

Editorial

It is a great honor for me to be the new president of the Belgian Statistical Society. I hope that in the period 2008-2010 the society will grow further in number of members as well as in number of activities. Information on the new board can be obtained by reading the minutes of the general assembly (in this issue of B-Stat News) or by looking at our website (www.sbs-bvs.be). By doing so, you will learn that Marcel Remon (FUNDP) is our new vice-president, that Gentiane Haesbroeck (ULiège) and Marc Aerts (UHasselt) continue to serve as the secretary and the treasurer of our society. I greatly appreciate that they take these important responsibilities for the next period of three years and I do look forward to collaborate with the new board.

Our society will continue to support high level statistical events. A special statistical event is of course the Annual Meeting. In 2008 the meeting will be organized by the University of Namur. It will take place on October 16-17, 2008 and will be preceded by a Young Statisticians Day on October 15, 2008. To convince yourself that this is an event that you should not skip, simply look (once more) at the website of the SBS-BVS for details on the program and for nice pictures of the venue (Hôtel Leonardo at Wépion, www.leonardo-hotels.com). It has become a tradition that the Annual Meeting is jointly organized with B-ENBIS, RSS3CC and the Quetelet Society. Joining forces is an excellent idea, since it brings together a large number of statisticians working in academia and in different applied fields such as economy, finance, agriculture, medicine, epidemiology,... Strengthening this collaboration seems an important challenge for the future, a future where interdisciplinary activities will become more and more important.

Elaborating on this point, it is amazing to see the number of job opportunities for well-trained statisticians; the jobs are in a variety of scientific and industrial fields (you can read about current job offers at our website). Therefore, another challenge for the society is to help young statisticians at the pre-doc and post-doc level to become high level professionals. It is my ambition that, after discussion within the board, we come up with good activities that contribute to the professional training of our young statisticians. Already at this moment, I invite our PhD's in statistics to submit a one page summary of their thesis to B-Stat News, a summary that shows how their findings fit in the larger probabilistic or statistical framework and that puts the focus on the practical or methodological relevance of their work rather than on technical aspects.

I'm convinced that I will receive a lot of support from the board members and I hope to receive many suggestions for activities that contribute to a lively society.

Paul Janssen
President of the BVS-SBS