-center.pku.edu.cn.

New IMS books

Two authors, **Brad Efron** and **Geoffrey Grimmett**, have launched the new Institute of Mathematical Statistics series, *IMS Monographs* and *IMS Textbooks*, both published by Cambridge University Press. Both series have the same editorial board: David Cox (Oxford); Ben Hambly (Oxford); Susan Holmes (Stanford); Xiao-Li Meng (Harvard); Associate editor Alan Agresti (Florida).

Efron: Large-Scale Inference http://www.cambridge.org/9780521192491

Grimmett: Probability on Graphs http://www.cambridge.org/9780521147354

IMS members use the promotion code IMSSERIES2 to get your 40% discount

International Conference in Memory of Kai Lai Chung

Elton P. Hsu (Northwestern University) and Ruth J. Williams (University of California, San Diego), report:

From June 13 to 16, 2010, the international conference, "From Markov Processes to Brownian Motion and Beyond" was held at Peking University in Beijing, China. This conference honored the memory of Professor Kai Lai Chung, one of the leading probabilists of the second half of the twentieth century, who passed away on June 1, 2009 at the age of 91.

Professor Zhiming Ma of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chair of the Organizing Committee opened the conference by offering a warm welcome to the more than 150 participants. Two former students of Professor Chung, Professors Elton Hsu and Ruth Williams, then gave some introductory remarks on behalf of the organizing committee and a short review of Professor Chung's life and work, respectively.

The conference program featured invited talks ranging over a broad spectrum of topics in probability and related fields. These presentations were given by Martin Barlow (University of British Columbia), Richard Bass (University of Connecticut), Krzysztof Burdzy (University of Washington), Louis Chen (National University of Singapore), Mufa Chen (Beijing Normal University), Zhen-Qing Chen (University of Washington), Erhan Çinlar (Princeton University), Michael Cranston (University of California, Irvine), Jim Dai (Georgia Institute of Technology), Jean-François Le Gall (Université Paris-Sud), Elton Hsu (Northwestern University), Ming Liao (Auburn University), Zhi-Ming Ma (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Shige Peng (Shandong University), Yuval Peres (Microsoft Research), Edwin Perkins (University of British Columbia), Mark Pinsky (Northwestern University), Yanxia Ren (Peking University), S. R. S. Varadhan (New York University), John Walsh (University of British Columbia), Ruth Williams (University of California, San Diego), Jia-An Yan (Chinese Academy of Sciences), and Jiangang Ying (Fudan University).

Many of the speakers included personal remarks on how they had known Professor Chung and benefited from his influence. Several speakers recalled highly memorable encounters with Professor Chung. A common theme in these remarks was his strong personality, his enthusiasm for mathematics, his meticulous attention to detail, his interest in engaging new researchers and his abundant supply of stimulating questions and problems delivered variously in person, by letter, phone and fax. Some speakers who had never met Professor Chung spoke of deriving inspiration from his writings, especially his books, which were well known for their elegant, clear and precise style.

In addition to the invited talks, two poster sessions featured a

diversity of results by researchers from China and other countries. Substantial book exhibits by Springer Verlag and World Scientific allowed participants to peruse a range of modern titles in probability, as well as copies of Professor Chung's eleven books. The exhibits included World Scientific's volume of his selected works and a special conference publication produced by Springer featuring his papers published previously in the *Lecture Notes in Mathematics* series.

The sumptuous banquet held at the Chu Yue Tang Restaurant on Tuesday evening provided an opportunity for further reminiscences by Professor Chung's colleagues and family. An afternoon excursion to the Great Wall at Badaling on Wednesday capped off the highly successful meeting.

Two long term initiatives have been developed to honor Professor Kai Lai Chung as a leader in the field of stochastic processes. First, a "legacy" website will be established at Peking University featuring publications, photos and other items pertaining to Professor Chung's 70-year mathematical career. Second, the "Kai Lai Chung Lecture" will be featured at the annual Seminars on Stochastic Processes; this series of highly successful conferences was initiated by Professor Chung in conjunction with Professors Erhan Çinlar and Ronald Getoor in 1981. The first Kai Lai Chung lecture will be delivered by Professor S. R. S. Varadhan at the next "Seminar," to be held at the University of California, Irvine, in March 2011. Initial funds to support these initiatives have been generously provided by Mrs. Lilia Chung and her family. Mrs. Chung has also kindly donated Professor Chung's mathematical library to Peking University.

Many of the conference participants commented on the high quality of the program and local arrangements. On behalf of the participants, we extend hearty congratulations and many thanks to the other members of the organizing committee: Dayue Chen, Louis Chen, Zhen-Qing Chen, Jim Dai, Zhiming Ma, and Rong Wu, for organizing an excellent meeting. We are also grateful to the sponsors: the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research, Institute for Mathematical Sciences at National University of Singapore, Institute of Advanced Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Nankai University, and the cosponsors: the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and IMS-China, for their support of this meeting.

There is a group photo of the participants at http://www.math. northwestern.edu/chung2010/GroupPhoto.JPG

2010 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

Antje Hoering reports: The 2010 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/ IMS was held at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA, from 20–23 June, with approximately 200 participants. The meeting began with a short course on *Multiple Imputation and Survey Analysis in Stata 11* by Bobby Gutierrez from Stata. Alicia Carriquiry from Iowa State University gave a stimulating presentation on *How are Women Faring at Research Intensive Universities? An Analysis of Two Recent National Surveys*, for the WNAR Presidential Invited Address. Jonathan Taylor, Stanford University, gave an exciting IMS Medallion Lecture on *Random Fields, Brain Imaging and Geometry*.

Excellent presentations were given by invited speakers: Jessica Chubak from the Group Health Research Institute and the University of Washington, Ruth Etzioni from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Rebecca Hubbard from the Group Health Research Institute and University of Washington in the session Statistical Challenges in Comparative Effectiveness Research; Peter Gilbert from the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Bryan Shepherd from Vanderbilt University, Jennifer Nelson and Andrea Cook, both from the Group Health Research Institute, in the session Statistical Methods in Vaccine Research; Hulin Wu from the University of Rochester, Jie Peng from the University of California, Davis, Jiguo Cao from Simon Fraser University, Liangliang Wang from the University of British Columbia in the session Statistical Inference for Dynamic Models; Jason Roy from the University of Pennsylvania, Yun Li from the University of Michigan, Danping Liu from the University of Washington, Weihua Cao from the FDA in the session Statistical Methods for Missing Data; Martin T Morgan from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Hui Jiang from Stanford University, Elizabeth Purdom and Ci-Ren Jiang, both from the University of California, Berkeley, in the session Statistical Methods for High-throughput Sequencing; Mei-Ling Ting Lee from the University of Maryland, Jason Fine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mei-Chiung Shih from Stanford University, Gary Chan from the University of Washington in the session Survival Methods; Mourad Tighiouart from Emory University, Karen Messer from the University of California, San Diego, Antje Hoering from Cancer Research and Biostatistics, Larry V Rubinstein from the National Cancer Institute in the session Statistical Methods for Early Phase Clinical Trials; Margaret Pepe, Holly Janes and Yingye Zheng, all from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and Ying Huang from Columbia University in the session Assessing Accuracy and Performance of Markers; Paul Gustafson from the University of British Columbia,

Daniel Stram from the University of Southern California, Pamela Shaw from the National Institutes of Health, Adam Szpiro from the University of Washington in the session *Measurement Error: Challenges and Implications*; Lisa Ganio, Alix Gitelman and Lisa Madsen, all from Oregon State University, and Kathi Irvine from Montana State University in *Spatial Dependence in Ecological Data*; Robert Krafty from the University of Pittsburgh, Li Qin from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Pang Du from Virginia Tech, Anna Liu from the University of Massachusetts in *Smoothing Methods for Medical Data*; and E. Ashley Steel from the USDA Forest Service, Bianca Eskelson from the Oregon State University, David Marshall from Weyerhaeuser Company, Lisa Ganio from Oregon State University in *Statistical Methods in Forestry*.

WNAR Student Paper Competition

Congratulations to Jennifer Tom from UCLA for winning the 2010 WNAR Best Student Paper Competition (oral and written) for her paper entitled *Influenza A: Antigenic Shifts and Diversity Through Time.* Congratulations to the runners-up for the written paper: Gen Novak from the Harvard School of Public Health and Charlotte Gard from the University of Washington. Congratulations also to Jacob Bien from Stanford University and to Aasthaa Bansal from the University of Washington, the runners-up for the oral presentation. The students received their award at the conference banquet.

Thanks to this year's chairs of the student paper competition, Sandra Catlin (University of Nevada) and Elizabeth Thompson (University of Washington). We are indebted to the team of student paper reviewers and judges for the students' oral presentations and papers: Todd Alonzo (University of Southern California) and Lisa Ganio (Oregon State University). Students and recent graduates are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for the 2011 WNAR/IMS Student Paper Competition. Details on the submission process can be found as they become available at www.wnar.org under the link, Student Paper Competition. Submit papers early.

