SSC LIAISON

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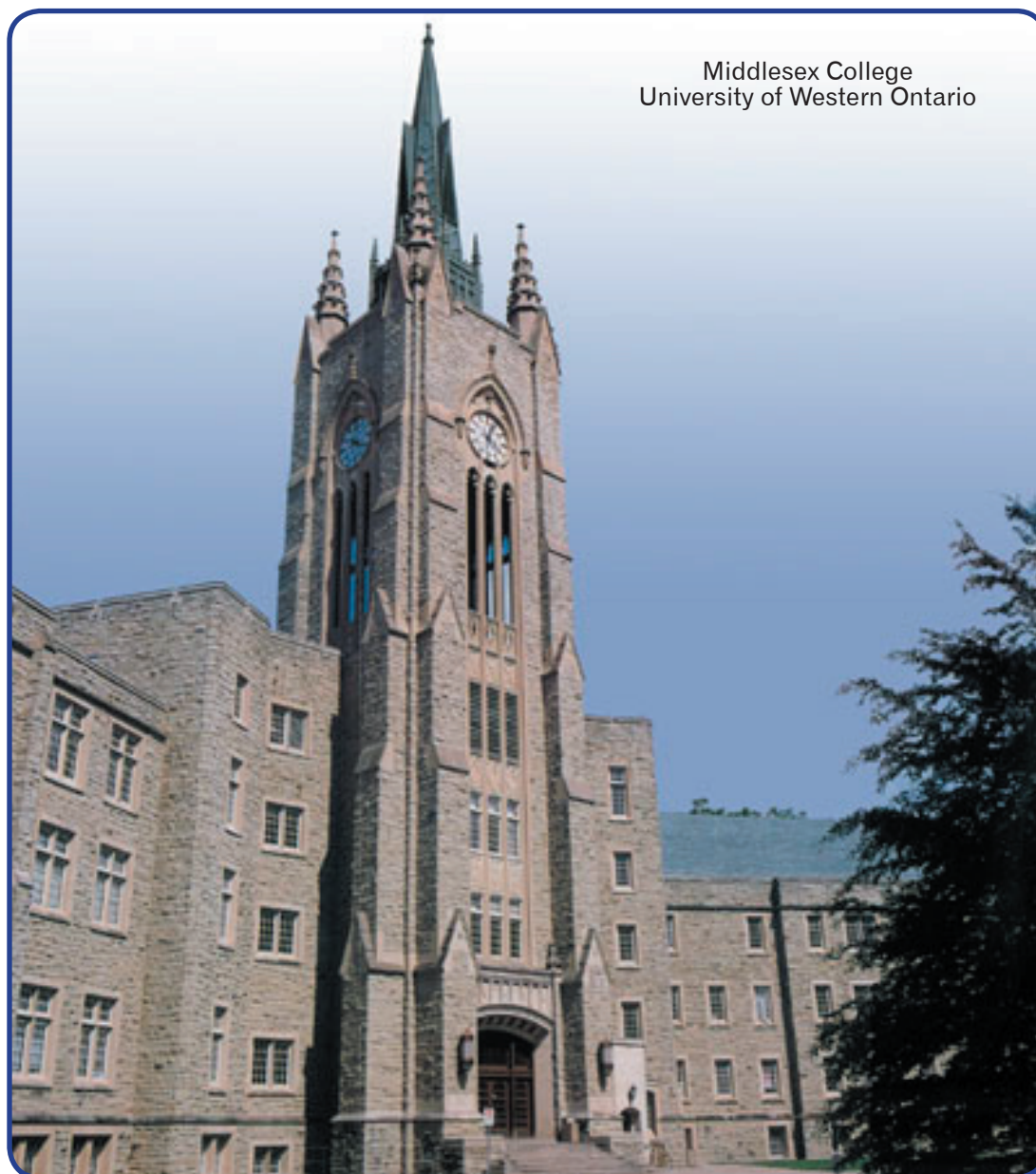
Middlesex College
University of Western Ontario

Contents

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

SSC 2006
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario
May 28 to 31, 2006

Message from the President

David Binder

Mid-term update

BECAUSE OF THE publication deadlines for Liaison, I am writing this message in December, even though it is not scheduled to be published until February. So, for me it is the mid-point of my term as President. At this time of year (halfway between our annual meetings) most of the activities of the SSC are not very visible to much of the membership at large. Yet, our committees have been busy fulfilling their mandate; our Regional Associations have been conducting various activities in their respective regions; our Sections have been working on serving their members, especially for those who attend the Annual Meeting.

Active participation in Regional Association activities is a good way to become more involved in the statistical community. It gives us the opportunity to meet others with similar interests whom we may not otherwise encounter in our normal daily routine. Recently, I have had a chance to attend functions both in Montreal and in Ottawa. Those who attended clearly enjoyed the contacts with others there. At the Statistical Society of Montreal Annual General Meeting (chaired by Johanne Thiffault) there was a large group from a variety of backgrounds, and I very much enjoyed being part of the interactions. The Statistical Society of Ottawa held its Annual Statistics in Action mini-seminar, with Tim Ramsay keeping the pace moving nicely. This is a great idea that others may wish to mimic. Here, there were presentations from academic, public and private sectors, both researchers and practitioners, consisting of very short (2-5 minute) presentations on statistical problem solving in the workplace. The discussions were quite thought provoking and sometimes

PETER MACDONALD
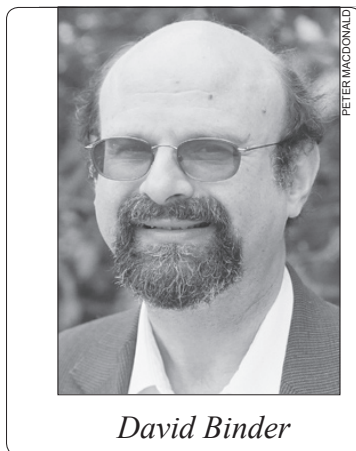
David Binder

beyond the kernel of the actual presentation. (For example, we had an interesting discussion on publication bias after one talk on the use of meta-analysis of clinical trial results.)

The Probability Section of the SSC now exists! This is an exciting new addition to the SSC, giving focus to an area that has not been adequately represented at our SSC meetings. The first Annual General Meeting of the Probability Section will be held during the 2006 Annual Meeting. I wish the very best to Andre Dabrwoski and his interim executive in this path-breaking endeavor.

The Statistical Education Committee now has a new enhanced website. In consultation with Patricia Whitridge and the other committee members, Rachel Altman has helped to develop a new site for us and for those involved in Statistical Education. A list of helpful resources for students and teachers of statistics has been compiled, including a collection of links to on-line teaching aids, student awards, job opportunities, statistical computing tools, etc.

Judy-Anne Chapman and Carl Schwarz have been in close contact with others on the Accreditation Committee and with members of the Executive, engaging us all in discussions on initiating invitations for new applications for the A.Stat. designation. Issues being discussed were mostly related to the course requirements and the mentoring program. Our website will continue to have up-to-date information on our status. To date, our P.Stat. Program has resulted in a steady stream of new applicants. Those interested will find that the application forms are fairly easy to complete.

At the last Board meeting, it was agreed to create a new ad hoc committee to consider the issue of new awards sponsored by the SSC. John Petkau has kindly agreed to chair this committee. I am sure he would be interested in your comments. Recently, I have compiled a list of all awards and prizes either sponsored or cosponsored by the SSC. Here is the list that I came up with:

· Major SSC awards/prizes: Gold Medal, Distinguished Service Award, Honorary Members, Pierre Robillard Award, CRM-SSC Prize, Canadian Journal of Statistics. Award, Australia-Canada Scholarship, Founder Recognition Award (one time - 1998),

· Other awards/prizes: Student Travel Awards, Bilingualism Prize, Science Fair Statistics Prize, Student Award in Survey Methods.

MESSAGES

· Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) awards: Presidents' Award, R.A. Fisher Lectureship, Elizabeth L. Scott Award, Snedecor Award, Florence Nightingale David Award.

It is hard for me to ignore the fact that as I write this message, we are in the middle of a federal election campaign. (By the time you read this message, the results of the election will be known.) I am still interested in seeing what will be said about the future role of the federal government in post-secondary educa-tion and in science research. Our discipline benefits from federal funding that ensures that we continue to attract new blood and that we promote new ideas in the statistical sciences. However, to date, funding for science research at universities is not considered to be an important election issue.

On behalf of the SSC, I would like to wish you all the very best for 2006. Hopefully, I can meet most of you at our Annual Meeting in London.

Message from the Editor

Yogendra Chaubey
Concordia University

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006 to all the readers of Liaison! This issue brings a new look to the volume, thanks to George and Torsten.

An important feature in this issue is a preview of the scientific and social programme of the 34th annual meeting of the society to be held in London, University of Western Ontario, which has been put up by Richard Lockhart and David Bellhouse. Please take note of the workshops organized by the Biostatistics section, Survey Methods section and the section on Business and Industrial Statistics. Undoubtedly, these workshops offer a modern look on important cutting edge technology that will be useful to the professional statistician as well as to a student.

The "Message from the President" gives an update on the activities of the society and progress achieved in various directions. It also stresses the need for active participation as members in Regional Association activities. The reports from various committees and announcements point to a healthy atmosphere in the Canadian statistical community.

Yogendra Chaubey

The Consultant's Forum brings an interesting perspective on becoming an independent consultant through an article by Tina Haller whereas the article by Rhonda Rosychuk presents an analysis of "2000-2005 SSC Annual Scientific Meeting Participation by Gender".

I would like to thank all the contributors for timely submission and honouring an early deadline. I sincerely hope that the readers will like the new layout. And as always, I invite the members to contribute news, reports and articles of interest to the statistical community, and to share suggestions for improvement.

NPCDS Workshop at the Fields

Peter Song, University of Waterloo
Chair of the Organizing Committee

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES the results of a workshop on the Current Issues in the Analysis of Incomplete Longitudinal Data held in the Fields Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Toronto, on October 13-15, 2005. This workshop was sponsored by the Fields Institute, the National Program on Complex Data Structures (NPCDS), the University of Waterloo, and GlaxoSmithKline Inc. that provided funding to graduate students' travel aid.

The primary purpose of this workshop was two-fold: (i) to provide a much needed venue for a lively and open dialogue on various issues in longitudinal and clustered data analysis for researchers with common interests in methodological development and also subject-area specialists dealing with this type of data, and (ii) to identify important outstanding methodological problems on which to base collaborative research. At this workshop participants had a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and build collaborative ties with other methodological researchers and researchers in other disciplines.

