

B-Stat News

The Newsletter
of the
Belgian Statistical Society
Belgische Vereniging voor Statistiek
Société Belge de Statistique

Number 49 – May 2010

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**PRINCESS LILIAN FOUNDATION
VISITING PROFESSORSHIP FOR
PROF. ANASTASIOS A. TSIATIS**

**The First time ever this professorship was given to a
statistician**

Professor Anastasios Tsiatis from North Carolina State University (Raleigh, North Carolina, US) will be visiting the Interuniversity Institute for Biostatistics and statistical Bioinformatics (I-BioStat) from both Hasselt University and the Catholic University Leuven.

Little background

This visiting professorship has been created by the Princess Lilian Foundation with the specific aim to foster interaction between researchers based in Belgium and Europe and established experts.

Previous Visiting Professors include:

- Professor D. Melton (Harvard University; hosted by Professor D. Pipeleers, VUB)
- Professor Zeiher (Frankfurt, Germany; hosted by Professor Ch. Vrints, UIA)
- Professor Dietze (Johns Hopkins Medical School; hosted by Professor A. De Paepe, RUG)
- Professor P. Brown (Stanford University; hosted by Professor J. Dumont, ULB)
- Professor B.P. Bean (Harvard University; hosted by Professor V. Seutin, ULg)
- Professor Qais Al-Awqati (Columbia University; hosted by Professor O. Devuyst, UCL)

The period envisaged for the visit is May-June 2011. In this period Prof. Tsiatis will teach a doctoral-training course based on his state-of-the-art Springer book on semi-parametric theory and incomplete data. Furthermore Prof. Tsiatis will provide guidance to the doctoral students of both host institutions.

Prof. Tsiatis will give a sequence of research seminars on his research topics. These are positioned around survival analysis, clinical trials, surrogate markers, joint analysis of survival and longitudinal outcomes, and semi-parametric theory. His seminars will explicitly be accessible to researchers in medical statistics, biomedical research, and epidemiology. This will encompass researchers at the host institutions, other Belgian universities, the (biopharmaceutical) industry, and (governmental) research institutes, in particular the EORTC, of which the cancer-related mission is right at the heart of one of Prof. Tsiatis' main research interests and domains of expertise.

The research seminars will be of particular appeal to biomedical researchers and to quantitative researchers, in particular biostatisticians, working in the biomedical area.

Details of the seminars are as follows:

- ***Inaugural Lecture 1 (K.U.Leuven):*** Novel Study Designs for Treatment Strategies that Reflect Actual Clinical Practice
- ***Lecture 2 (UHasselt):*** Synergy Trial (accounting for treatment discontinuation)
- ***Lecture 3 (EORTC):*** Pursuit Trial (assessing length of infusion)
- ***Lecture 4 (Louvain-la-Neuve):*** Covariate adjustment
- ***Lecture 5 (UHasselt):*** The use of double robustness and establishing causality

Talks will be broadly announced, and members from academia, the government (regulators), and the industry will be welcomed.

The series of lectures will be made part of the doctoral program in biomedical sciences of K.U.Leuven and of other universities that are interested in this concept, ensuring that young researchers are encouraged to attend.

Biography

Professor Tsiatis graduated from Berkeley in 1974 in statistics. His advisor was Jerzey Neyman, one of the founders of modern statistical theory. He held professorships at the University of Wisconsin, Full Professorship at Harvard School of Public Health and the affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and is currently Full Professor at North Carolina State University. Through profound contributions in research, education, and consulting, his impact on medical statistics and clinical trials (in particular in oncology and

HIV) has been tremendous. He is one of the few world leaders in the successful combination of deep statistical methodology with state-of-the-art biomedical research.

The **research** of Prof. Tsiatis covers various areas. First, in survival analysis, he has developed the definitive large-sample theory of the Cox regression model. His 1981 *Annals in Statistics* paper has been cited well over 200 times. Second, in longitudinal data analysis, he has contributed seminal papers to surrogate-marker theory in clinical trials and to the joint modeling of longitudinal and survival outcomes. Third, he is one of the founders of group-sequential trial methodology. Fourth, he has contributed importantly to the theory of semi-parametric estimation theory. The practical consequence of his research is that a variety of complex designs can be implemented in clinical and epidemiological studies, while allowing for appropriate and computationally feasible analysis strategies. This shows, among other things, by the fact that his research is published in both the top medical statistics as well as medical journals. He has been awarded several prizes: (a) elected member of the International Statistical Institute; (b) elected fellow of the American Statistical Association and of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics; (c) Alumni Outstanding Research Award from North Carolina State University; (d) MERIT award from the National Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council; (e) named chair: Drexel Professor of Statistics at NC State University. Professor Tsiatis is Editor of *Biostatistics*, one of the top-ranked journals in probability and statistics. All of his research is published in top journals.

Turning to **education**, Prof. Tsiatis is a truly excellent teacher. He received many teaching awards: (a) Margaret Drolette Faculty Teaching Award of Harvard; (b) Teaching Citation of Harvard; (c) Rupert Miller Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford; (d) Greenberg Distinguished Lecturer at the University of North Carolina. His 2006 book (Springer, semi-parametric theory and incomplete data) testifies of his pedagogical qualities. As for **consultancy**, he frequently advises the Food and Drug Administration, and is advisory board and monitoring committee member for numerous clinical trials.

All of these extraordinary qualities ensure that Prof. Tsiatis will surely pay a successful visit to Belgium. His didactical qualities constitute an important factor of success in the effective communication of and interaction about his top-quality research.