Special thanks go out to our local organizers Gary Chan (University of Washington) and Ying Quing (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center); Program Chairs Carolyn Rutter (WNAR) and Brenda Kurland (IMS); the invited session organizers: Andrea Cook, Holly Janes, Jiguo Cao, Leslie Taylor, Elizabeth Purdom, Gary Chan, Brenda Kurland, Mei-Yin Polley, Todd Alonzo, Adam Szpiro, Alix Gitelman, Li Qin, Lisa Ganio, and all our contributed session organizers, chairs and discussants. Thanks to the entire faculty volunteer staff and the conference center staff of Biostatistics Department at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Rick's Ramblings: Renewal at SAMSI

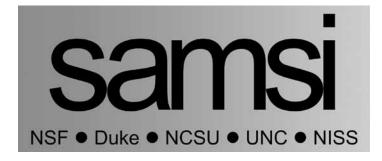
As reported in the May issue of the *IMS Bulletin*, on July 1, Richard Smith replaced Jim Berger as the director. At the same time, to maintain a balance of representation, Michael Minion who represented UNC on the Directorate was replaced by your notso-humble narrator representing Duke. Richard and I joined Nell Sedransk, representing NISS, and Pierre Gremaud from NC State. Pierre is the Deputy Director, which means that he supervises the day-to-day operations of the programs, reducing the administrative burden on the director.

The timing of these changes in SAMSI leadership was dictated by NSF, who wanted the new director in place before the renewal proposal was submitted—which is due February 4, 2011. Jim Berger's departure left a big carafe to be filled. In eight years he led SAMSI from an idea on paper to a smoothly functioning institute with exciting interdisciplinary research programs, which have become so popular that it is difficult to accommodate all of the people who want to attend the opening workshop.

Facing the 41 page essay contest which is the renewal proposal is a daunting task. One cannot just say, "We are going to do the same thing, give us five more years of money," but then again we don't want to fix what is not broken. After a couple of months of wrestling with the problem we (i.e., the directorate and our network of advisors) have identified some ideas for improvement, but in this task we can use some help from the community.

If you have not visited SAMSI then I say, "Why not?" It is fantastic place to spend a sabbatical or to get away from the daily grind of academia in order to concentrate on research and to explore new directions. SAMSI has funds for course buyouts and local expenses of visitors to facilitate this. If you are a PhD student now, you should think about coming to SAMSI for a postdoc to broaden your horizons.

Each year there are two major research programs: in 2009–10: the topics were Stochastic Dynamics and Space-Time Analysis; in 2010–11 Complex Networks and Analysis of Object Data; in 2011–12, the last of the current grant, there will be a "jumbo"



Rick Durrett, who has joined the Directorate of SAMSI, the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, writes about their renewal plans... and asks for your help.



program on Uncertainty Quantification. For more on these programs visit the recently redesigned web page, www.samsi.info.

If you *have* visited SAMSI, then we need your help in documenting our achievements for the new proposal. Many of you have been, or will soon be, sent questionnaires seeking information about papers, grants, etc which resulted from your participation in SAMSI activities. To make a compelling case for the renewal, we need stories of research developments, collaborations, and career changes that came from participation. Don't wait to be asked! Send your replies today to our Operations Director Gordon Campbell: campbell@samsi.info

We would like to get ideas for future programs from the community. At this point many ideas come to the directorate in a number of different ways: informal conversations, talks we have heard, and papers we have read, all of which shape our notion of what are the fertile directions for research. In addition there is the formal mechanism involving the National Advisory Committee which meets once a year in November, and gives advice on specific points during the year. Finally, some programs, such as next year's Uncertainty Quantification, were developed from planning workshops involving leading figures in a particular field.

In asking for input I am thinking about something more substantial than, "We should have a program on Markov chains in linguistics," but not as detailed as the five-page proposals required for final approval by the NAC. What I do have in mind is a brief but detailed description of the overall subject, two or three ideas of themes that could be workshop topics, and a list of a half dozen names of people who could be program leaders / key participants. These can be sent to all of us by writing to newideas@samsi.info or can be sent to one of us at our personal email addresses.

Here are SAMSI, the directorate is committed to running excellent programs led by national and international leaders of the field, and serving a diverse audience of participants, but for this we need *your* input and participation.

My first 50 years in the IMS...

Morris L. Eaton has a long memory of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, which he shares with us here:

The IMS celebrates its 75th birthday this year. My thanks to Xuming He, the Editor of the *IMS Bulletin*, for the invitation to contribute a piece reflecting on my long association with this outstanding professional organization. This has been, and remains, my anchor to the profession.

The title of this piece may be a slight exaggeration. I joined IMS sometime during my senior (1960–61) year as a mathematics major at the University of Washington, so perhaps I have not *quite* reached the 50-year mark. My attraction to statistics was prompted not by a desire to analyze data, but rather by an interest in understanding how humans do (or should do) induction. My interest was

initially stirred by two undergraduate courses: a philosophy course where the induction problem was discussed, and a marvelous introductory course

in statistics taught by Robert F. Tate. After a full year course in mathematical statistics and much encouragement from Bob Tate, I was securely hooked on statistics and had been accepted for graduate study at Stanford. Thus began a research/teaching career committed primarily to mathematical statistics and aspects of induction.

As a young faculty member, the support and guidance provided by several members of the IMS encouraged both individual research development and my involvement with the society. It quickly became obvious to me that the vitality of the organization was a reflection of the dedication of the membership to its success. Over the years I have marveled at how quickly and deftly the society adapted to the changing needs of the profession. Based on my 50 years of involvement, I attribute this to the high degree of member participation in the essential functions of the IMS. Bureaucracy is at a minimum. The IMS publishes some of the most respected probability and statistics journals while also organizing a host of world-class scientific meetings. The organization has changed markedly over the past 50 years, but the volunteerism remains a bulwark in maintaining the stature of the society.

To appreciate some the changes that have occurred since my first contact with the society, a quick calculation shows that the number of journal pages published has increased by a factor of about ten in the past 50 years. The *Lecture Notes–Monograph*

"It quickly became obvious to me that the vitality of the organization was a reflection of the dedication of the membership to its success." *Series*, begun in 1981, is approaching sixty volumes. Furthermore, the society has recently introduced its *IMS Collections* series and has just published

the first two volumes in its new Monographs and Textbooks series (published in cooperation with Cambridge University Press). The diversity of topics that appears in the annual meetings programs (for example, look at the list for the 73rd Annual Meeting in Gothenburg) reflects a range of interests that is quite staggering. In my view, this breadth contributes significantly to the success and vitality of the IMS. A major step toward this expanded coverage was the members' decision to split the Annals of *Mathematical Statistics (AMS)* (1930–1972) into the Annals of Probability (AOP) and the Annals of Statistics (AOS). Since 1973, the IMS has added three more mainstream

journals to its list of publications.

Prior to 1998, my main service to the society was refereeing, associate editing, and serving on committees related to scientific meetings. In 1998 I joined the Executive Committee (Exec) as President Elect. In essence, the society's decisions are made by the IMS Council that consists of the Exec (six members), the journal editors (eight members) and the fifteen elected members of the Council. Because the Council meets face-to-face only at the Annual meeting (though its members "meet" electronically throughout the year via Basecamp), many of the proposals regarding policy and/or operational issues originate with the Exec. In 1999–2000, a somewhat contentious issue arose concerning the location of the IMS Business Office and the delivery of membership services. After much thoughtful and careful discussion, the Exec decided to propose: (i) that the Business Office be moved to Ohio and be under the supervision of the Executive Director and (ii) that membership services be subcontracted. Based on the extensive and outstanding work of the then Past-President Steve Fienberg, the then Treasurer Julie Norton and the Executive Director Elyse Gustafson, such a proposal was made to the Council and was eventually passed. This important and prudential policy change occurred during my presidential term but the Exec and Elyse Gustafson deserve special thanks for their help in shepherding this through the IMS decision process.

By 1950, the *AMS* was generally regarded as the premier research journal for theoretical statistics. This status has prevailed for the past sixty years (for the *AOS* since 1972), so it was with some trepidation that I agreed to become a co-editor of *AOS* in 2004. This was a time of change in the editing world with the growth of the

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number of submissions and the transition to electronic submissions and correspondence. Nonetheless, as co-editors, Jianqing

Fan and I decided to stick with some of the traditional editorial procedures. In particular we continued to use the time-tested cat-

egories concerning submitted manuscripts: accept, tentative accept, tentative reject and reject. The "tentative reject" recommendation was intended to encourage authors whose work seemed to contain interesting ideas, but indicated that the form and/ or content of the paper needed significant modification in order that the work might become suitable for the AOS. Typically the tentative-reject manuscripts required considerable work on the part of the referees and/or associate editors and this often led to excessive delays in getting reports to authors. This latter circumstance prompted a change in editorial policy (in 2007) whereby submissions that were not "essentially ready for publication" were rejected. One goal of removing the "tentative reject" recommendation from the editor's menu was to have reports to authors within two months of submission. Certainly a worthy goal, although authors might receive less guidance regarding revisions of some rejected manuscripts.

As a past editor of the *AOS*, I am sometimes approached by a young researcher with the query, "I have had a paper rejected by the *AOS*. What should I do now?" Since today's "reject" means something quite different than it did four years ago, my first response is, "Have you read very carefully the *AOS Guidelines For Referees* and *Guidelines for Associate Editors*?" The guidelines are clearly written and may help put the rejection rationale into perspective. Further they will help the author decide whether or not to pursue an *AOS* publica-

"My service to the IMS is an essential part of my contribution to the profession." question. For rejected submissions, the remarks of the associate editor and/or the referee

tion of the paper in

are typically quite useful. A rejected paper will often require considerable revision, especially if re-submission to the *AOS* is contemplated. I myself, in spite of many years of experience, recently spent several months revising, polishing and refining a paper that had been rejected by the AOS. The final product was a great improvement thanks in part to the thoughtful remarks of the referees/associate editor. In general the editorial evaluation process has a significant subjective component to it, but younger authors are well advised to pay special heed to the editorial comments on papers.