Statistical methods for the design and analysis of longitudinal and clustered data are critical for valid and efficient research in the medical, public health and social sciences. Such data are widely used to study causality, develop health policy, and carry out program assessments. In these settings, numerous statistical challenges have arisen which cannot be addressed by conventional linear or generalized linear regression techniques. Researchers from Canadian universities are very ac-

tive in various research areas, and this workshop focused on four important themes, including longitudinal data analysis with missing values, measurement error models, joint modeling of longitudinal and survival data, and models for multi-state data.

The workshop scheduled four invited sessions over four half days, each half day for one session. Also a poster session was held, which involved 6 researchers from Canada and the USA. The fifth half day session led by the theme leaders was held in the morning of Saturday on October 15 to wrap up the workshop with lot of fruitful discussions. The effective number of attendees doubled the original estimate.

A number of current and important issues in longitudinal and clustered data analysis were identified at the workshop. (i) Issues in longitudinal data analysis with missing values include the assessing of multiple imputation method, improving estimation efficiency in the presence of incomplete data information, and handling missing covariates together with dropouts. (ii) Issues in measurement error models include the issue of identifiability and consistent estimation in potentially non-identified models, the issue of estimation with measurement error in covariates, and issues related to handling measurement errors in latent variable models and in logistic and Cox proportional hazard models. (iii) Issues in the joint modeling of longitudinal and survival data include improving inference power by joint modeling and by adding auxiliary variables. (iv) Is-

sues in the models for multi-state data include the use of multi-state modeling to address a full course of disease progression, the utility of random effects to accommodate variability between subjects in disease state transition rates, and marginal models for multivariate or clustered multi-state data.

A half-day wrap session began by Jamie Stafford's presentation on an introduction to the past and future of the NPCDS, and then it was led by the theme leaders who presented summa-ries of the talks given in the respective invited sessions as well as personal comments on the future research directions that this NPCDS project (if approved by the NPCDS board) may take. Questions, open discussions and constructive comments were scattered throughout all talks in the morning of October 15. The group concluded with a decision to pursue a full proposal to the NPCDS to facilitate the research on the identified problems in the workshop.

Education Committee

Rachel Altman
Simon Fraser University

THE NEW WEBSITE of the SSC Education Committee is now up and running!

The main purpose of our site is to provide links to useful on-line information for statistics teachers and graduate students. For teachers, we have compiled a collection of resources for classes at all levels (elementary through graduate school). These include links to lesson plans, data sets, textbooks, and software. For graduate students, we have identified on-line information about awards, job opportunities, and careers in statistics.

The website also lists our recently revised mandate. One of our new activities is the organization of a session on statistical education at the Society's annual meeting. In 2006, we look forward to talks by Paul Cabilio (Acadia University), Paul Corey (University of Toronto), and Jim Stallard (University of Calgary) in our session entitled "Innovative Teachers in Probability and Statistics".

The Education Committee consists of Rachel Altman (Simon Fraser University), Veeresh Gadag (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Alison Gibbs (University of Toronto), Min Tsao (University of Victoria), and Roman Viveros-Aguilera (McMaster University), and is chaired by Patricia Whitridge (Elections Canada).

Please visit our site at *www.ssc.ca/ education/index_e.html*, and contact Rachel Altman (*raltman@stat.sfu. ca*) if you know of any other links that might be appropriate to include.

Accreditation Committee - New P.Stat.

Judy-Anne Chapman
University of Waterloo

Mayer Alvo

John Amrhein

Trevor Avery

Milena T. Kurtinecz

Peter D. M. Macdonald

David McDonald
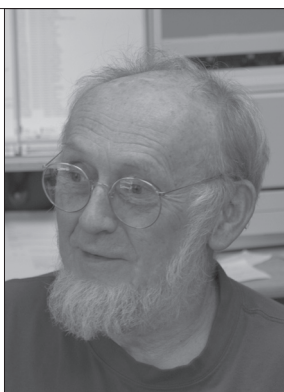
David J. Thomson

Mahmoud Zarepour

SSC 2006

May 28 – 31, 2006
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

Scientific Program Chair
Richard Lockhart

Local Arrangements Chair
David Bellhouse

Scientific Program Committee
Michael Escobar, François Pageau
and Patricia Whitridge

THE 34TH ANNUAL Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada will take place

David Bellhouse
(Local Arrangements Chair)

at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, from 28 to 31 May 2006. Sunday, May 28, will be devoted to workshops, followed by a poster session and a welcoming reception in the evening held in the Great Hall at The University of Western Ontario. The scientific sessions will begin on Monday, May 29, again on campus. The banquet will take place Tuesday night, May 30, in the Great Hall. On-line registration will be available by the end of January. Further, up-to-date details about the conference will be posted on the wesite: *www.ssc.ca/2006/index_e.html*. More than 400 registrants are expected at this

conference, which will bring together researchers and users of statistics and probability from academia, government, and industry. The meeting will feature three workshops, some 45 Invited Paper Sessions, two Case Study Sessions and numerous Contributed Paper Sessions. See below for a description of the workshops, the contents of the Invited Paper Sessions, and detailed information concerning travel, accommodation, registration, and submission of abstracts.

Travel

London can be reached by airplane, car, bus and train. London International Airport (YXU) is serviced by Air Canada Jazz, WestJet Airlines and Northwest Airlink with direct flights to Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary and Detroit. It is approximately 20-minute drive from the airport to the University. Rental cars from several agencies are available at the airport. Toronto's Pearson International Airport (YYZ) is about 175 km east on highway 401 from London. Robert Q Airbus operates a limousine service from Pearson Airport to London. As well, car rentals can be obtained at Pearson Airport. London is on the Windsor to Quebec City corridor for VIA Rail service. Also, there is a Greyhound bus service to several Ontario towns and cities. The web site *www.ssc.ca/2006/travel_e.html* has further information on travel directions and some approximate costs.

Accommodation

The SSC has booked rooms at four different hotels plus a block of residence rooms on campus. The hotels are Windermere Manor (approximately 2 km from the conference location), Station Park All Suites Hotel (3.5 km from the conference), Hilton London (5 km from the conference) and Delta London Armouries (5 km from the conference).

Richard Lockhart
(Programme Chair)

Further information, including cost, hotel web sites and contact telephone numbers can be found at *www.ssc.ca/2006/accom_e.html*. Information on the web on residence accommodation will be available on the SSC web site by the end of January.

Registration

By the end of January you may register on-line at the conference web site. If you prefer, a paper registration form may be also downloaded from that site. If you register by 15 April 2006, the fees are $400 for regular members, $125 for

student members, and $200 for retired members. After 15 April, the fees go up to $450, $140, and $225 for regular members, students, and retirees, respectively. Non-members will pay an additional $124 ($25 for students, $45 for retirees) which includes membership in SSC. Registration fees include the opening reception, all scientific sessions, refreshment breaks, and the banquet. There are extra fees for the workshops; see below for details.

Workshops

Biostatistics Section

Applied Bayesian Methods

Organizer: Michael Escobar, University of Toronto

In 1990, there was a breakthrough in Bayesian computational methods. Previously, most Bayesian analyses were restricted to simple, limited applications. With the development of Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods, Bayesian inference has become an important applied technique and has been able to handle complex problems. In fact, some problems are now easier to compute with Bayesian methods than with frequentist methods.

The purpose of this course is to introduce applied Bayesian methods to a wide audience. The basic Bayesian philosophy will be discussed and the underlying principles of the MCMC algorithm will be explained. From there, this course will show how to compute and make inferences on complex data problems using these methods. This course does not assume or use any advanced mathematical statistics or calculus. This is not to "dumb down" the material, but instead the goal is to strip away mathematical jargon that may be needed to prove theorems but is not needed to analyse data nor is it needed to explain results to scientific collaborators. Therefore, the mathematical level of this course is at the level of an applied statistics course such as Weisberg's Applied Linear Regression or Hosmer and Lemeshow's Applied Logistic Regression. As such, this course should appeal to a wide audience including students in statistics as well as applied statisticians who wish to learn how to use these methods in their practice. Also, faculty members might be interested in this course so that they can present these methods to a general audience of students in applied fields such as epidemiology or psychology.

Survey Methods Section

Introduction to Record Linkage

Organizers: Patricia Whitridge, Chief Methodologist, Elections Canada; Karla Fox, Senior Biostatistician, Deployment Health Section, DND

Record linkage is simply the integration of information from two independent sources. It has become increasingly useful in maintaining electoral information, health care administration, demographic studies, and in medical research. It has enabled administrators and researchers to maintain a database, link to files (i.e. administrative), link to survey data, and/or link to clinical data. Under this framework, records are linked on the basis of common data. Records from the two or more sources that are believed to relate to the same individual are matched in such a way that they may then be treated as a single record for that individual. A match in a deterministic linkage is made when a sufficient number of identifiers agree exactly between two records. In probabilistic record linkage, the comparison or matching algorithm yields for each record pair, a probability or "weight" which indicates the likelihood that record pairs relate to the same entity.

This course will cover the general principles of record linkage, including data preparation, deterministic linkage, probabilistic linkage, and linkage evaluation. Different principles will be illustrated with data from real life examples and there will be a general discussion on record linkage software packages currently available and how to evaluate them for your particular needs.

Registration Fees for either the Biostatistics or the Survey Methods Workshop

(in Canadian dollars)

SSC Members		By 15 April 2006	After 15 April 2006
	regular	150	175
	retired	75	85
	student	50	50

Non-members		By 15 April 2006	After 15 April 2006
	regular	180	200
	retired	90	100
	student	60	60

Fees include workshop materials, coffee breaks and lunch.

Non-member fees apply only to those registering for the workshop only. Non-members who register for the conference at non-member rates may add the workshop at member rates.

Business and Industrial Statistics Section

Design for Six Sigma

Organizer: Liem Ferryanto, Research in Motion

This will be a half day workshop. Details and registration fees are not yet available; please consult the society web site for updated information.