My service to the IMS is an essential part of my contribution to the profession. Quantifying the value of this service is at best difficult, but I certainly treasure my 50 years with the society.

In the next issue, Pranab K. Sen shares his perspective on "The IMS Evolution"

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Nominations sought for the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science

The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health named Ingram Olkin as the recipient of the 2010 Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science. Dr. Olkin, Professor of Statistics and of Education and CHP/ PCOR Fellow of the Department of Statistics, Stanford University, delivered a lecture entitled "Measures of Heterogeneity. Diversity and Inequality" on May 21 at Harvard University.

This annual award, supported by colleagues, friends and family, was established to honor Dr. Marvin Zelen's long and distinguished career as a statistician and his major role in shaping the field of biostatistics.

The award recognizes an individual in government, industry, or academia, who by virtue of his/her outstanding leadership has greatly impacted the theory and practice of statistical science. While individual accomplishments are considered, the most distinguishing criterion is the awardees contribution to the creation of an environment in which statistical science and its applications have flourished. The award recipient will deliver a public lecture on statistical science at the Harvard School of Public Health and will be presented with a citation and an honorarium.

Nominations for next year's award, to be given in May 2011, should be sent to the *Marvin Zelen Leadership Award Committee, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115* or via email to aemoore@hsph.harvard.edu. Nominations should include a letter describing the contributions of the candidate, specifically highlighting the criteria for the award, and a curriculum vitae. Supporting letters and materials would be extremely helpful to the committee. All nominations must be received by November 15, 2010.

David Dunson wins COPSS Presidents' Award

Bhramar Mukherjee (Secretary/Treasurer, COPSS) from University of Michigan writes: Congratulations to David B. Dunson, Duke University, the 2010 COPSS Presidents' award winner! The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) annually presents awards to honor statisticians under the age of 41 for their outstanding research contributions and service to further the field of statistics (see call for 2011 nominations at www.niss.org/copss).

Born in Townsville, Australia and raised in State College, Pennsylvania, David Dunson received his BS in 1994 from the Pennsylvania State University where he was a University scholar and recipient of many other academic scholarships. Dunson obtained his PhD in Biostatistics in 1997 from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. He worked on his dissertation titled Statistical Methods for Data with Informative Cluster Size with Professor Elizabeth Halloran. The thesis work, marking the onset of a prolific research career for Dunson, won the school-wide top dissertation award in the sciences, the student paper award from the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section and distinguished student paper award, International Biometrics Society (ENAR). After finishing his PhD, Dunson joined as a research fellow and then a tenure-track investigator in the Biostatistics Branch, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) where he was promoted to a senior investigator with tenure in 2002.

During this period at NIEHS, Dunson made many important contributions in Bayesian methods, nonparametric statistics, order-restricted inference, and biostatistical applications, in areas including reproductive epidemiology, asthma, and toxicology.

Dunson joined the Department of Statistical Science, Duke University in 2008 as a full professor. He also has an



David Dunson received the COPSS Presidents' Award from Xihong Lin, COPSS Chair, at JSM Vancouver.

Adjunct appointment at the Department of Biostatistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has made profound contributions to the field of machine learning in recent years. Dunson's work embodies the best sort of applied statistics, developing methods that solve immediate problems and generalize to be useful for the applications of others. In particular, an ongoing challenge in Bayesian inference is how to go beyond traditional parametric families, while still retaining the ability to partially pool and combine information from many sources. Dunson's research represents the new synthesis of Bayesian and non-parametric methods. The Presidents' award citation recognized David Dunson for "his wide-ranging and fundamental contributions to the development of parametric and nonparametric modeling within complex Bayesian frameworks; for making significant concurrent scientific progress in machine learning through this development; for use of this methodology in substantive applications, notably in reproductive epidemiology; and for outstanding service to the profession as well as mentoring of students and post-doctoral researchers.

David Dunson's accomplishments are truly remarkable and he is a role model for the next generation of statisticians. Dunson received the David Byar Young Investigator Award, American Statistical Association, in 2000, and Best Paper Award, American Academy of Fertility Care Professionals, in 2003. Dunson was recognized as an outstanding statistical scientist and a wonderful ambassador for our profession by three prestigious honors in 2007: the Mortimer Spiegelman Award (Top Public Health Statistician Under Age 40), Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and Gold Medal for Exceptional Service, US Environmental Protection Agency.

In the 13 year post-PhD window, Dunson has published more than 130 refereed journal articles in premier statistics, biomedical and machine learning journals, has authored 23 book chapters and review papers, and edited the book Random Effect and Latent Variable Model Selection (John Wiley and Sons, 2008). Dunson is currently a co-editor of Bayesian Analysis and serving as an Associate Editor for Biometrika and JASA Applications and Case Studies. He has also served as an Associate Editor for Biostatistics, Biometrics and Psychometrika. Still relatively young in his career and a few years shy of his 40th birthday, Dunson has already shown considerable professional leadership, serving on a number of national and international committees, being active in the statistical profession and mentoring more than 25 doctoral and post-doctoral fellows.

We congratulate Professor David Dunson and wish him continued success with his amazingly creative scholastic career in the years to come!

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We'll bring you more information about the other COPSS Award winners, Mary Thompson and Bruce Lindsay, as well as Bhramar Mukherjee's interview with David Dunson and the call for nominations for the 2011 awards, in the next issue...

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OBITUARY: Lester Eli Dubins

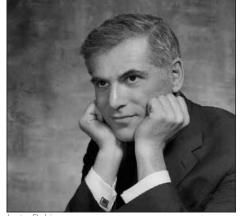
LESTER E. DUBINS, distinguished probabilist and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Statistics at UC Berkeley, passed away peacefully in his home on February 11, 2010. Born in 1920, Lester grew up in New York City. His college education was interrupted by World War II in which he served as an Air Force officer stationed at a radar installation in Iceland. After the war, in the late 1940s, Lester continued working (as a civilian) for the radar research & development branch of the US Air Force. In 1951 he resumed his studies as a graduate student of mathematics at the University of Chicago where he obtained his PhD in 1955 submitting a thesis on Generalized Random Variables under the guidance of Irving E. Segal. Among Chicago's mathematics department graduate students were Paul Cohen, Don Ornstein and Jack Feldman.

After a year at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study and a few years at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Lester joined the Mathematics and Statistics departments at UC Berkeley in 1962, where he remained for the rest of his career. Lester was forced to retire at 70, shortly before the abolition of mandatory retirement age in public institutions in the USA went into effect. He challenged the university, won his case in court and was reappointed. He then continued teaching until retiring in 2004 by his own volition.

While still in Chicago, Lester met Jimmie Savage and surprised him by showing that bold play is not uniquely optimal in classical Red & Black (roulette). Jimmie was impressed and invited Lester to join him in trying to better understand the probabilistic structure of gambling situations. This encounter developed into a collaboration generating several key papers and culminating in 1965 in the ground-breaking monograph How to Gamble if You Must (Inequalities for Stochastic Processes) which presented a coherent mathematical theory of gambling processes and optimal behavior in gambling situations, pointing out their relevance to traditional approaches to probability. In consultation with Bruno de Finetti and under his influence, Dubins and Savage presented their theory in the finitely additive framework in order to bypass measurability technicalities inherent in maximizing an uncountable set of functions in searching for optimal strategies. Lester paid tribute to Jimmie Savage-to his remarkable intellect and scholarship, and to their mutual friendship-in a beautiful preface to the 1976 Dover edition of the book which appeared five years after Jimmie's untimely death at the age of 54.

Lester continued to contribute to finitely additive probability throughout his entire career. As late as 1999 he published a paper entitled *Paths of Finitely Additive Brownian Motion need not be Bizarre*, demonstrating that those paths can be, for example, continuous piecewise linear or piecewise polynomial functions, etc. Not unrelated to his fondness of finite additivity was Lester's great admiration for Bruno de Finetti and his firm belief in the subjective nature of probability according to which probabilities should not be thought to be inherent in objects, but instead in one's ideas and expectations about those objects.

Lester was an unconventional teacher. He seemed unable to bore himself and his audience by a systematic recitation of a textbook. Even the most elementary material would receive a fresh and original treatment under his hands. In teaching as in research, Lester would never be satisfied with just having a logically correct proof of a statement, but would always strive



ester Dubins

for a natural, simplest possible argument. He was at his best in advanced graduate seminars and informal discussions. In front of small groups of colleagues, international visitors and graduate students he challenged his audience, exposed and explored his own thoughts and still-evolving ideas, and inspired them with unexpected basic questions and insights. He would often open a session asking if anyone had anything interesting to tell the class, and his seminars were fascinating Socratic dialogues that continued informally between regular sessions.

As much as he lived for mathematics, Lester also cared deeply about people, especially his students and friends, who came from all walks of life. He was always a champion of the underdog and an outspoken advocate of civil liberties. He loved words and stories and humor, and led a vigorous life, traveling and hiking and mountain-biking into his eighties, roaring with laughter or immersed in explorations of mathematical subtleties as he went. He was a person of the highest integrity in everything he did, scientifically and socially, and did not bend to political or peer pressures. Lester Dubins was the quintessential maverick mathematician, and above all, an absolute gentleman and scholar.

David Gilat, Ted Hill, Bill Sudderth

This obituary is slightly edited from the version that appeared in the June 2010 issue of Bernoulli News, and is reprinted with the kind permission of the authors.

OBITUARY: David Blackwell 1919–2010

THE LAST OLYMPIAN figure of the statistics pantheon residing in the University of California at Berkeley has fallen. David Blackwell passed away on July 8, 2010, at the age of 91.

David Blackwell was born on April 24, 1919, in Centralia, Illinois, where he went through the public school system. He was awarded the AB (1938), AM (1939), and PhD(1941) degrees, in mathematics, from the University of Illinois; Joseph Doob was his thesis advisor.

After three-year appointments as a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies (Princeton), and Instructor at Southern University (Baton Rouse, LA) and Clark College (GA), he joined Howard University (Washington DC) in 1944 as an Assistant Professor, to be promoted to Associate Professor in 1946, and Professor in 1947; he served as Head of the Department of Mathematics from 1947 to 1954.

He was Visiting Professor at UC-Berkeley from 1954 to 1955, and stayed on as Professor in the Department of Statistics, newly established by Jerzy Neyman, declining offers from the University of Chicago and Stanford. He served as Professor of Statistics from 1955 to 73, and as Professor of Mathematics and Statistics thereafter. He chaired the Department of Statistics from 1957 to 61, and retired in 1988.

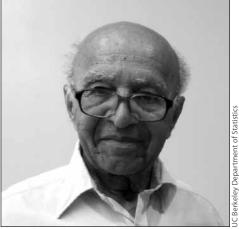
Between 1966 and 1992, David Blackwell was awarded 12 Honorary D.Sc. degrees by ten US universities, one British, and one South African university. He was elected Fellow of all major professional societies (IMS, ASA, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society), and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, and the American Philosophical Society. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1965, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1968.

David Blackwell was the W.W. Rouse Ball Lecturer at Cambridge University, UK; Wald Lecturer of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics; and Faculty Research Lecturer at UC-Berkeley. He was awarded the TIMS/ORSA John Von Neumann Theory Prize, the R.A. Fisher Award by the Committee of Presidents of the Statistical Societies, and the Berkeley Citation.

During his professional tenure, David Blackwell served the UC System in many ways, including the directorship of the UK-Ireland UC Study Center (1973–75) (in the framework of Education Abroad Program), his campus, including an Assistant Deanship of the College of Letters and Science (1964–68), and his department in a multitude of ways. Indeed, it is not an overstatement to say that he was the conscience of his department and a colossal figure on campus.

He served his profession as President of the IMS, the International Association for Statistics in Physical Sciences, the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, and as Vice-President of the American Mathematical Society and the International Statistical Institute.

David Blackwell's research consists of ground-breaking work and covers a wide spectrum of subjects in mathematical statistics, probability, measure theory, and game theory. It is represented by more than 90 papers, each of which is a specimen of deceptive simplicity and sparkling clarity, and a joy to read. His book on game theory, *Theory of Games and Statistical Decisions* (1954), co-authored with M.A. Girshick,



David Blackwell at his 90th birthday party at Berkeley

is a classic on this subject matter, and his book on elementary statistics, *Basic Statistics* (1969), is a gem and a breeze of fresh air in the existing curriculum. Between 1955 and 1981, David Blackwell was the advisor of 65 students. In a single year alone, he graduated 7 students!

The hallmark of David Blackwell was elegance and simplicity over mathematical abstraction. He was spoken of with awe in professional circles, and in many ways, he was larger than life. He was a wonderful person, but always retained an air of privacy. He had the ability and gift to take a complicated situation, scientific or personal, and resolve it with remarkable clarity and simplicity. It has been said that when he first arrived at Berkeley, he had difficulty in locating suitable housing to accommodate his large family (David and his wife Ann had 8 children) so he solved the problem by camping temporarily in a park! He was keenly aware of social injustice perpetrated in the world, but also espoused the position that a truly worthy person would eventually be recognized as such, and be accorded appropriate treatment.

David Blackwell will certainly be missed by his many students, colleagues and friends, and will always be affectionately remembered for the great mathematician, superb teacher, and sterling human being he was.

> Professor George G. Roussas Department of Statistics, UC-Davis

Letters to the Editor

In the last issue, Terry Speed wrote about two ways of defining the multivariate normal distribution, and ended his column by asking whether there was a third way. Two readers' responses follow:

Another Elementary Approach to the Multivariate Normal

In "Terence's Stuff" (*IMS Bulletin*, August/September 2010, Vol. 39, Issue 7, p. 10), the author presents two elementary approaches to defining the multivariate normal distribution and asks if there is a third way. Indeed, my first exposure to the multivariate normal was presented by Charles Stein in a class at Stanford in the mid-1960s and introduced an alternative elementary approach. I have since seen it several times, most recently in the text *Mathematical Statistics* by Keith Knight (Chapman-Hall, 2000).

The approach is as follows: define *X* to be multivariate normal if it is a linear transform of a unit normal; that is, $X \sim AY$ where *A* is an $m \times p$ matrix and *Y* is a random vector with *p* independent *N* (0, 1) coordinates.

The one complication is to show that the distribution is defined by its mean and covariance matrix. This requires the "well-known" result from matrix theory that AA' = BB' implies that A = BG with G orthogonal. This is relatively elementary: the Gram-Schmidt process yields $A = SG_1$ and $B = TG_2$ with S and T triangular (with positive diagonals) and G_1 and G_2 orthogonal. It is relatively simple to see (recursively) that SS' = TT' implies S = T. The result now follows by a bit of matrix algebra. With this matrix theory result, all the basic properties are very easy. Normality of linear transformations and marginals are trivial, as is the fact that zero correlation implies independence. To get conditional distributions, partition the covariance matrix, Σ , by the conditioning coordinates and multiply the partitioned multivariate normal vector by the partitioned matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

It is also straightforward to get the related Chi-square distributions and various other properties and characterizations.

> Stephen Portnoy Department of Statistics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Letters on any issue of interest to IMS members are welcome. Email your letters to the Editor at **bulletin@imstat.org**.

Some small print: the Editor's decision is final; we may edit your letter before publication; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement of the opinions expressed therein, and the *IMS Bulletin* and its publisher do not accept any responsibility for them.

(Another) Third Way to the Multivariate Normal

This is a comment on "Terence's Stuff" in the August/September 2010 issue of the *Bulletin*, and to Stephen Portnoy's contribution [left].

Our reaction to "Terence's Stuff" was the same as Portnoy's. We routinely use the approach he describes to teach the multivariate normal distribution to senior engineers and mathematicians, with good acceptance. It can easily be done in two classes of two hours each. The method can also be found in Billingsley's *Probability and Measure*, to cite a well-known textbook, and in other probability books.

As Portnoy says, the approach is the following. First, do the independence case to define a standard normal vector. Second, take any rectangular matrix and define the general case by multiplying the standard normal by the matrix and by adding a constant vector. Done.

The advantage over directly giving the density is that degenerate cases (when the normal concentrates the mass on a sub-dimensional linear space) are included, as it turns out to be a plus. The advantage over the Cramér-Wold's device is that you only need as preliminaries the definition of means and covariances for random vectors and the existence of an independent vector of normal variates.

From a teaching point of view, Portnoy's subtle linear algebra argument can be skipped at first by emphasizing the rule to get mean and variance-covariance matrix of a linear transformation and by omitting the indicated algebraic equivalence, which is needed from a logical point of view but—we feel—not absolutely necessary to a first-time reader.

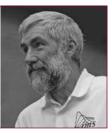
On the other hand, we think that the derivation of the conditional distributions requires a bit of interpretation. The argument goes that, since X_1 can be written as $X_1 \pm \sum_{12} \sum_{22}^{-1} X_2$, then, conditionally on X_2 , X_1 is the sum of a normal term which is independent of X_2 (i.e., $X_1 - \sum_{12} \sum_{22}^{-1} X_2$) and a term which behaves like a constant (i.e. $+\sum_{12} \sum_{22}^{-1} X_2$).

We feel that this should be communicated to students, but at the same time, heavier formal manipulations of conditional expectations should be avoided.

> Mauro Gasparini and Giovanni Pistone Department of Mathematics Politecnico di Torino Torino, Italy

I Terence's Stuff: Simple linear regression

Terry explains that just because linear regression can be *simple* doesn't mean it should be taught *simplistically*



' 'n curious what you tell your PhD students about multiple linear regression, wrote a reader of this column. Leaving "multiple" to another time, I'd like to begin rising to this challenge by describing some of what I tell my students - undergraduate and graduate - about *simple* linear regression. This is a topic where the math is easy for most of our students, and where there are lots of truly important statistical lessons to be learned. And a lot of fun to be had. What can beat the thrill of plotting yagainst x and seeing a straight line emerge? What is more fascinating and intrinsically statistical than the phenomenon of regression to the mean? And what can be more important to learn than the fact that association does not imply causation, that some models are helpful and some are not, that ecological inferences can be misleading, and that measurement error can matter? Linear regression is a gold-mine of statistical lessons. For this reason, many people can't resist taking it down to secondary schools, but I have my doubts, as you will see below.