Scientific and Social Program (tentative)

SUNDAY, MAY 28 (afternoon and evening)

Contributed Poster Session (afternoon) and Cocktail (evening)

MONDAY, MAY 29 (morning)

1. Inaugural session and SSC Presidential Invited Address
Organizer: David Binder (President, SSC)
Speaker: Ivars Peterson (Science News)

2A. *Session sponsored by the National Program on Complex Data Structures*
Current Issues in the Analysis of Longitudinal Data
Organizer: Peter Song (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: Jerry Lawless (University of Waterloo), Paul Gustafson (University of British Columbia), Jeremy Taylor (University of Michigan), and Grace Yi (University of Waterloo)

2B. *Session sponsored by the Bernoulli Society*
The Statistics of Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Organizer: Fred Hoppe (McMaster University)
Speakers: Keith Worsley (McGill University) and Jonathan Taylor (Stanford University)

2C. *Session sponsored by the Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics*
Social Statistics
Organizers: Gustave Goldmann and Georgia Roberts (Statistics Canada)
Speakers: Rajulton Fernando (University of Western Ontario), Brad Corbett (University of Western Ontario), and Lisa Strohschein (University of Alberta)

2D. Parallel Computing in Statistics
Organizer: Hugh Chipman (Acadia University)
Speakers: Robert Gramacy (University of California at Santa Cruz), Mark Reesor (University of Western Ontario), and Theodoro Koulis (McGill University)

2E. The Challenges of Being an Environmental Statistician
Organizer: Grace Chiu (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: Mike Dowd (Dalhousie University), Tanja Srebotnjak (Yale University), and Peter Guttorp (University of Washington)

2F. Case Study I
Organizer: Peggy T. Ng (York University)

MONDAY, MAY 29 (afternoon)

3A. Canadian Journal of Statistics Award Address
Organizer: Mary Thompson (University of Waterloo)

3B. Statistical Issues in Designing and Monitoring Clinical Trials (Biostatistics Section)
Organizer: Joan Hu (Simon Fraser University)
Speakers: James Neaton (University of Minnesota) and Chris Jennison (University of Bath)

3C. Change-Point Detection
Organizer: Edit Gombay (University of Alberta)
Speakers: Miklós Csörgő (Carleton University), Edit Gombay (University of Alberta), and Murray Burke (University of Calgary)

4A. Special Invited Session of the Survey Methods Section
Record Linkage and Counter-terrrorism
Organizer: Patricia Whitridge (Elections Canada)
Speaker: Michael Larsen (Iowa State)

4B. *Session sponsored by the National Program on Complex Data Structures*
Statistical Applications in Forestry
Organizer: John Braun (University of Western Ontario)
Speakers: Farouk Nathoo (University of Victoria), Ed Johnson (University of Calgary), and Al Tithecott (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources)

4C. Statistics in Public Health
Organizer: Leilei Zeng (Simon Fraser University)
Speakers: Norman Breslow (University of Washington), John Neuhaus (University of California San Francisco), and Thérèse Stukel (ICES)

4D. Statistical Applications in Marketing (Business and Industrial Statistics Section)
Organizer: Fernando Camacho (Damos Inc.)
Speakers: Anthony Percaccio (Munici-

pal Property Assessment Corporation) and Alison Burnham (Digital Cement)

4E. Limit Theorems with Applications in Statistics
Organizer: Deli Li (Lakehead University)
Speakers: Uwe Einmahl (Free University of Brussels), Mei Ling Huang (Brock University), Tiefeng Jiang (University of Minnesota), and Andrew Rosalsky (University of Florida)

TUESDAY, MAY 30 (morning)

5. Gold Medal Address
Organizer: James O. Ramsay (McGill University)
Speaker: David F. Andrews (University of Toronto)

6A. *Session sponsored by the National Program on Complex Data Structures*
Some Current Developments in the Analysis of Complex Survey Data
Organizers: Milorad Kovacevic (Statistics Canada) and Changbao Wu (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: Ivan Carrillo Garcia (University of Waterloo), Xiaojian Xu (University of Alberta), and Chunfang Lin (Simon Fraser University)

6B. *Session sponsored by the Canadian Caucus for Women in Statistics and by the Women in Statistics Committee of the SSC*
Regression Models: Recent Advances and Applications
Organizer: Rhonda Rosychuk (University of Alberta)
Speakers: Tulay Koru-Sengul (University of Saskatchewan), Yun-Hee Choi (University of Waterloo), and Irina Dinu (University of Alberta)

6C. *Session sponsored by the Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society*
Bioinformatics
Organizer: Daniel Ashlock (University of Guelph)
Speakers: Gary Fogel (Natural Selection Inc, San Diego), Gabriel Moreno-Hagelsieb (Wilfred Laurier University), and Daniel Ashlock (University of Guelph)

6D. Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials
Organizer: Lehana Thabane (McMaster University)
Speakers: Andy Willan and Joseph Beyene (Sickkids Hospital and University of Toronto), Anna Sawka (University of Toronto), and Keith O'Rourke (University of Ottawa)

6E. Advances in Markov Processes
Organizer: Gail Ivanoff (University of Ottawa)
Speakers: David McDonald (University of Ottawa), Byron Schmuland (University of Alberta), and Don Dawson (Carleton University)

TUESDAY, MAY 30 (afternoon)

7A. Isobel Loutit Invited Address on Business and Industrial Statistics
Organizer: François Pageau (SNC Tec)
Speaker: Geoffrey Vining (Virginia Tech)

7B. *Session sponsored by the National Program on Complex Data Structures and by the Biostatistics Section*
Spatial/Temporal Modelling for Marine Ecological Systems
Organizer: Joanna Flemming (Dalhousie University)
Speakers: Mike Dowd (Dalhousie University), Ransom Myers (Dalhousie

University), and Stephen Smith (Department of Fisheries and Oceans)

7C. Statistical Methods in Computational Genetics (Biostatistics Section)
Organizer: Aurélie Labbe (Université Laval)
Speakers: Raphael Gottardo (University of British Columbia), Radu Craiu (University of Toronto), and Mayetri Gupta (University of North Carolina)

7D. Probability in High Dimensions and its Applications
Organizer: Andrei Volodin (University of Regina)
Speakers: Evarist Giné (University of Connecticut), David Mason (University of Delaware), and Ricardis Zitikis (University of Western Ontario)

7E. *Session sponsored by the Education Committee of the SSC*
Innovative Teaching in Probability and Statistics
Organizers: Rachel Altman (Simon Fraser University) and Román Viveros-Aguilera (McMaster University)
Speakers: Paul Cabilio (Acadia University), Paul Corey (University of Toronto), and Jim Stallard (University of Calgary)

8A. *Session sponsored by the National Program on Complex Data Structures*
Data Mining Complex Structures
Organizers: Antonio Ciampi (McGill University) and Hugh Chipman (Acadia University)
Speakers: David Banks (Duke University), Sam Roweis (University of Toronto), and Shuying Sun (University of Toronto)

8B. Genomic Assessment Implications of Biologic Heterogeneity (Biostatistics Section)
Organizer: Judy-Anne Chapman (Queen's University)
Speakers: Debashis Ghosh (University of Michigan), Guilherme Rosa (Michigan State), and Judy-Anne Chapman (Queen's University)

8C. Probability and Finance
Organizer: Andre Dabrowski (University of Ottawa)
Speakers: Alexander Melnikov (University of Alberta), Wei Sun (Concordia University), and Steve Drekic (University of Waterloo)

8D. *Session sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)*
The History of Statistics and Probability
Organizer: Duncan Murdoch (University of Western Ontario)
Speakers: Michael Friendly (York University), Christian Genest (Université Laval), and George P. H. Styan (McGill University)

8E. Estimating Function Methodology
Organizer: Mary Thompson (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: Jack Kalbfleisch (University of Michigan), Peter Song (University of Waterloo), and Bent Jørgensen (University of Southern Denmark)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 (morning)

9A. Pierre Robillard Award Address(es)
Organizer: Paul Gustafson (University of British Columbia)

9B. Applied Probability
Organizers: Reg Kulperger and David Stanford (University of Western Ontario)
Speakers: David McDonald (University of Ottawa), Bruce Smith (Dalhousie University), and David Brillinger (University of California at Berkeley)

9C. Analysis of Longitudinal Complex Survey Data Using Marginal Modelling and GEE: Theory and Practice (Survey Methods Section)
Organizer: Susana Rubin-Bleuer (Statistics Canada)
Speakers: Georgia Roberts (Statistics Canada), Diane Stukel (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montréal) and Abdelnasser Saidi (Statistics Canada), Punam Pahwa (University of Saskatchewan), and Sunita Gosh (University of Saskatchewan)

10A. Special Invited Session of the Biostatistics Section
Organizer: Michael Escobar (University of Toronto)
Speaker: Don Berry (MD Anderson Cancer Centre, University of Texas)

10B. Recent Advances in SPC and Data Driven Statistics (Business and Industrial Statistics Section)
Organizer: Gemai Chen (University of Calgary)
Speakers: Douglas Hawkins (University of Minnesota) and Willem Albers (University of Twente)

10C. Analyzing Data from International Surveys (Survey Methods Section)
Organizer: Diane Stukel (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montréal)
Speakers: Scott Murray (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montréal), Miles Corak (Statistics Canada), and Edilberto Loaiza (Strategic Information Unit, UNICEF, New York)

10D. Risk Theory I
Organizer: David Stanford (University of Western Ontario)
Speakers: Gord Willmot (University of Waterloo), Jose Garrido (Concordia University), and Kristina Sendova (University of Western Ontario)

10E. Statistical Analysis of Nonprecise Data
Organizer: Mayer Alvo (University of Ottawa)
Speakers: Reinhard Viertl (Technical University of Vienna), Francois Théberge (Communications Security Establishment, Department of National Defence), and Maria Angeles Gil Alvarez (University of Oviedo)

10F. Case Study II
Organizer: Alison L. Gibbs (University of Toronto)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 (afternoon)

11. Address of the winner of the Centre de Recherches Mathématiques / Statistical Society of Canada Prize
Organizer: Charmaine Dean (Simon Fraser University)

12A. Industrial Experimental Design (Business and Industrial Statistics Section)
Organizer: John Brewster (University of Manitoba)
Speakers: Christine Anderson-Cook (Los Alamos National Laboratory), Robert McLeod (University of Winnipeg), and Peter Parker (NASA)

12B. Latent Variable and Multilevel Modelling Using Survey Data (Survey Methods Section)
Organizer: Changbao Wu (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: Sophia Rabe-Hesketh (University of California Berkeley), Eric

Lacourse (Université de Montréal), and Milorad Kovacevic (Statistics Canada)

12C. Joint Modeling of Longitudinal and Survival Data and Applications in Cancer Patients
Organizer: Shesh Rai (St Jude's Hospital)
Speakers: D. K. Srivastava (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital), Tony Sun (University of Missouri), and Do-

Hwan Park (University of Nevada at Reno)

12D. Risk Theory II
Organizer: Steve Drekic (University of Waterloo)
Speakers: David Stanford (University of Western Ontario), Andrei Badescu (University of Waterloo), and David Landriault (University of Waterloo)

12E. Geometry, Topology and Statistics
Organizer: Peter Kim (University of Guelph)
Speakers: Gunnar Carlsson (Stanford University), Victor Patrangenaru (Texas Tech University), and Ted Chang (University of Virginia)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SSC Sponsors the 38ièmes Journées de Statistique of SFdS

Christian Derquenne
Chair, Organizing Commitee

GATHERING EACH YEAR several hundred researchers, teachers and users, The « Journées de Statistique » is the most important scientific meeting of the francophone statistics world. For the first time this conference is organized by an industry : Electricité de France R&D in the suburbs of Paris (92 Clamart), from 29th May to 2nd June 2006. For further information: ***www.jds2006.fr***.

Workshop on Probabilistic Symmetries and Their Applications

Laura Gass
Communications Officer, Fields Institute

May 15-17 2006
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada

Sponsors: Fields Institute / University of Ottawa / Centre de Recherches Mathématiques

Organizers: Gail Ivanoff and Raluca Balan

THIS WORKSHOP WILL focus on the theory and applications of probabilistic symmetries. We are privileged to have an international group of distinguished speakers who will give both introductory and advanced talks, making the workshop accessible to both experts and non-experts alike. It will be of great interest to a wide range of researchers in probability theory and statistics.

Main Speaker:

Professor Olav Kallenberg (Auburn University, Alabama)

Invited Speakers:

 * Professor Neville Weber (University of Sydney, Australia)
 * Professor Fabio Spizzichino (Universita La Sapienza-Rome, Italy)
 * Professor André Dabrowski (University of Ottawa)

In probability theory, random objects may have interesting and important symmetry properties: *i.e.* distributional invariance under a particular family of measurable transformations. The best known symmetries include stationarity, contractability, exchangeability and rotatability (invariance under shifts, contractions, permutations and rotations, respectively). Stationarity is a classical concept which is treated in most standard textbooks, and so the goal of the workshop is to introduce participants to the remaining three symmetries and their applications. The presentations on the first day will be tutorial-style to provide students and non-experts with the necessary background for the more advanced talks on the following days. Talks will range from theoretical foundations (highlighting the deep and beautiful mathematical representations and connections between the various

concepts) to applications (including Bayesian statistics, U-statistics, empirical processes, population genetics). It will be of great interest to a wide range of researchers in probability theory and statistics. Graduate students are encouraged to participate, and may apply for financial support.

Details of the event can be found at the website ***www.mathstat.uottawa. ca/%7Egivanoff/workshop.htm***.

Summer Programme in Data Analysis on "Structural Equation Modeling"

Bryn Greer-Wootten
York University

May 2-9, 2006
York University
Toronto, Ontario

YORK UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER Programme In Data Analysis [SPIDA] is a seven-day series of intensive lectures and workshops designed to train social science researchers in the analysis of complex data, focussing on the theory and practice of structural equation modeling.

For the first five days of SPIDA [May 2-6], Doug Baer (Sociology, University of Victoria) will present a comprehensive overview of structural equation models, covering recursive and nonrecursive simultaneous equation models for observed variables, multiple indicator models, confirmatory factor analysis models, simultaneous estimation in multiple groups, and models for means and intercepts. Participants will be introduced to both the scalar and matrix notation form of the models that will be discussed.

For the final two days of SPIDA 2006 [May 8-9], Ken Bollen (Sociology & Statistics, University of North Carolina) will present extensions of the earlier materials in considering two special topics. The first of these is the use of SEM models in the presence of missing data. SEM approaches to estimation in the presence of missing data provide researchers with the ability to reduce or eliminate bias caused by the presence of missing data points that are not MCAR (missing completely at random). Some of the techniques do not require the imputation of data points, and will be useful even to those researchers interested in estimating simpler multiple regression or simultaneous equation models. The second special topic is latent curve ("growth curve") models for longitudinal data. The SEM framework enables us to estimate a variety of trajectory models where each individual can have a distinct trajectory; the lecture and lab will provide an outline and introduction to these models.

SPIDA 2006 also features a one-day Symposium on Missing Data, presented by Professor Rod Little [University of Michigan], co-author with Donald Rubin of Statistical Analysis with Missing Data (John Wiley, 2002). The Symposium takes place on May 17th, one week after the end of the SEM session, and registration for this is separate.

A typical day in the Programme consists of a morning lecture, with a related computer lab session in the afternoon. Computing will be done in AMOS (an SPSS product) and LISREL. We will provide a complete introduction to these programs. Most days also include a lunch-time speaker who will present an interesting application of the techniques being taught during that session.

Further details about the Programme, including a complete timetable and course descriptions, as well as information about programme fees, residence accommodations, and the application process are provided at our website: ***www.isr.yorku.ca/spida2006***.

The DEADLINE for applications is February 17, 2006. Applicants will be informed whether they have secured a place in the Programme by March 3, 2006.

SPIDA is intended for faculty, researchers and graduate and undergraduate students at Canadian universities, researchers and policy analysts in both public and not-for-profit organizations, and data librarians.

Full-time students are eligible for a fee subsidy. Applicants who live outside the Greater Toronto Area are eligible for grants to help cover the costs of travel and accommodation. SPIDA is funded by the Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics, a co-operative project of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Statistics Canada.

For further inquiries about the Programme, please contact Dr. Bryn Greer-Wootten via ***spida@yorku.ca***.

Mu Zhu is the First SSC AusCan Scholar

J. O. Ramsay
Chair, AusCan Scholarship Committee

DR. MU ZHU, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo, has been awarded an AusCan Scholarship by the Statistical Society of Canada to fund a period of travel and research in Australia.

The AusCan Scholar Program is a joint initiative of the SSC and the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. that supports exchanges between these two statisti-cal communities. The two societies alternate years in choosing a scholar, and Dr. Zhu is the first Scholar in the program. He will visit various Austral-ian Universities in 2006, and the SSAI is in the process of selecting a Scholar for 2007 to visit Canada.

Dr. Zhu received his Ph. D. from Stan-ford in 2001 after graduating magna cum laude from Harvard in 1996 and a year of working for a consulting firm in New York. His doctoral work was su-pervised by T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani and J. Friedman. As might be expected with this intellectual pedigree, his research specialties include rare target detec-tion, data mining, multivariate analysis, pattern recognition and other aspects of the investigation of large complex data sets. He is affiliated with the School of Computer Science and the Center for Computational Mathematics in Indus-try and Commerce at Waterloo.

Jean-Marie Dufour Gets Marcel-Vincent Prize of ACFAS

JEAN-MARIE DUFOUR, Department of Economic Sciences, University of Montréal received the Marcel-Vincent Prize of ACFAS in October 2005.

Although this prize is for work in so-cial science, it was awarded to Jean Marie for his research contributions in econometrics and statistics. Please see the website *www.acfas.ca/prix/* for details.

UWO to Host Actuarial Research Day

W. John Braun
University of Western Ontario

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND AC-TUARIAL SCIENCE of the University of Western Ontario will be hosting an Actuarial Research Day on June 1, 2006, following the conclusion of the SSC meeting. It will feature renowned actuarial researcher Ragnar Norberg from the London School of Economics as keynote speaker as well as invited speakers from the University of Michi-gan, University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, and University of Western Ontario.

9th IMS meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability

August 1 - 5, 2006
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

THE IMS COMMITTEE on New Re-searchers is organizing a meeting of recentPh.D. recipients in Statistics and Probability. The purpose of the confer-ence is to promote interaction among new researchers primarily by introduc-ing them to each other's research in an informal setting. As part of the confer-ence, participants will present talks and posters on their research and discuss interests and professional experiences over meals and social activities organ-ized through the meeting as well as by the participants themselves. The relationships established in this infor-mal collegiate setting among junior researchers are ones that may last a career, maybe a lifetime!

The meeting is to be held prior to the 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seat-tle, WA.

Eligibility: Anyone who has received a Ph.D. in Statistics or Probability since

2001 or expects to receive a Ph.D. by 2007 is eligible to attend.

Application: Those interested in attending the conference should submit a letter of intent, a curriculum vitae and an an abstract for a talk or poster. Email these materials (preferably as PDF files) to *nrc@stat.ohio-state.edu*. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 1, 2006. Please apply promptly since the number of participants is limited. Priority will be given to first time participants. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Also, contingent on the availability of funds, support to defray travel and housing costs will be offered.

Further Information: For any questions or comments contact any of the Co-Chairs, Peter Craigmile (Department of Statistics, The Ohio State University) and Peter Hoff (Department of Statistics, University of Washington); E-mail: *nrc@stat.ohio-state.edu* and/or visit the conference website: *www.stat.ohio-state.edu/~pfc/NRC/*.

Statistics Canada's 23rd International Methodology Symposium

Joanne Moloney
Statistics Canada

THE 23RD INTERNATIONAL Methodology Symposium "Methodological Issues in Measuring Population Health", organized by Statistics Canada, will take place at Chateau Cartier in Ottawa/Gatineau from November 1 to November 3, 2006. It will bring together statistical methodologists and analysts addressing a variety of methodological topics related to producing reliable information on population health, such as: design issues in cross-sectional and longitudinal health surveys, combining data from different sources, use of administrative health data, use of physical measurements, new collection methods in health surveys, development and testing of questionnaires and other instruments, non-sampling errors, assurance of data quality, confidentiality and disclosure control for health-related data, estimation and variance estimation, health information at the small-area level, imputation and editing of health data, health status indices and measures and methods for international comparisons of them, health-related quality of life assessments, mapping health data and the use of geographical information systems and other methods for analysis of health data. For more information, send e-mail inquiries to *symposium2006@statcan.ca*, or contact Joanne Moloney by phone at 613-951-1469 or by e-mail at *joanne.moloney@statcan.ca*.

Capture 2006: A Week of Capture-Recapture Modeling at Université Laval

Louis-Paul Rivest
Laval University

**May 1-5, 2006
Université Laval
Québec, Québec**

THERE WILL BE a one day conference on the modeling of data from capture-recapture experiments at Université Laval on May 1st 2006. Invited speakers include Gilles Gauthier (Laval), Jean-Dominique LeBreton (Montpellier), Roger Pradel (Montpellier), Louis-Paul Rivest (Laval), Carl Schwarz (Simon Fraser) and Alain Vandal (McGill). Attending the conference is free of charge; contributed presentations are welcomed. To submit a contributed presentation or to obtain more information, visit *www.mat.ulaval.ca/la_recherche/capture_2006/*.

This conference will be followed by a four day workshop on the analysis of multistate capture-recapture data that will be given by Gilles Gauthier, Roger Pradel and Jean-Dominique LeBreton.

Registration information is available at the site of Capture 2006. Capture 2006 is organized by Gilles Gauthier and Louis-Paul Rivest and is sponsored by the Laboratoire de statistique of CRM, the Centre d'études nordiques de l'Université Laval and the Canada Research Chair in Statistical Sampling and Data Analysis.