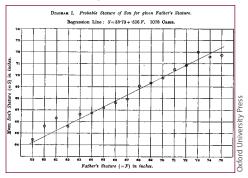
I like to begin by emphasizing (and this is not restricted to linear regression), that there is much more to linear regression than the data *structure*, here pairs (x_i, y_i) , i = 1, ..., n. We need to ask (and answer) questions such as what do the labels represent, and how were the data collected? This includes how the particular pairs in our data set came to us, and how the numbers x_i and y_i were determined. And, most importantly, what *questions* do we wish to address with these data? After Pearson and Lee, we might be dealing with father-son pairs, x_i being the father's and y_i the son's height, and we might want a prediction equation. But which way? There are two regressions. Typically there is a good biometric story behind the data collection and the measurement process, and it should be told. Or after Hooke, we might be exploring the relationship between measured lengths y_i of a spring and the known loads x_i placed on it, our aim being to estimate the spring constant. This too has its story, more physics than biometrics, but nonetheless interesting. Tell it; better still, live it. Following Berkson, we might wonder are there two regressions in this problem as well? Not-quite-after Yule, but in the spirit of some of his work, y_i might be a measure of change of poverty, x_i a measurement in change of employment level, and our hope might be to gain insight into the causes of poverty. Now we are in the realm of social science. The story is much more elaborate, the data will be aggregate, the measurement problematic, the linear relationship weak, and as for causality...

A typical textbook treatment of simple linear regression will explain least squares, derive formulae for the estimates of the slope and intercept and their standard errors, and present tests of significance under the assumption of normality of errors. There will be just one model, the standard one, which I don't need to describe. The data analysis part will illustrate all this with some numbers, presenting plots involving residuals and fitted values, and perhaps illustrating heteroscedasticity (that wonderful word), leverage and outliers. I should cover all of this, and I usually do, but with some reluctance, for although it is all (or mostly) necessary, it is very far from sufficient. It is so easy to focus on the math and the data analysis of linear regression, while paying insufficient-perhaps little or no-attention to the statistical

issues, to all the things I mentioned above, and others, such as whether your model or your predictions or your inferences make sense. Furthermore, the standard model won't apply in many interesting and important situations. The difference between the Pearson and Lee and the Hooke problems is quite important, in theory as well as in practice, but it is rarely spelled out in first courses. Of course they are based on different models. In a slightly more advanced course, you might explain how to do bootstrap inference on the parameter estimates. *Under mild conditions, the bootstrap is valid. However, details depend on the model.*

Are my concerns exaggerated? Recently I had occasion to comment upon the statistics component of a draft national syllabus for secondary school mathematics students. Written by academic statisticians, much of the typical textbook treatment of simple linear regression was there, as was an emphasis on regression for prediction, population bivariate relationships, and sample to population inference. Pearson and Lee were conflated with Hooke, with no distinction made. Teachers were then enjoined to, "Illustrate with examples from the media (for example, global warming statistics, Australia's population in 2050, the cost of health care in Australia in 2015)". Sample? Population? Model? I rest my case.

Linear regression diagram from Karl Pearson and Alice Lee's Biometrika paper, "On the laws of inheritance in man" (1903, **2**: 357–462), showing "Probable Stature of Son for given Father's Stature"



IMS meetings around the world

IMS-sponsored meetings

January 5-7, 2011

http://madison.byu.edu/mcmski/

Park City, Utah

ISBA

The fourth joint international meeting of the IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics) and ISBA (International Society for Bayesian Analysis) will be held at The Canyons resort in Park City, Utah, USA, from Wednesday, January 5 to Friday, January 7, 2011. The conference center is just 40 minutes from Salt Lake City airport and is readily accessible by public transport. The meeting will feature three plenary speakers (Nicky Best, Mike Newton, and Jeff Rosenthal), and five invited sessions from internationally-known experts covering a broad array of current and developing statistical practice. There will also be nightly poster sessions and one session of contributed talks reserved for young investigators (within 5 years of PhD).

TRAVEL SUPPORT: ISBA and NSF have committed to support young researchers presenting posters or contributed talks, with preference given to senior or advanced students active in research, and preferentially to students from economicallydisadvantaged countries. As such, we encourage applications from young investigators from all parts of the world; see the "Student travel" tab on the conference webpage for details. Application deadline is October 22, 2010; winners will be notified by email shortly thereafter.



AdapSki January 3-4, 2011 Satellite meeting http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~maxca/adapskIII/

This workshop is intended to provide an updated snapshot of recent methodological and theoretical advances in Monte Carlo methods with a strong emphasis on adaptive Monte Carlo methods in the broad sense. It will consist of four half-day sessions of 12 invited talks with discussions. As in the previous editions, it will include sufficiently long afternoon breaks to allow informal discussions, relaxation and skiing. There will be a poster session on the evening of January 3, please see the website for instructions. Registration is just \$50 for those also attending the main meeting.

At a glance:

forthcoming IMS Annual Meeting and JSM dates

2011

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Miami Beach, FL, July 30– August 4, 2011

2012

IMS Annual Meeting @ World Congress: İstanbul, Turkey, July 9–14, 2012

JSM: San Diego, CA, July 28– August 2, 2012

2013

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Montréal, Canada, August 3–8, 2013

2014

IMS Annual Meeting: Sydney, Australia, July 7–11, 2014

JSM: Boston, MA, August 2–7, 2014

2015

IMS Annual Meeting

@ JSM: Seattle, WA, August 8–13, 2015

More IMS meetings around the world

IMS sponsored meeting

2012 World Congress/IMS Annual Meeting July 9–14, 2012 Istanbul, Turkey

w http://home.ku.edu.tr/~worldcong2012/

This meeting, organized by Koç University in Istanbul, is the Eighth World Congress in Probability and Statistics of the Bernoulli Society jointly organized with the 2012 Annual Meeting of the IMS. Scheduled every four years, this meeting is a major worldwide event in mathematical statistics, probability, stochastic processes and their applications. It features the latest scientific developments in these fields.

IMS sponsored meeting

IMS Annual Meeting @ 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings

July 30 – August 4, 2011, Miami Beach, FL

w http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/ Miami beach



IMS sponsored meeting 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings July 28 - August 2, 2012, San Diego, CA w http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2012/

IMS sponsored meeting

IMS Annual Meeting @ 2013 Joint Statistical Meetings August 3–8, 2013, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

w http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm.cfm

IMS sponsored meeting

2014 Joint Statistical Meetings August 2–7, 2014 Boston, Massachusetts, USA w http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm.cfm

IMS sponsored meeting

IMS Annual Meeting @ 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings August 8–13, 2015 Seattle, Washington, USA w http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm.cfm

IMS sponsored meeting

2014 IMS Annual Meeting July 7–11, 2014 Sydney, Australia w TBC

The location for the 2014 IMS Annual Meeting has been selected as Sydney, Australia. Details will follow, but you can mark your calendars now!

Sydney Opera House, one of the world's iconic buildings



IMS co-sponsored meeting International Chinese Statistical Association 2010 Conference: Frontiers of Interdisciplinary and Methodological Statistical Research December 19–22, 2010 Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, China w http://www.icsa2.org/Intl_2010/ Program co-chairs: Bin Yu and Zhi-Ming Ma.

IMS co-sponsored meeting

International Workshop on Emerging Issues and Challenges to Statistics December 17–18, 2010 Xiamen University, Fujian, P.R. China IMS Representative(s) on Program Committees: Jiayang Sun w http://www.southalabama.edu/iweics/

IMS co-sponsored meeting

Seventh Cornell Probability Summer School July 11–22, 2011 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The school will be concerned with probability problems that arise from statistical physics. The main speakers are Marek Biskup, Geoffrey Grimmett, and Greg Lawler.

IMS co-sponsored meeting

35th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications June 19–25, 2011, Oaxaca, Mexico w TBC IMS co-sponsored meeting 2011 ENAR/IMS Spring Meetings March 20–23, 2011 Hyatt Regency Miami, Florida, USA w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

IMS co-sponsored meeting 2012 ENAR/IMS Spring Meetings April 1–4, 2012 Washington DC, USA

w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

IMS co-sponsored meeting

Seminar on Stochastic Processes March 24-26, 2011 University of California, Irvine IMS rep: Davar Khoshnevisan w http://math.uci.edu/~mcransto/ssp2011a.html

IMS co-sponsored meeting

2011 IISA Conference on Probability, Statistics and Data Analysis April 21–24, 2011 NC State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

IMS Reps on Program Committees: Soumendra Nath Lahiri (Chair of International Organization Committee), Subhashis Ghoshal (Co-Chair of Local Organization Committee) w http://www.iisaconference.info

IMS co-sponsored meeting

8th Workshop on Bayesian Nonparametrics June 26-30, 2011 Veracruz, Mexico w http://www.bnpworkshop.org/

IMS co-sponsored meeting **IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting** July 3-6, 2011 Tokyo, Japan

w http://www.ims-aprm2011.org/ The second IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting will take place in OMIYA Sonic City conference hall (http://www.sonic-city. or.jp/modules/english/), Tokyo, Japan during the period Sunday July 3 to Wednesday July 6, 2011. This conference is sponsored by IMS, The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA), The Japan Statistical Society (JSS), The Korean Statistical Society (KSS) and the Institute of Statistical Mathematics



(ISM). This meeting series provides an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations for the researchers in Asia and Pacific Rim. It also promotes communications and collaborations between the researchers in this area and those from other parts of the world. The program covers a wide range of topics in statistics and probability, presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics and in applications. Plenary speakers are Professor



Peter Hall (University of Melbourne, Australia), and Professor S.R.S. Varadhan (New York University, USA). A number of celebrated scholars will deliver distinguished lectures and invited talks in this conference. Details about distinguished lecture speakers, invited talk speakers and the key dates can be found in the website.