Louis-Paul.Rivest@mat.ulaval.ca

SSC 2006 Election

Nancy Reid
University of Toronto

List of Candidates

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N.W.T.–Nunavut**
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(two to be elected)
Wendy Lou, Catherine Njue,
Tim Ramsay, Augustine Wong

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(two to be elected)
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Statistics Canada/NPCDS/MITACS Supported Research Internship Positions

Changbao Wu

Deadline: May 31, 2006

STATISTICS CANADA, THE National Program on Complex Data Structures (NPCDS) and MITACS announce up to three research internship positions at the Methodology Branch within Statistics Canada. Interested Ph. D. students who are in the course of related studies at a Canadian University or Postdoctoral students affiliated with a Canadian University are invited to send their applications (covering letter, CV, and Application for MITACS Internship) by May 31, 2006, to:

Dr. Milorad S. Kovacevic
Statistics Canada
17 "J" R.H. Coats Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A OT6
milorad.kovacevic@statcan.ca

Successful applicants will have the extremely valuable experience of working at Statistics Canada in Ottawa for a period of four to six months. The student would be involved in collaborative research with Statistics Canada and University researchers including their own supervisor. The focus is primarily on the development of analytic tools for analysing longitudinal data arising from complex surveys. Some possible topics include: modelling of correlated durations (spells) using longitudinal survey data, analysis of hierarchical survey data, structural equation modelling from survey data, small domain inference, and other suitable topics. An

experienced methodologist from the Methodology Branch will be assigned to work with each student during her or his stay at Statistics Canada. This collaboration would be mainly in the form of help for the more technical aspects of the doctoral dissertation, in helping with the analysis of the data and in interpreting the results. Doctoral advancement and academic supervision would be the responsibility of the applicant and her or his thesis-supervising professor.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

March 20 - 24, Conference on Stochastics in Science (in honour of Ole E. Barndorff-Nielsen's 71st birthday), Guanajuato, Mexico. See the website ***www.cimat.mx/Eventos/oebn-conference*** for details.

March 24 - March 24, Statistical Modeling in Finance, Department of Statistics of the Fox School of Business and Management of Temple University, Philadelphia. For further details, please contact Jagbir Singh at his e-mail address: ***jagbir.singh@temple.edu*** or telephone number 215-204-5069.

March 25 - March 25, ENAR Workshop on Panel Data for Junior Researchers, Tampa, Florida. For more details, see the website ***health.bsd.uchicago. edu/rathouz/ENARJrWorkshop***.

April 3 - 4, A Symposium on Stochastic Modeling, Toronto, Ontario. The overall theme for the symposium is "Practical Actuarial Applications of Stochastic Models". For more details, please access the link to the symposium below. ***www.actuaries. ca/publications/2005/205022e.pdf***. For more information, please contact Gilbert Lacoste, Chairperson of the Stochastic Modeling Organizing Committee at ***Gilbert.Lacoste@sunlife.com***.

April 5, One-day Short Course on the Analysis of Panel Data, University of Southampton, UK. Visit the following website for details: ***www.s3ri.soton. ac.uk/events/seminars/index.php***.

April 6 - April 7, 2006, Symposium on the Convergence of Methods for the Analysis of Panel Data, University of Southampton, UK . Visit the following website for details: ***www.s3ri.sotn. ac.uk/events/2005/paneldata.php***.

April 20 - April 21, SMAP2006, Statistical Methods for Performance Analysis , Cassino, Italy. Please see the website ***www.prinpie.unisa.it/smap*** for further details.

April 22 , 20th New England Statistics Symposium, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Website: ***www.wpi. edu/News/Conf/NESS/***.

May 10 - May 13, Annual 2006 Meeting of Classification Society of North America, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA. Proposals for special sessions, contributed papers and invited speakers are welcome and may be submitted via ***csna06@dimacs.rutgers.edu***. This meeting will be held partly as a joint meeting with the DIMACS workshop "Clustering Problems in Biological Networks" that is being held May 9-11, 2006 at DIMACS. See: ***dimacs.rutgers. edu/Workshops/Clustering/***.

May 17-19th, CASI 2006 (Conference of Applied Statistics in Ireland), Hotel Europe, Killarney, Ireland. Deadline for submissions: 28th Feb 2006. For details, see ***euclid.ucc.ie/pages/casi06/index. html***.

May 24 - 27, Interface 2006, Pasadena, California, USA. See the web-page ***www.galaxy.gmu.edu/Interface2006/ i2006webpage.html*** for details.

May 28 - 31, SSC-2006, Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, London, Ontario. The University of Western Ontario will be hosting the 2006 meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada. For information, contact the Local Arrangements Chair: David Bellhouse, Department of Statistical & Actuarial Sciences, Western Science Centre, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 5B7 E-mail: ***bellhouse@stats.uwo.ca***. Tel: (519) 661-3614 Fax: (519) 661-3813.

May 28 - June 1, Fourth International Chemometrics Research Meeting (ICRM 2006), Veldhoven, The Netherlands. For more info, see ***www.icrm. info***.

May 29 - 31, International Conference On Statistical Models For Biomedical And Technical Systems, Limassol, Cyprus. For details, see the web site ***www.ucy.ac.cy/biostat2006***.

June 1 - 7, 2006, Valencia / ISBA Eighth World Meeting on Bayesian Statistics, Benidorm, Alicante, Spain. For details, see the web site ***www. uv.es/valenciameeting***.

June 4 - 7, SRCOS/ASA Summer Research Conference, Kerrville, Texas, USA. For additional information on

junior speaker and graduate student support, please email Jack Tubbs at *jack_tubbs@baylor.edu*.

June 5 - 9, PROBASTAT 2006, 5th International Conference On Probability And Statistics, Smolenice Castle, Slovakia. For details, see the web site *aiolos.um.savba.sk/~viktor/ probastat.html*.

June 7 - 9, Joint Research Conference 2006 on Statistics in Quality, Industry, and Technology (JRC 2006), Knoxville,Tennessee, USA. For details, see the website *web.utk.edu/~leon/ JRC2006/*.

June 13 - 15, The 2nd IMT-GT 2006 Regional Conference on Mathematics, Statistics and Applications, The Gurney Hotel, Penang, Malaysia. Please see the website *math.usm. my/imtgt* for details.

June 13 - 17, 15th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2006), Uppsala, Sweden. The purpose of the workshop is to stimulate research, in an informal setting, and to foster the interaction of researchers in the interface between matrix theory and statistics. Invited Speakers include T.W. Anderson, G.H. Golub, D.A. Harville, S. Van Huffel, I. Olkin, F. Pukelsheim, Y. Saad, M. Srivastava. There will be a Special Session in honour of Professor Tarmo Pukkila's 60th Birthday. For further information, please visit *www.bt.slu.se/iwms2006/ iwms06.html* and/or contact *Dietrich. von.Rosen@bt.slu.se*.

June 14 - 17, ICSA 2006 Applied Statistics Symposium, Storrs, Connecticut, USA. For details, see the website *www.icsa.org*.

June 15 - 17, Conference on Ordered Statistical Data and Related Topics, Mashaad IRAN. For more information, please visit *osdrt.um.ac.ir/*.

June 15 - 17, useR! 2006, Vienna, Austria. This second world-meeting of the R user community will focus on R as the `lingua franca' of data analysis and statistical computing, will provide a platform for R users to discuss and exchange ideas on how R can be used to do statistical computations, data analysis, visualization and exciting applications in various fields, and will give an overview of the new features of the rapidly evolving R project. (Website: *www.R-project.org/useR-2006*).

June 18 - 21, BNP 2006, Fifth Workshop Bayesian Nonparametrics, Jeju, South Korea. For more info, see the website: *srccs.snu.ac.kr/Workshop/ 06BNP/06.htm*.

June 18 – 22, TIES 2006 - The annual meeting of the International Environmetrics Society, Kalmar, Sweden. For more info see the web site *www.mai. liu.se/ties2006/*.

June 25 - 28, INFORMS International Hong Kong 2006, Hong Kong, China. For more information, visit the website: *www.informs.org/Conf/ Hongkong06*.

July 2 - 7, ICOTS-7, International Conference on Teaching of Statistics, Salvador (Bahia), Brazil. The International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) are organizing the Seventh International Conference on Teaching Statistics(ICOTS-7) which will be hosted by the Brazilian Statistical Association (ABE). For details, visit the website at *www.maths.otago. ac.nz/icots7*.

July 12 - 14, Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys (MOLS) 2006, University of Essex, United Kingtdom. See the website *www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ ulsc/mols2006* for details.

July 16 - 21, XXIII International Biometric Conference (IBC2006) to be held on the downtown campus of the host institution, McGill University, in Montréal. Organized and sponsored by the International Biometric Society and the National Research Council of Canada. For further information on the conference and updates on the program, please visit: *www.ibc2006.org*.

July 18 - 20, IME2006, 10th International Congress on Insurance: Mathematics and Economics, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Call for papers is extended for IME2006. Abstracts should be submitted online by March 31, 2006, on the IME 2006 website *www.kuleuven.be/ime2006*.

July 30 – August 4, IMS Annual Meeting and X Brazilian School of Probability (XEBP), Instituto Nacional de Matématica Pura e Applicada (IMPA), Rio de Jeneiro, Brazil. For details, see the website *www.imstat.org/meetings/IMS2006/*.

August 1-5, Ninth Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability, University of Washington, Seattle. The purpose of this meeting, to be held just before JSM2006 in Seattle, WA, is to promote interaction among new researchers primarily by introducing them to each other's research in an informal setting. For the details, please visit the conference website, *www.stat. ohio-state.edu/~pfc/NRC/*.

August 6 - 10, 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings, Seattle, Washington, USA. JSM (the Joint Statistical Meetings)

are held jointly with the American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Statistical Society of Canada. For detailed information, contact *jsm@amstat.org* or phone toll-free (800) 308-8943 or follow the link for 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings from the URL *www.amstat.org/meetings/index.cfm?fuseaction=main*.

August 27 - 31, ISCB27 Geneva 2006, ISCB 2006 in Geneva will provide a forum for the international exchange of methods, applications, and theory of biostatistics in medical research and medical practice. For more information, contact David W. Warne (david_w_warne@bluewin.ch), or visit the website *www.iscb2006.info*.

August 28 - September 1, COMPSTAT2006: The 17th conference of the IASC, Rome, Italy. See the website *w3.uniroma1.it/compstat2006* for details.

November 1 - 3, The 23rd International Methodology Symposium "Methodological Issues in Measuring Population Health", organized by Statistics Canada, Chateau Cartier, Otawa/Gatineau. For more information, send e-mail inquiries to *symposium2006@statcan.ca* or contact Joanne Moloney by phone at 613-951-1469 or by e-mail at *joanne.moloney@statcan.ca*.

2007

June 9 - 13, SSC-2007, Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, St. Johns, New Foundland For information, contact the Local Arrangements Chair: Brajendra Sutradhar, Department of Mathematics and Statistics Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada A1C 5S7 E-mail: *bsutradh@math.mun.ca* Tel: (709) 737-8731 Fax: (709) 737-3010.

June 18 - 21, International Conference on Establishment Surveys III, Montreal, Quebec. For more information, please send an email message to *ices3@census.gov*.

July 29 - August 2, 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings, Salt Lake City, Utah. For detailed information, contact *jsm@amstat.org* or phone toll-free (800) 308-8943 or follow the link for 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings from the URL *www.amstat.org/meetings/index.cfm?fuseaction=main*.

August 22 - 29, International Statistical Institute 56th Biennial Session, Lisboa, Portugal. For details, see *www.cbs.nl/isi/*.

2008

May 25 - 30, SSC-2008, Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Ottawa Congress Center, Ottawa, Ontario. Pierre Lavallée [E-mail: *Pierre.Lavallee@statcan.ca*] is the local arrangements coordinator for this meeting. One goal for the program is to have some overlap with the joint meeting of the Canadian Math Society and the corresponding French society.

August 3 - 7, 2008, Joint Statistical Meetings, Denver, Colorado, USA. For detailed information, contact *jsm@amstat.org* or phone toll-free (800) 308-8943 or follow the link for 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings from the URL *www.amstat.org/meetings/index.cfm?fuseaction=main*.

CONSULTANT'S FORUM

Work/Life Balance – Is Becoming an Independent Consultant the Answer?

Tina Haller

WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS all the rage. Everyone is talking about it, but what does it really mean and how does one accomplish this with two young children, a husband who has a very demanding job, and your own job - which can be demanding at times. Managing work-life balance requires a personal awareness of what you value in life. For me, this meant a close relationship with my family and a career that I could be proud of. After my first child, I quickly realized the challenge of being a working mom with multiple role obligations. This escalated after the arrival of my second child, and so I began to think seriously about how I could stay at home, and still have a rewarding career. I examined my life priorities and career choices carefully, including the possibility of taking on a less demanding job, working fewer hours, or stopping work altogether. The issue was not about being the best full-

time mom and homemaker, or being a super-mom working outside the home. It was about my family needs, and how I could best meet those needs so that I could gain greater control over my work-life balance.

Knowing I had many contacts within the industry and that I had gained a vast amount of experience over the years was a critical component in my decision making to become an independent consultant. During the 11 years I worked for pharmaceutical companies, I learned the core competencies of being a successful statistician including public speaking, problem solving, innovation, and communication of results in layman terms. I also learned that studies do not run as smoothly as initially intended and that a major part of a statistician's role is to identify the quirks in the data and to find solutions to overcome them. And just when you think you have seen everything, another surprise or experience is lurking around the corner.

Another key lesson of that pharmaceutical experience was the essential role that the statistician plays in data management. The results of a study are only as good as the data itself. A good statistician needs to be hands-on: using data exploration tools to better understand the data and to ensure that proper statistical procedures are being implemented. I also realized that good validation procedures need to be in place which is even more critical as an independent consultant, since the consultant is solely responsible for the accuracy of every report, manuscript, table, listing and graph that goes out the door. If good validation procedures are not in place, the consultant's reputation is at stake.

Although having a solid background in the pharmaceutical industry and having many industry contacts were important assets to becoming an independent consultant, there were other considerations that needed to be addressed: was there too much competition? Would there be enough work to keep me busy? Could we pay the bills in the event that no work was coming in? Could I market myself effectively to bring in new clientele? Even though these thoughts kept swirling in my head for weeks on end, I could not help but think about all the benefits of working from home. There would be less stress

Tina Haller

in our lives, as we would not be rushing out the door in the mornings or rushing to get the kids to their extra-curricular activities; I would have more flexibility in arranging my workday. Also I would still have the intellectual stimulation and a feeling of contributing without losing out on some of the benefits of being a stay-at-home mom.

Although experience is important as well as contacts, there are specific traits that an independent consultant must have to be successful. These include strong entrepreneurial skills, a willingness to be flexible, yet disciplined and focused, resourceful, personable, and be able and willing to

withstand financial risks. Therefore, independent consulting may not be a good match for everyone.

A decision like this could not be made without knowing the ins and outs of what I was getting ready to embark on. I needed to prepare myself for the unknown adventure that I was about to sail. It was necessary for me to do extensive research first if I was going to make this a success. In my internet searches, I came across a government organization that would provide 12 free one-on-one consultation sessions with a general business consultant (***www.businessenterprise.ca*** – which services the South Simcoe region – but this same type of program is available in most areas). The business consultant was a wonderful resource. He provided much needed constructive feedback on my marketing material, resume, and business plan, as well as a lawyer with whom I was able to discuss legal issues like incorporation versus sole proprietorship, and an accountant who gave me insight into the financial aspects of this new business. After my sessions with the business consultant, I felt I was equipped with the tools I needed to succeed. The benefits were starting to outweigh the disadvantages and, although risky, it seemed to be the right decision for me.

I have now been consulting for the past 4 ½ years and have experienced many benefits of being a consultant, but it also is not without its many challenges. There is a lot of flexibility, but it also means that there is no line drawn between work and home life. Everything becomes meshed into one as the demands of deadlines peak and valley over time. When deadlines are set, it is the consultant's obligation to ensure that they are met, as the consultant's reputation is at risk. There are many

late nights and early mornings, and some days you start to go into zombie mode as the days and nights start to mesh together. Throw children into the mix and it can get quite chaotic at times.

Keeping your sanity is always a challenge working from home: not having any connection to the outside world; venturing into the big black hole (the office) never to be seen again until the end of the day; striving for intelligent, or maybe not so intelligent conversation with an adult. It is very important to form connections with the outside world, whether it is talking with other consultants, or being involved with societies like The Applied Biostatistician Association (TABA) and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), or recently jointly forming BCP Associates, a partnership for consulting services. This lack of connection with the outside world was one of my main motivations for getting The Applied Biostatistics Association (TABA) off the ground again in 2001. I saw a need for the statistical community to stay connected, but more so, I felt the need for myself to network with the outside world.

One of the biggest challenges of being an independent consultant is keeping up with technology. You need to make a conscious effort to keep up with new technology and methodology and to attend as many conferences and seminars as possible. Without an employer, the consultant is left to his or her own devices to ensure that the proper resources are in place.

Another challenge of being a consultant is predicting the amount of work a project will take. Projects do not always go as planned and it is hard to factor this into the overall cost. Oh, how I wish there were a neat and tidy formula for calculating pricing! It is the "toughest part of the job". Then there are the other costs associated with having your own company including the lawyer and accountant fees. There are billable hours and non-billable hours where the non-billable hours comprise administrative duties like expense reports, invoices, year-end bookkeeping, and other miscellaneous tasks. All of these need to be done on the consultants own time.

Being an independent consultant and mom at the same time has been a fulfilling experience for me. I have the flexibility to rearrange my work schedule. I have the opportunity to go on school trips with little notice, volunteer in my kids classes whenever possible, and be as excited as they are when they jump off the bus beaming to tell me how their day at school was. I certainly do not want to miss out on the unique joys of watching my children grow up.

Despite the many challenges that arise from being an independent consultant working from home, I would not give it up for anything. I have the best of both worlds, I have the intellectual stimulation and my kids will have the experience of "growing up with Mom".

Brief Biography

Tina Haller has been an independent consultant with Statcon Consulting Services Inc for the past 4 years. Recently she joined forces with Chi-Hsing Chang (from Info-Spectrum Inc.) to form a new company called BCP Associates to provide statistical consulting services in areas of clinical trials, health outcomes, marketing analytics, data mining, process development, and human resources. Prior to this, Tina worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 11 years with GSK and Bayer Inc. Tina has her B.Math from Waterloo and M.A. from York University. Tina is actively involved in The Applied Biostatistics Association of the Toronto Area. Any spare time she has left is spent running and playing soccer.

The University of Western Ontario Ivey School of Business in the foreground on the left and University College at the top of the hill. Built in 1923, University College was one of the first two buildings on the present campus. The 2006 SSC Annual Meeting will be held at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, May 28 to 31, 2006.

CJS: Coming Attractions

Doug Wiens
University of Alberta, Editor, CJS

THE MARCH 2006 issue of **The Canadian Journal of Statistics/La revue canadienne de statistique** opens with two papers devoted to bootstrap methodology. In 'Bootstrap diagnostics and remedies', Angelo Canty (McMaster U.), Anthony Davison (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland), David Hinkley (U. California Santa Barbara) and Valérie Ventura (Carnegie Mellon U.) review the current state of bootstrap diagnostics, making practical suggestions as to how to assess the validity of bootstrap output. Then Christian Léger (Université de Montréal) and Brenda MacGibbon (Université du Québec à Montréal), in 'On the bootstrap in cube root asymptotics', study the application of the bootstrap to a class of estimators which converge at a nonstandard rate to a nonstandard asymptotic distribution.

There follow three contributions focussed on empirical likelihood. Min Tsao (U. Victoria) and Changbao Wu (U. Waterloo), in 'Empirical likelihood inference for a common mean with heteroscedastic variances', consider various methods of inference, all based on empirical likelihood, for several independent but nonhomogeneous samples. The methods are applied to data related to gasoline quality, collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Then Ricardo Cao (U. da Coruña, Spain) and Ingrid Van Keilegom (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium), in 'Empirical likelihood tests for two-sample problems via nonparametric density estimation', study the problem of testing whether two populations have the same law, by comparing kernel estimators of the two density functions. In 'Block empiri-

cal likelihood for longitudinal partially linear regression models', Jinhong You (U. North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Gemai Chen (U. Calgary) and Yong Zhou (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing) propose new procedures to accommodate the within-group correlation in longitudinal partially linear models. These utilize the ideas of handling the correlated observations of the same subject by treating them as a 'block', and then fitting a locally linear smoother to the residuals from the linear fit to the model. Again, an interesting case study is included.
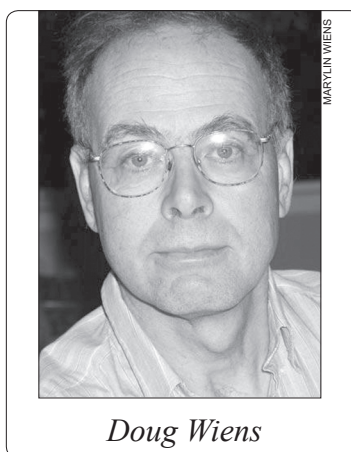
Doug Wiens

Partially linear models are again studied in the next paper, by Xuewen Lu, Gemai Chen (both U. Calgary), Radhey Singh (U. Guelph) and Peter Song (U. Waterloo). In 'A class of partially linear single-index survival models', they introduce models to relax the log-linear covariate effects imposed on the hazard function in the classical proportional hazards regression models.