For more information, you may contact the program chairs: Byeong U. Park (bupark@stats.snu.ac.kr) and Runze Li (rli@stat.psu.edu).



IMS co-sponsored meeting WNAR/IMS Meeting June 19-22, 2011 San Luis Obispo, California IMS Program Chair: Jay Bartroff e bartroff@usc.edu w http://www.wnar.org/ The 2011 WNAR/IMS meeting will be held on the campus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, located halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. See http://www.calpoly.edu/visitors/visitors.html for local information, and visit http://www.wnar.org for meeting information. Local Organizer: Jimmy Doi e jdoi@calpoly.edu

IMS Organizing Chair: Heping Zhang, Yale University

w http://www.stat.umn.edu/~statconf/imschina2011/index.html

IMS sponsored meeting IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability

July 8-11, 2011 XiAn, China

I Other meetings around the world

2010 Program in Quantitative Genomics Conference:

Putting it all Together: Integrating Genetic, Epi-genetic, Genomic, and Complex Phenotypic Data November 15–16, 2010

Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

www.hsph.harvard.edu/research/pqg-conference-2010/

Speakers: Keynote Speakers: Rafael Irizarry, Suzanne Leal, John Quackenbush, Brad Bernstein, Martha Bulyk, Aravinda Chakravarti, Margaret Daniele Fallin, Peter Laird, Douglas Lauffenburger, Shamil Sunyaev, Bruce Weir

Sponsors: HMS, DFCI, NIH/NCI

Contact Person: Shaina Andelman (617-432-7449); sandelma@hsph.harvard.edu Many different data sources that can be utilized to shed more light into the mechanics of complex diseases and phenotypes are now more and more commonly available to the scientific community. While the technology development is rapid, the analysis strategies for their integration lag behind. This is particularly true for integrative approaches that are aimed at assessing the different influences of the epigenome, DNA, RNA, and protein on the disease phenotype simultaneously. This meeting aims to bring experts for the different technologies and their analysis strategies together to foster the development of integrative approaches to analysis. The topics for this year's conference are:

- Epigenetics
- Rare Variants
- Data Integration and Network Analysis

The conference schedule includes time for scientific presentations, as well as time for more informal panel and round-table discussions. Two poster sessions will also be held to display selected abstracts relating to this year's theme. Top abstracts will also either be selected for short talks to be presented at the conference, or for the Stellar Abstract Awards, which provide up to \$500 in travel assistance. We hope the conference will spur discussions and future developments in the field and generate a white-paper report.

Spatial Statistics 2011 Conference 23-25 March, 2011 **The Netherlands**

w http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/

Keynote speakers include Martin Schlather (Universität Göttingen, Germany), Noel Cressie (Ohio State University, USA) and Yong Ge (State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System, China).

The deadline for abstract submission is September 21, 2010.





Third International Conference on **Statistical Sciences** November 25–27, 2010 **College of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences**, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

www.icss3.co.nr

The College of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan is holding this conference in collaboration with Higher Education Commission and Pakistan Science Foundation and University of the Punjab, Lahore. The conference themes are:

Applied Statistics Mathematical Statistics Probability Sampling Quality Control Demographics **Computational Statistics Biostatistics** Actuarial Science **Distribution** Fitting Design of Experiment Operation Research Simulation Queuing Systems Mathematical Programming Total Quality Management **Decision Models** The registration deadline is November 6,

2010. For further information, contact: College of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore 54590, Pakistan

t +92 42 99231271

NEW

f +92 42 99230493

e icss@live.com or 3rdicss@gmail.com For more details visit conference webpage www.icss3.co.nr

http://www.imstat.org/meetings

Workshop on Combinatorics and Analysis in Spatial Probability December 12–17, 2010

Eindhoven, The Netherlands

w http://www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/details/2010/ confdetail348.html?conf=348&year=2010

Chair: V. Sidoravicius (CWI/EURANDOM); J. van den Berg (CWI/VU Amsterdam); W. Werner (ENS-Paris)

Random Spatial Processes, in particular Percolation, Interacting Particle Systems and Gibbs Measures, has become one of the most active subfields of modern Probability. Motivated by problems in Physics (phase transitions), Biology (epidemics) and, more recently, Computer Science (randomized algorithms, 'cooperative' phenomena in large communication networks), it has led to deep, fundamental mathematical research. Much of the rapid and successful development in this area is due to a remarkable combination of probabilistic, combinatorial and (complex) analytic techniques.

For detailed information and application form please see the website above.

Workshop on Bayesian Inference for Latent Gaussian Models with Applications February 2–5, 2011

University of Zurich, Switzerland

w http://www.math.uzh.ch/bilgm11

Latent Gaussian models have numerous applications, for example in spatial and spatio-temporal epidemiology and climate modelling. This workshop brings together researchers who develop and apply Bayesian inference in this broad model class. One methodological focus is on model computation, using either classical MCMC techniques or more recent deterministic approaches such as integrated nested Laplace approximations (INLA). A second theme of the workshop is model uncertainty, ranging from model criticism to model selection and model averaging.

Håvard Rue will give an INLA tutorial on the first day. Further confirmed invited speakers are Renato Assunção, Gonzalo García-Donato, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter, Alan Gelfand, Finn Lindgren, Douglas Nychka, Christopher Paciorek and Stephen Sain. Contributed talks and a poster session complete the four-day program.

Additional information can be found at http://www.math.uzh. ch/bilgm11

10th Winter School on Mathematical Finance January 24–26, 2011 CongresHotel De Werelt, Lunteren



Two mini courses of 5 hours each will be delivered by Rüdiger Kiesel; (Universität Duisburg-Essen) Bernt Øksendal (University of Oslo) Special invited lectures will be given by Hansjoerg Albrecher (Université de Lausanne) Gilles Pagès (Université de Paris VI) Johan Tysk (Uppsala Universitet) Four short lectures will complete the programme. Information on the web at http://www.science.uva.nl/~spreij/stieltjes/winterschool.html

Registration will be open as of October 1, 2010.

ICSA 2011 Applied Statistics Symposium June 26–29, 2011 New York City, New York, USA

w http://www.icsa.org/2011/

The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) invites you to participate in the 20th Applied Statistics Symposium from June 26th to 29th, 2011, in New York City. All the scientific programs and short courses will be held in The Westin New York Hotel at Times Square.

The keynote speakers are:

David Donoho, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Humanities and Sciences, Professor of Statistics, Stanford University

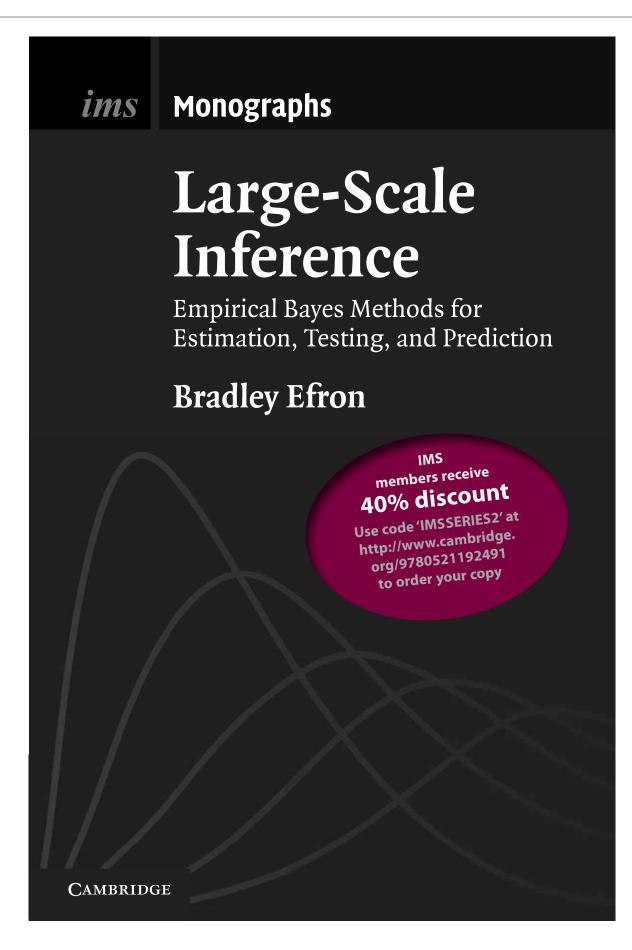
Danyu Lin, The Dennis Gillings Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ji Zhang, Vice President, head of Clinical Sciences and Operations, Sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC.

For more information, please contact corresponding organizing committee members or check periodically for new announcements and program details at the website above.

ICSA 2012 Applied Statistics Symposium June 23–26, 2012 Boston, Massachusetts, USA w TBC





Employment Opportunities around the world

Australia: Sydney

The University of Sydney

Senior Lecturer / Lecturer in Statistics http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7079110

China: Shanghai

Astra Zeneca R&D

Senior Statistician http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7065610

France: Paris

ESSEC Business School

Actuary at ESSEC Business School Paris http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=6975084

France: Paris

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Postdoc http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7164269

Qatar: Doha

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar Postdoctoral and Research Specialist -Biostatistics and/or Epidemiology http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7088608

Singapore

National University of Singapore, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability Faculty Positions http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7185006

Sweden: Gothenburg

Gothenburg University

Professor of Biostatistics http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7175496

United Kingdom: Bristol

University of Bristol Chairs http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=6929301

Hong Kong



THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Mathematics Faculty Position(s)

The Department of Mathematics invites applications for tenure-track faculty positions at the rank of Assistant Professor in all areas of mathematics, including one position in analysis/PDE. Other things being equal, preference will be given to areas consistent with the Department's strategic planning.

A PhD degree and strong experience in research and teaching are required. Applicants with exceptionally strong qualifications and experience in research and teaching may be considered for positions above the Assistant Professor rank.

Starting rank and salary will depend on qualifications and experience. Fringe benefits including medical/dental benefits and annual leave will be provided. Housing will also be provided where applicable. Initial appointment will normally be on a three-year contract, renewable subject to mutual agreement. A gratuity will be payable upon successful completion of contract.

Applications received on or before 31 December 2010 will be given full consideration for appointment in 2011. Applications received afterwards will be considered subject to availability of positions. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, at least three research references and one teaching reference to the Human Resources Office, HKUST, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong [Fax: (852) 2358 0700]. Applicants for positions above the Assistant Professor rank should send curriculum vitae and the names of at least three research referees to the Human Resources Office. More information about the University and the Department is available at http://www.ust.hk.

(Information provided by applicants will be used for recruitment and other employment-related purposes.)

United States: Claremont, CA

Claremont McKenna College Tenure-track Faculty Position in Statistics

http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=6950941

United States: Los Angeles, CA UCLA Department of Mathematics

Faculty Positions, Academic Year 2011–2012 http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=7012800

United States: Los Angeles, CA

University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business

Tenure Track Position in Statistics http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=7093781 United States: Research Triangle Park, NC



National Institute of Statistical Sciences

PO Box 14006, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-4006 Tel: 919.685.9300 FAX: 919-685-9310 www.niss.org

NISS Seeks Deputy Director

To continue expanding its scale, impact and relationships with the statistical sciences community, NISS seeks to appoint an energetic, visionary individual as its Research Triangle Park—based Deputy Director. This person will also serve as Associate Director of the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), and may in addition hold a faculty appointment at one of the Research Triangle universities.

The principal responsibility of the Deputy Director of NISS is to *expand and diversify the NISS research program*. The Deputy Director will play a leadership role in creating high-impact cross-disciplinary and cross-sector projects addressing major societal problems such as health, education and sustainable energy; working with NISS affiliates and others to form research teams built on strong participation from the statistical sciences community; securing the necessary resources; and carrying out the research.

The Deputy Director will also *oversee and build the NISS–SAMSI relationship*, emphasizing the role of NISS in stimulating SAMSI programs and realizing the potential of NISS projects catalyzed by SAMSI programs.

The Deputy Director will work closely with the Director, the Associate and Assistant Directors, and the Board of Trustees to *further develop NISS along multiple other dimensions*, including the affiliates programs; communications; key relationships between NISS and industry, government and academia, both within and beyond the statistics community; and attracting foundation support for NISS activities.

The Deputy Director will report to the Director. Criteria for the position include a Ph.D. in the statistical sciences or a related discipline; a strong record of scientific activity and creativity; experience in assembling, generating funding for, and managing cross-disciplinary, multi-organization collaborations; superb communication skills; and passion for NISS to lead the statistics community in serving the nation.

The goal is to fill the position as of July 1, 2011. Applications, expressions of interest and nominations should be sent to DDSearch11@niss.org. Both NISS Director Alan Karr and search committee chair Jessica Utts may be contacted at this e-mail address with questions. Applications should consist of a letter of interest, CV and names of five references. Review of applications will begin in October, 2010 and continue until the Deputy Director is appointed.

NISS is committed to recognizing and nurturing merit, talent, and achievement by supporting diversity and equal opportunity in all of its activities. NISS does not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally recognized basis, including, but not restricted to, race, color, religion, gender, national original, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or uniformed service member status. NISS seeks and welcomes applications from women and members of historically underrepresented groups.

July 2010

United States: Stanford, CA

Stanford University, Department of Statistics

Assistant Professor - tenure track http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7051472

United States: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Biostatistics/Public Health http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=6577816

United States: Bloomington, IN

Indiana University Associate Professor of Statistics http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7145820

United States: Cambridge, MA

MIT Sloan School MIT Sloan tenure-track faculty position: Operations Research and Statistics http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7144697

United States: Princeton, NJ

Princeton University

Assistant Professor http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=7160087

United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University Department of Mathematics

NSF Postdoctoral Position http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=7040924

United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University Department of Mathematics

Tenure / Tenure-Track Professor http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_ id=1847&jb=7040922

Taiwan

United States: Pittsburgh, PA

Carnegie Mellon University

Applications are invited for possible tenure-track, lecturer, and visiting positions. Carnegie Mellon offers a collegial faculty environment, emphasizing a combination of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and teaching. All areas of statistics are welcome, and joint appointments with other units in the Pittsburgh area are possible. We especially encourage women and minorities to apply. Details at http://www.stat.cmu.edu (email: hiring@stat.cmu.edu). Application screening begins immediately and continues until positions closed. Send CV, research papers, relevant transcripts and three letters of recommendation to: *Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA*. AA/EOE.

United States: Madison, WI

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Statistics Assistant Professor http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=7115840

Academia Sinica Institute of Statistical Science Regular Research Positions

The Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, is seeking outstanding candidates for regular research positions at the level of assistant, associate or full research fellow available in 2011. Candidates in all areas of Statistics will be considered. Candidates should have a PhD in statistics or related fields. Application materials must include (1) a curriculum vitae, (2) three letters of recommendation and (3) representative publications and/or technical reports. Additional supporting materials such as transcripts for new PhD applicants may also be included. Except for the letters of recommendation, electronic submissions are encouraged. Applications should be submitted to

Dr. Hsin-Cheng Huang Chair of the Search Committee Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica 128 Sec. 2 Academia Road, Taipei 11529, Taiwan, R.O.C. Fax: +886-2-27831523 E-mail: <u>hchuang@stat.sinica.edu.tw</u>

Applications should be completed by **December 31, 2010** for full consideration.

United States: Durham, NC

Duke University Department of Statistical Science

The Department of Statistical Science invites applications for faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor of the Practice to begin in Fall 2011. The professor of the practice rank at Duke is parallel to the tenure track, emphasizing teaching and pedagogy. It is term renewable, and affords the possibility for promotion to associate and full professor of the practice. Preference will be given to candidates demonstrating outstanding teaching and strong interests in developing a new and growing undergraduate major. Complementary interests in Bayesian statistical science research and collaboration will also be considered.

The Department of Statistical Science is an internationally recognized center of excellence for research and education in the development and application of contemporary statistical methodology. Particular emphasis is directed toward Bayesian modeling in many scientific fields as well as emerging computationally intensive methods. The Department offers outstanding computational facilities and opportunities for interdisciplinary research. It currently has 14 regular rank faculty along with 14 visiting, adjunct, and post doctoral faculty and 35 Ph.D. students.

The educational program (graduate and undergraduate) as well as the Department's research agenda benefit from strong connections with the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), both located nearby in the Research Triangle. More information about the Department is available at the web site http://www.stat.duke.edu.

All applicants should provide a letter, curriculum vitae, personal statement, and three reference letters. All materials should be submitted online at Academic Jobs Online (https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo). For inquiries and e-mail correspondence please write to dalene@stat.duke.edu. The application pool will remain open until the position is filled but screening will begin on 1 December 2010.

Duke University prohibits discrimination and harassment, and provides equal employment opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex or age. Duke is committed to recruiting, hiring, and promoting qualified minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

United States: Durham, NC

Duke University Department of Statistical Science

The Department of Statistical Science invites applications for faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor to begin in Fall 2011. Preference will be given to candidates whose core statistical science research interests are complemented with collaborative research interest in systems biology, neurosciences, social sciences, or environmental science.

The Department of Statistical Science is an internationally recognized center of excellence for research and education in the development and application of contemporary statistical methodology. Particular emphasis is directed toward Bayesian modeling in many scientific fields as well as emerging computationally intensive methods. The Department offers outstanding computational facilities and opportunities for interdisciplinary research. It currently has 14 regular rank faculty along with 14 visiting, adjunct, and post doctoral faculty and 35 Ph.D. students.

The Ph.D. program as well as the Department's research agenda benefit from strong connections with the Statistics and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) and the National Institute of Statistical Science (NISS), both located nearby in the Research Triangle. A Statistical Science major, started in Fall 2007, provides the primary focus of our undergraduate program. More information about the Department is available at the web site http://www.stat.duke.edu.

All applicants should provide a letter, curriculum vitae, personal statement, and the names of three references. All materials should be submitted online at Academic Jobs Online (https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo). For inquiries and e-mail correspondence please write to search@stat.duke.edu. The application pool will remain open until the position is filled but screening will begin on 1 December 2010.

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United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University

Tenure/Tenure-Track Position:

The Department of Mathematics at Cornell University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position, or higher rank, pending administrative approval, starting July 1, 2011. Applications in all areas of Mathematics will be considered with a priority given to probability. The Department actively encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

Applicants must apply electronically at http://www.mathjobs.org. For information about our positions and application instructions, see: http://www.math.cornell.edu/Positions/facpositions.html Applicants will be automatically considered for all eligible positions. Deadline November 1, 2010. Early applications will be regarded favorably.

Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University

Visiting Professor Positions:

The Department of Mathematics at Cornell University invites applications for possible visiting positions, academic year or one semester teaching positions (rank based on experience) beginning August 16, 2011. We are seeking candidates who have excellent teaching skills. The teaching load varies from 1–4 courses per year, depending on the individual and the availability of courses. Candidates with teaching and research interests compatible with current faculty are sought. The Department actively encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

Applicants must apply electronically at http://www.mathjobs.org. For information about our positions and application instructions, see: http://www.math.cornell.edu/Positions/facpositions.html. Applicants will be automatically considered for all eligible positions. Deadline December 1, 2010. Early applications will be regarded favorably.

Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

United States: Ithaca, NY Cornell University

HC Wang Assistant Professor:

The Department of Mathematics at Cornell University invites applications for two or more H.C. Wang Assistant Professors, non-renewable, 3-year position beginning July 1, 2011, pending administrative approval. Successful candidates are expected to pursue independent research at Cornell and teach three courses per year. A PhD in mathematics is required. The Department actively encourages applications from women and minority candidates. Applicants must apply electronically at http://www.mathjobs.org. For information about our positions and application instructions, see: http://www.math.cornell.edu/Positions/facpositions.html. Applicants will be automatically considered for all eligible positions. Deadline December 1, 2010. Early applications will be regarded favorably.

Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University

RTG NSF Postdoctoral Positions:

The probability group at Cornell invites applications from recent PhD recipients for postdoc positions (Visiting Assistant Professors) beginning July 1, 2011. These positions are funded each year by Cornell University and a Research Training Grant from the National Science Foundation. The usual term is two years, with a two course teaching load each year. The salary is \$50,000 plus \$10,000 supplemental summer support per year.

All applicants must be US citizens, nationals or permanent residents, who have had their PhD's for less than 18 months or are graduate students who will complete their PhD requirements by the position start date. The Department actively encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

Applicants are required to apply electronically at http://www. mathjobs.org. For information about these positions and application instructions, see: http://www.math.cornell.edu/Positions/ facpositions.html.

For full consideration, please submit application by January 1, 2011. Successful candidates will be invited for interviews in late January, early February.

Cornell University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

International Calendar of Statistical Events

IMS meetings are highlighted in maroon with the and the logo, and new or updated entries have the the the 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

October 2010

October 8: Paris, France. Second HEC Finance and Statistics Conference. w http://www.hec.fr/financeandstatistics2010

October 13–14: Aarhus University, Denmark. Workshop in Honour of Ole E. Barndorff-Nielsen's 75th Birthday. w http://www.thiele. au.dk/events/conferences/2010/oebn75

October 13–15: Spa, Belgium 18th Annual Congress of the Belgian Statistical Society. w http://bss2010.ulb.ac.be

October 22: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. Symposium in honor of Stephen Lagakos. Leah Segal **e** lsegal@hsph.harvard.edu

November 2010

November 8–10: Lodz, Poland. Multivariate Statistical Analysis Conference. w http://www.msa.uni.lodz.pl

November 15–16: Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA. 2010 Program in Quantitative Genomics Conference. w www.hsph.harvard.edu/research/pqg-conference-2010/

November 25–27: Lahore, Pakistan. Third International Conference on Statistical Sciences. w www.icss3.co.nr

December 2010

December 4–10: University of Jammu, India. International Conference on the Development and Applications of Statistics in Emerging Areas of Science & Technology (ICDASEAST) and 30th Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Probability and Statistics w http://www.jammuuniversity.in/upload/conference/ pic240.PDF

December 5–10: Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil. XXV International Biometric Conference (IBC) w www.ibc-floripa-2010.org December 5–10: Atlantic City, NJ. 65th Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics w www.demingconference.com

December 6–10: Fremantle, Australia. Australian Statistical Conference 2010 w http://www.promaco.com.au/2010/asc

December 12–17: Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Workshop on Combinatorics and Analysis in Spatial Probability. w http:// www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/details/2010/confdetail348. html?conf=348&year=2010

December 15–17: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA. Borrowing Strength: Theory Powering Applications. Conference in honor of Lawrence Brown's 70th birthday w http://stat.wharton. upenn.edu/~zhangk/BS/index.htm

December 16–18: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. International Conference on Applied Statistics and Financial Mathematics (ASFM2010). w http://www.polyu.edu.hk/ama/ events/conference/asfm2010/

Times December 17–18: Xiamen University, Fujian, P.R. China. International Workshop on Emerging Issues and Challenges to Statistics. w http://www.southalabama.edu/iweics/

Lims December 19–22: Guangzhou University, Guang-Zhou, China. 2010 ICSA International Conference. w tba

December 26–28: University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. First International Conference on the Theory and Applications of Statistics w http://www.dusdaa.org/conference2010

January 2011

January 3–4: Park City, Utah, USA AdapSki III, the satellite meeting to MCMSki III. w http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~maxca/adapsklll/

January 5–7: Park City, UT. MCMSki III: Markov Chain Monte Carlo in Theory and Practice w http://madison.byu.edu/ mcmski/ January 24–26: CongresHotel De Werelt, Lunteren. 10th Winter School on Mathematical Finance. w http://www.science. uva.nl/~spreij/stieltjes/winterschool.html

February 2011

February 2–5: University of Zurich, Switzerland. Workshop on Bayesian Inference for Latent Gaussian Models with Applications w http://www.math.uzh.ch/bilgm11

March 2011

Lims March 20–23: Hyatt Regency Miami, FL. 2011 ENAR/IMS Spring Meetings. w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

23–25 March: The Netherlands. Spatial Statistics 2011 Conference w http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/

March 24–26: University of California, Irvine. Seminar on Stochastic Processes. IMS rep: Davar Khoshnevisan w http:// math.uci.edu/~mcransto/ssp2011a.html

April 2011

April 11–13: Bordeaux, France. Third International Biometrics Society (IBS) Channel Network Conference. **e** ibschannel@isped.ubordeaux2.fr **w** http://www.ibs-channel-bordeaux2011.fr

April 21–24: NC State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. 2011 IISA Conference on Probability, Statistics and Data Analysis. IMS Reps: Soumendra Nath Lahiri (Chair of International Organization Committee), Subhashis Ghoshal (Co-Chair of Local Organization Committee). w http://www.iisaconference.info

June 2011

June 12–15: Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. 2011 SSC Annual Meeting w TBC

Lims June 19–22: San Luis Obispo, California. WNAR/IMS

Meeting. IMS Program Chair: Jay Bartroff. w http://www.wnar.org/

June 19–25: Oaxaca, Mexico. 35th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications. w TBC

June 20-24: Beijing Institute of Technology, China. Seventh International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability. w www.mmr2011.cn

June 26–29: New York City, NY, USA. ICSA 2011 Applied Statistics Symposium. w http://www.icsa.org/2011/

New: June 26–30: Veracruz, Mexico. 8th Workshop on Bayesian Nonparametrics. w http://www.bnpworkshop.org/

July 2011

Lims July 3-6: Tokyo, Japan. IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meetings. w http://www.ims-aprm2011.org/

July 6–8: Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden. INFORMS Applied Probability Society Conference. w http://meetings.informs.org/APS2011

July 8–11: XiAn, China. IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability. IMS Organizing Chair: Heping Zhang. w http://www.stat.umn.edu/~statconf/imschina2011/ index.html

July 11–22: Ithaca, NY. 7th Cornell Probability Summer School. w TBC

ims July 30 – August 4: Miami Beach, Florida. IMS Annual Meeting at JSM2011.



Miami, location of JSM 2011 and IMS Annual Meeting

International Calendar continued

August 2011

August 1–5: Sandbjerg Estate, Sønderborg, Denmark. Conference in Honour of Søren Asmussen: New Frontiers in Applied Probability w www.thiele.au.dk/asmussen

December 2011

December 28–31: Hong Kong, China. International Conference on Advances in Probability and Statistics Theory and Applications: A celebration of N. Balakrishnan's 30 years of contributions to statistics. **e** icaps2011@gmail.com **w** http://faculty.smu.edu/ngh/ icaps2011.html

April 2012

Lims April 1–4: Washington DC, USA. 2012 ENAR/IMS Spring Meetings. w http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

June 2012

June 3–6: Guelph, Ontario, Canada. 2012 SSC Annual Meeting w TBC

June 23–26: Boston, MA, USA. ICSA 2012 Applied Statistics Symposium. w TBC

July 2012

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

July 9–14: Istanbul, Turkey. IMS Annual Meeting 2012 in conjunction with 8th World Congress in Probability and Statistics. w http://home.ku.edu.tr/~worldcong2012/

August 2013

Lims August 3–8: Montréal, Canada. IMS Annual Meeting at JSM2013. w TBC

July 2014

July 7–11: Sydney, Australia. 2014 IMS Annual Meeting. **w** TBC

August 2014

August 2-7: Boston, MA. JSM2014. w TBC

August 2015

NEW Lims August 8–13: Seattle, WA. JSM2015. w TBC

Are we missing something? If you know of any statistics or probability meetings which aren't listed here, please let us know. Email the details to Elyse Gustafson at erg@imstat.

org. We'll list them here in the *Bulletin,* and online too, at www.imstat.org/meetings



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The scientific journals of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics are The Annals of Statistics, The Annals of Probability, The Annals of Applied Statistics, The Annals of Applied Probability, and Statistical Science. The IMS Bulletin is the news organ of the Institute.

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5: June	May 1	May 15	June 1
6: July	June 1	June 15	July 1
7: August/September	July 1	July 15	August 1
8: October	September 1	September 15	October 1
9: November	October 1	October 15	November 1
10: December	November 1	November 15	December 1



November 2010

Meeting reports, news of members, information and announcements about conferences, and jobs around the world.

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