In a Bayesian framework, 'relative surprise' inferences are based on how beliefs change from a priori to a posteriori. In 'Optimality and computations for

relative surprise inferences', Michael Evans (U. Toronto), Irwin Guttman (U. Buffalo) and Tim Swartz (Simon Fraser U.) demonstrate that relative surprise inferences possess a certain optimality property. An application is given to an important problem in reliability – that of making inferences about the probability that one random variable (the strength of a particular system) exceeds another.

Abdelouahab Bibi (Université Mentouri, Algeria) and Antony Gautier (Université Lille, France), in 'Propriétés dans L2 et estimation des processus purement bilinéaires et strictement superdiagonaux à coefficients périodiques', study the causality and invertibility of purely bilinear and strictly superdiagonal time series models with periodic coefficients.

The problem of testing that a regression response is linear is an important one, made more difficult if data are missing. Test statistics which address this are derived in 'Goodness of fit test for linear regression models with missing response data', by Wenceslao González Manteiga (U. de Santiago de Compostela, Spain) and Ana Pérez González (U. de Vigo, Spain).

Continuing the theme of methods for missing data, Jae Kwang Kim (Yonsei U., Seoul) and Hyeonah Park (Seoul National U.), in 'Imputation using response probability', propose a new ratio imputation method to compensate for item nonresponse in sample surveys.

I hope that you will enjoy perusing this latest issue of **The Canadian Journal of Statistics**.

ARTICLE

2000–2005 SSC Annual Scientific Meeting Participation by Gender

Rhonda J. Rosychuk
University of Alberta

HAVE YOU EVER sat in a room and been aware of the number of women and men? Have you been aware of where the women and men are positioned within the room? Before becoming the Chair of the Committee of Women in Statistics (COWIS), I admit I was not really aware of such things. I read an interesting article by 2004 IMS President Terry Speed on gender [1] and I wondered about the participation and roles of women in the SSC. I decided to focus on the annual scientific meeting and conducted a retrospective study of female participation in various roles at the 2000 to 2005 meetings. I was surprised to discover that the gender of the session organizer was associated with the gender of invited participants. I hope this article will encourage organizers to become more aware of female participation.

Methods

Data were collected from the published programs of the 2000 to 2005 annual meetings. Information recorded included session sponsor (e.g., Biostatistics Section), session type (e.g., invited, contributed), and participant role (e.g., organizer, speaker). The speaker was assumed to be the first author listed in a multi-authored talk. Sponsors were only recorded for invited sessions. Contributed sessions with an organizer listed were classified as contributed and the organizer was not included in any analysis. Poster sessions, sessions based on awards, case studies, and other sessions, such as NSERC information sessions, were not included in the analysis.

The name and gender of each participant was recorded. When the gender was not readily identifiable from the name, the internet was searched and selected SSC members, such as COWIS members, were queried for the correct gender classification. In addition, the 2005 SSC membership by gender and type (student, non-student) was requested for comparison. Counts and percents summarize the data and chi-square (χ2) tests assess the association between categorical variables.

Results

Table 1 presents the number of sessions by year, type, and sponsor. For invited sessions, the sponsoring section is also listed. The 2001 annual meeting was held jointly with the Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society and the structure of sponsors and sessions was different than the other years. Of the invited sessions, 2, 1, 1, and 1 in 2000, 2001, 2004, and 2005, respectively, were invited

panels. The President's sponsor refers to the Presidential Invited Address and its speaker is classified as an invited speaker. COWIS and the Canadian Section of the Caucus for Women in Statistics (Caucus) jointly sponsor one session per year. The Biostatistics Section (B), Business and Industrial Statistics Section (BISS), and the Survey Methods Section (SM) have sponsored 54 invited sessions. In 2000 and 2004, invited sessions were jointly sponsored by Survey Methods and Biostatistics and in 2003, one invited session was co-sponsored by Survey Methods and BISS. Each Section had a workshop in 2001-2005 and the Biostatistics and Survey Methods Sections had workshops in 2000. An additional SSC sponsored workshop was also offered in 2001.

The number and percentage of females by role and year are displayed in Table 2 (Figure 1 for selected roles). Female participation in all roles ranged between 16% and 30% during the six year study period with an overall per-

Table 1: Number of sessions by year and type.
Invited sessions are provided by sponsor.

Session Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	All
Invited	29	33	29	35	35	35	196
President's	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
COWIS/Caucus	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
B	4	0	4	4	4	4	20
BISS	0	1	2	3	3	4	13
SM	7	0	3	4	3	4	21
Joint	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Other	15	30	17	22	22	21	127
Contributed	15	16	13	19	23	17	103
Workshop	2	4	3	3	3	3	18
Total	46	53	45	57	61	55	317

Table 2: Number and percentage of females by role and year.

Role	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	All
Chair & Organizer	9/28(32%)	8/26(31%)	5/25(20%)	5/26(19%)	6/31 (19%)	14/34 (41%)	47/170(28%)
Organizer	1/1 (100%)	3/9 (33%)	0/4 (0%)	4/9 (44%)	0/5 (0%)	0/1 (0%)	8/29 (28%)
Chair	4/16(25%)	10/23(43%)	4/17(24%)	10/28(36%)	7/27 (26%)	4/18 (22%)	39/129(30%)
Discussant				0/2 (0%)	1/2 (50%)	1/3 (33%)	2/7 (29%)
Workshop Speaker	1/3 (33%)	1/5 (20%)	1/6 (17%)	0/3 (0%)	1/10 (10%)	1/7 (14%)	5/34 (15%)
Invited Speaker/ Panelist	12/70(17%)	19/83(23%)	16/76(21%)	13/96 (14%)	20/99 (20%)	22/97(23%)	102/521(20%)
Contributed Speaker	17/80(21%)	28/75(37%)	11/70(16%)	19/103(18%)	24/118(20%)	30/83(36%)	129/529(24%)
Total	30/153(20%)	47/163(29%)	28/152(18%)	32/202(16%)	45/227(20%)	53/187(28%)	236/1084(22%)

centage of 22% (236/1084). There was quite a lot of variability from year to year. With all years combined, 28-30% of session organizers, chairs, and discussants were female. Few females have been workshop speakers. Invited presentations were provided by a wide variety of female speakers. The vast majority of female invited speakers presented only once during the six year study period. One and five female speakers provided three and two invited presentations, respectively. There is weak evidence of fewer female invited speakers and panelists than female contributed speakers (102/521=20% vs 129/529=24%, $\chi_1^2=3.26$, p=0.071) for all years combined.

A summary of the SSC membership is provided in Table 3 for 2005 and analyses ignore members that did not indicate gender (33 students, 28 non-students). No evidence of a significant difference was found in the proportion of female membership (30%, 225/738) and the proportion of female invited speakers and panelists (23%, 22/97) in 2005 ($\chi_1^2=2.14$, p= 0.1428). It could be argued that invited speakers and panelists are not likely to be students. Thus, a more appropriate comparison would be with the non-student membership (28%, 176/625), where again no significant difference is found. If the 2005 membership figures are representative of the distribution over all study years, a smaller proportion of invited female speakers and panelists presented (20%, 102/521) than the female membership ($\chi_1^2=18.34$, p<0.001). The same can be said if the non-student membership is used for the comparison ($\chi_1^2=10.93$, p<0.001).

The invited speakers and panelists are stratified by session sponsor and gender of organizer in Table 4. Only sessions with a single organizer are displayed (190/196 sessions). During
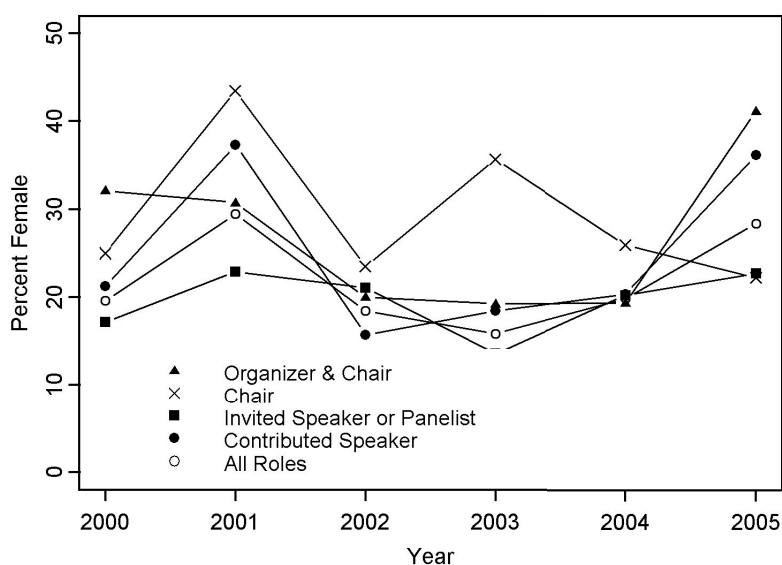
Figure 1: Female participation by selected roles and year.

Table 3: SSC 2005 membership counts and percent by gender category.

Gender	Student		Non-Student		All	
F	49	(43%)	176	(28%)	225	(30%)
M	64	(57%)	449	(72%)	513	(70%)
Total	113		625		738	

the study period, the President's invited speaker always had the same gender as the President. The COWIS/Caucus session has been almost completely female. Female organizers were more likely to have female invited speakers and panelists than male organizers (49/143=34% vs 49/365=13%, $\chi1^2$=27.34, p<0.001) when all sessions and years are combined. This relationship is also significant for the individual years 2003 to 2005 and when the COWIS/Caucus session is removed from the analysis (Figure 2).When compared to the 2005 non-student membership, male organizers had significantly fewer female invited speakers and panelists than membership (7/57=12% vs 176/625=28%, $\chi1^2$=5.92, p=0.0149). However, there was no evidence of a difference between membership and female invited speakers and panelists for female organizers (15/40=38% vs 28%, $\chi1^2$=1.18, p=0.2777).

Discussion

This article has summarized a retrospective review of published programs from SSC annual scientific meetings in recent years. While a similar review [2] for the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) has been conducted, the present study has focused on the SSC's annual scientific meeting and provided information by sponsor and invited session organizer. As for limitations, the study is based on published program accuracy, correct gender classifications, and relatively small sample sizes. In addition, information on potential confounders, such as age or expertise, is not readily available.

Overall, females have participated in 22% of the roles at the SSC annual meetings between 2000 and 2005.The proportion of females varied over year and role. Few females have been workshop speakers and the percentage of female invited speakers and panelists ranged from 14% to 23% over the individual years. The vast majority of invited female speakers and panelists presented only once during the study period.
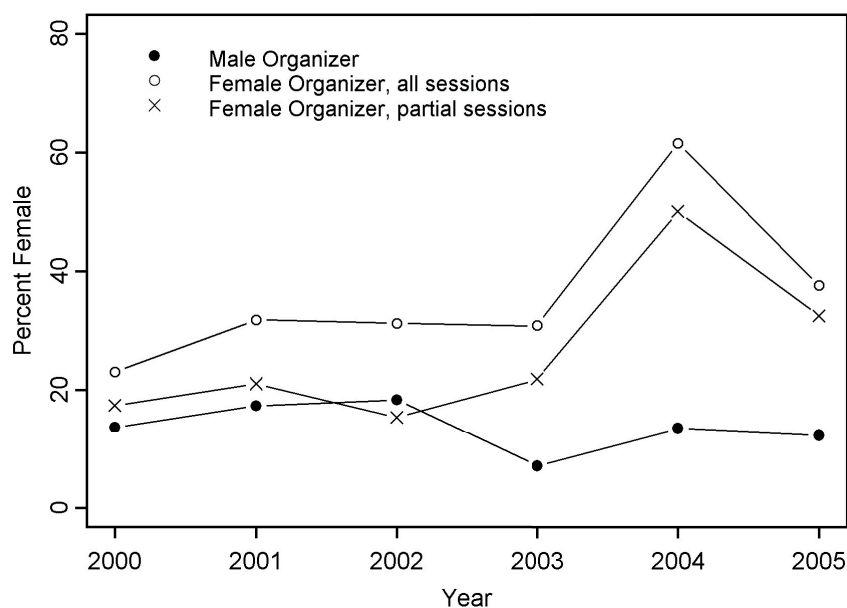

Figure 2: Percentage of female invited participants by year and gender of organizer. Partial sessions excludes the COWIS/Caucus sponsored invited session.

Invited participants have a higher profile at SSC meetings than organizers, chairs, and contributed speakers. Women should be appropriately represented as invited speakers and panelists. What is appropriate representation? The obvious answer is equal representation. Unfortunately, women are under-represented in our field. Several approaches could be used to

determine the population of potential invited presenters. A comparison with female authors in one or more statistical journals, such as the Canadian Journal of Statistics, was suggested. That would require a larger study and may include individuals based outside of Canada. A practical alternative is to follow the JSM study [2] and compare proportions with membership figures, although invited participants are not necessarily SSC members. The SSC membership and invited participant proportions in 2005 were not found to be different (23% vs 28%). For earlier years, a direct comparison is not available. If the female membership has remained steady at 28%, then a lower proportion of females were invited participants than members (20% vs 28%). If the female membership increased over the years then the proportion of female invited participants should be increasing rather than holding fairly steady around 20%. These figures are quite similar to the JSM study [2], where all co-authors and presenters are considered. During the same study

Table 4: Number and percentage of female invited speakers and panelists by sponsor, year, and gender of organizer.

Sponsor	Organizer	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	All
President's	F					1/1(100%)	1/1(100%)	2/2 (100%)
	M	0/1 (0%)	0/1 (0%)	0/1 (0%)	0/1 (0%)			0/4 (0%)
COWIS/ Caucus	F	2/3 (67%)	3/3(100%)	3/3 (100%)	3/3(100%)	3/3(100%)	3/3(100%)	17/18(94%)
	M							
B	F	0/4 (0%)			0/3 (0%)		2/7 (29%)	2/14 (14%)
	M	3/6 (50%)		2/11 (18%)	1/8 (12%)	0/9 (0%)	0/4 (0%)	6/38 (16%)
BISS	F			0/3 (0%)				0/3 (0%)
	M		0/1 (0%)	0/1 (0%)	0/7 (0%)	1/7 (14%)	1/10(10%)	2/26 (8%)
SM	F	3/11(27%)		2/7 (29%)	1/6 (17%)	0/1 (0%)	1/3 (33%)	7/28 (25%)
	M	2/8 (25%)		0/3 (0%)	0/4 (0%)	2/7 (29%)	1/8 (12%)	5/30 (17%)
Joint	F	1/3 (33%)				2/2(100%)		3/5 (60%)
	M			0/2 (0%)				0/2 (0%)
Other	F	0/5 (0%)	4/19(21%)	0/3 (0%)	4/14(29%)	2/6 (33%)	8/26 (31%)	18/73 (25%)
	M	1/29 (3%)	9/50(18%)	9/42 (21%)	4/50 (8%)	8/59 (14%)	5/35 (14%)	36/265(14%)
All	F	6/26(23%)	7/22(32%)	5/16 (31%)	8/26(31%)	8/13 (62%)	15/40(38%)	49/143(34%)
	M	6/44(14%)	9/52(17%)	11/60(18%)	5/70 (7%)	11/82(13%)	7/57 (12%)	49/365(13%)

period, about 20% of invited presenters and co-authors were female and the American Statistical Association membership survey indicated 30% of members are female.

I was surprised to find male organizers were less likely to have female invited presentations in their sessions than female organizers. Organizers must weigh a variety of factors when choosing speakers. This study cannot identify such factors and determine what invitations were declined. Organizers may naturally invite people within their networks and may not consciously consider gender. I echo Terry Speed's comments to "Keep Gender on the Agenda"[1] and I hope that this study will be repeated in future years. I encourage all organizers to think more broadly and consciously question if women have been included in the list of potential invitees.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to President David Binder for the membership data, Marilyn Josefsson for data entry, and COWIS members for their feedback. In addition, I thank the many SSC members who helped with the gender classification and provided comments on this article.

References

[1] Speed, T (2004). Keep Gender on the Agenda. IMS Bulletin, 33 (2), 4.

[2] Lazar, N (2005). Participation of Women in the Joint Statistical Meetings: 1996-2004. Amstat News, 340, 59-60.

NEWS

British Columbia

University of British Columbia-Vancouver

Dr Bruce Dunham joined the faculty in the Department of Statistics at the University of British Columbia - Vancouver as a tenure-track Instructor on December 1, 2005. Bruce comes to Canada from the University of Derby, UK, where he was a Senior Lecturer. Bruce's research interests centre mainly on stochastic processes and their application. Dr Arnaud Doucet, recently appointed as an Associate Professor jointly in the Departments of Computer Science and Statistics at the University of British Columbia - Vancouver, has been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Stochastic Computation. Arnaud's research interests include Monte Carlo methods, simulation, signal-processing, and Bayesian methods.

Contributed by Will Welch, University of British Columbia-Vancouver

Quebec

Laval University

Doctor Ali Dolati, from Shiraz University (Iran), is visiting the Department as a postdoctoral fellow for the period extending from July 31, 2005 to June 30, 2006. He is currently working with Christian Genest on problems of stochastic dependence and multivariate modeling. The statistics group announces the creation of the Canada Research Chair on Sampling and Data Analysis Scholarships. These $15,000

per annum scholarships will be offered to deserving candidates chosen from among those who have applied for admission, before March 1, 2006, in one of the Master's in Statistics programs (including the specialization in Biostatistics) offered at Laval University.

McGill University

At the McGill Convocation in June 2005, **George P. H. Styan** (CJS Managing Editor) was promoted to Professor Emeritus. In the photo McGill Provost Anthony Masi is shaking George's hand, while Morty Yalovsky (centre-left) and David Wolfson (right) are seated in the background. Anthony Masi helped establish six Research Data Centres,

permitting on-site access to Statistics Canada longitudinal surveys and is an external Research Fellow of the Italian National Statistics Institute in Rome. Morty Yalovsky took courses from

George and completed his PhD in statistics (under SSC Honorary Member Vanamamalai Seshadri) at McGill in 1976 and is now McGill Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance). David Wolfson has just become Chair of the McGill Department of Mathematics and Statistics and is the first statistician to chair this department.

Concordia University

SSC Liaison Editor **Yogendra Chaubey** has just become Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Concordia University and is the first statistician to chair this department.

OBITUARIES

Amitava Bose
(1946—2006)

On Sunday morning, January 22, 2006 at the age of 59, Dr. Amitava Bose, professor at Carleton University, passed away suddenly at home. He was the dear son of the late Asok Kumar Bose and the late Minati Sengupta, and loving husband of Ghislaine Mabile. He will be sadly missed by his children Alexis and Adrian, his sister Aumita, his brothers Alok and Antoine and family and friends in Canada and India. He will always be remembered as a loving husband and father and for his dedication to his work. For messages of condolences by internet: ***www.mem.com***

Narayan Chandra Giri
(1929—2006)

Dr. Giri, Retired Statistics Professor, Université de Montréal, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home on Sunday, January 29, 2006 at the age of seventy-seven. Cherished husband of Nilima Mandal Giri. Devoted and beloved father of Nabanita (Taylor) of Ottawa and Nandan. Adored and adoring Dadu of Ava Rose. Will be greatly missed by his extended family, close friends, colleagues and students in Canada, India, the U.S. and Europe. Donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Amitava Bose

Narayan Giri

BIOSTATISTICIAN - FULL TIME
DIVISION OF POPULATION HEALTH AND INFORMATION
ALBERTA CANCER BOARD

The Alberta Cancer Board is the provincial agency responsible for cancer treatment, research, prevention and early detection. The Division of Population Health and Information has an excellent, core-funded position available for a Biostatistician in Calgary. The Division, has a dynamic, expanding and stimulating environment, with six Research Scientists, including one Biostatistician, engaged in population-based research in cancer epidemiology, biostatistics and health services research.

We are looking for a team-oriented individual to conduct biostatistical research relevant to cancer control; to collaborate with the epidemiologists on externally-funded research projects; and to provide statistical consultation and service in a multi-disciplinary cancer research setting. The position is a combination of independent investigator-initiated research (minimum 40% protected time), collaboration and service with other opportunities to be involved in teaching and graduate student supervision at the University of Calgary. The successful candidate can also be involved with other cancer researchers in the Southern Alberta Cancer Research Institute (www.sacri.ucalgary.ca).

Detailed information about this position and the Alberta Cancer Board can be found at **www.cancerboard.ab.ca**.

Applications will be processed as they are received. Please submit a full CV, a detailed assessment of your qualifications for this particular position, an outline of your research interests, and the names of three references, **quoting Competition# 04-ACB-C77** to:

Alberta Cancer Board
Division of Population Health and Information
Room AE173, 1331 - 29 Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 4N2
Fax: (403) 270-3898 E-mail: careers@cancerboard.ab.ca

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada, although others are encouraged to apply.

ALBERTA CANCER BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

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Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo invites applications for a limited-term position (two or three years) as a Lecturer in Actuarial Science. Applicants with a PhD degree are preferred, although those with a Master's degree will also be considered seriously. Candidates must be committed to excellence in teaching. Successful applicants may be eligible for reappointment to a second term, and those demonstrating outstanding performance in teaching and service may be considered for an ongoing appointment as a Continuing Lecturer. Professional actuarial qualifications and experience, although not strictly necessary, would be a distinct asset. The closing date for applications is February 28, 2006.

Please submit a curriculum vitae, and arrange for at least three letters of reference to be sent to

Professor David E. Matthews, Chair
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