**4TH ANNUAL DOCTORAL WORKSHOP OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL IN STATISTICS AND
ACTUARIAL SCIENCES**

Gembloux, Belgium, 18 May 2010

Program

09:00 Welcome coffee

09:00 Welcome Word (A. Théwis)

09:30 Invited session

Pr C. Demetrio *Formulating mixed models for experiment, including longitudinal experiments*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Senior PhD students invited session

Lebrun, P. (ULg, Biostat) - *Bayesian hierarchical linear regression for the validation of analytical methods*

Ley, C. (ULB, Stat) - *Multivariate runs tests for symmetry*

Schwarz, M. (UCL, Stat) - *Adaptative nonparametric instrumental regression by model selection*

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Parallel contributed sessions: graduates' researches

Biostat session

Cetinyurek, A. (ULg, Biostat) - *Bayesian modelling of clustered interval-censored data using a flexible shared frailty model*

Donneau, A.-F. (ULg, Biostat) - *The partial proportional odds assumption in the analysis of longitudinal ordinal data*

Jaeger, J. (UCL, Biostat) - *Functional estimation in systems defined by differential equation using bayesian smoothing methods*

Zhang, L. (ULg, Biostat) - *The modified Reyment's multivariate coefficient of variation*

Stat/Actu session

Badran, R. (ULB, Actu) - *A new approach to dependence: generalization of the Bernoulli and Poisson shock model*

Laurent, G. (ULg, Stat) - *Computational study of the error distribution in right-censored and selection biased regression models*

Pigeon, M. (UCL, Stat) - *Composite lognormal-Pareto model with random threshold*

Rayée, G. (ULB, Stat) - *Local volatility pricing models for long-dated FX derivatives*

16:00 Social activity

Visit of the ancient Benedictine Abbey of Gembloux and local craft beer tasting

EUROPEAN MEETING OF STATISTICIANS 2010

Piraeus, Greece, 17-22 August 2010

The 28th European Meeting of Statisticians (EMS 2010), will be held August 17–22, 2010 at the University of Piraeus in Greece. The meeting is held under the auspices of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability.

The purpose of EMS 2010 is to provide a forum where researchers from universities throughout the world, as well as practitioners, can discuss current problems, new approaches and future directions in the fields of Probability and Statistics. Young researchers and PhD students are especially invited to contribute papers.

Important dates

January 2, 2010	Registration opens
April 20, 2010	Deadline for submission of Contributed / Poster Paper Abstracts
May 15, 2010	Author notification for Contributed Paper / Poster Acceptance
June 1, 2010	Closing date for early bird reduced cost registration
July 15, 2010	Deadline for submission of presentation material

The web site of the conference stat.unipi.gr/ems2010.

CAPITA SELECTA IN COMPLEX DISEASE ANALYSIS

Leuven, 25-27 August 2010

Human complex diseases are controlled by complex molecular mechanisms that are characterized by the joint action of multiple genes, each having only a small effect. In this context, traditional methods involving single sign posts have limited use and more advanced and efficient methods are needed to identify gene interactions and epistatic patterns. In this post-genomic era, it is our firm belief that advanced methods in statistical genetics should make better use of the vast amount of information that can be retrieved from proteomics, transcriptomics and metabonomics, to name but a few.

Along these lines, we are happy to announce the first edition of the biennial meeting on Capita Selecta in Complex Disease Analysis. The activity will take place in Leuven (Belgium) and is composed of two parts: on Wednesday August 25, several short courses will be given by invited lecturers and on Thursday August 26 and Friday August 27, a series of high level seminars is organized.

Confirmed keynote speakers

Madan **Babu**, University of Cambridge, UK
David **Evans**, University of Bristol, UK
Lude **Franke**, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
Ivo **Gut**, Centre National de Génotypage, France
Peter **Holmans**, Cardiff University, UK
Christophe **Lambert**, Golden Helix, USA
Jason **Moore**, University of New Hampshire, USA
Marylyn **Ritchie**, Vanderbilt University, USA
Christine **Van Broeckhoven**, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Peter **Van der Spek**, Erasmus University Medical center, The Netherlands
Séverine **Vermeire**, University Hospital Leuven, Belgium

Important dates

21 May : notification of acceptance

25 June : early registration deadline

More information: <http://www.aimontefiore.org/cscda2010/>

ENBIS10

Antwerp, Belgium, September 12-16, 2010

The 10th annual meeting of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics will take place at the University of Antwerp and aims to bring together all professionals who are involved in business and industrial statistics. The conference will offer opportunities to meet each other and to share ideas and best practices.

This year we will have keynote speakers, invited and contributed sessions as well as workshops, panel discussions and short courses. Contributions can take the form of an oral presentation or a poster presentation (both will have bibliographic status as *presentation*). To attract more attention to the posters, a poster storm session and a poster walk will be organized.

ENBIS invites presentations from a wide range of applications: industry, manufacturing, administration, marketing, sales, risk management, logistics and service. Contributions can consist of review papers (presenting state of the art advances in scientific research), overview and introductory papers (presenting an area of expertise to the uninitiated), and best practice communications (sharing experiences of practitioners). People from industry and business are strongly encouraged to present their problems and current solutions.

The session topics include but are not limited to the special areas of interest that exist in ENBIS and are listed below.

- Data mining and warehousing
- Design of experiments
- Measurement uncertainty
- Process modeling and control
- Reliability and safety
- Statistics in the pharmaceutical industry
- Statistical computing
- Operational risk management
- Statistics in practice
- Stochastic modeling
- Quality improvement and Six Sigma

More information:

http://www.enbis.org/events/current/94_ENBIS10_Antwerpen

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "TIME SERIES, QUANTILE REGRESSION AND MODEL CHOICE"

Dortmund, Germany, September 20-21 2010

The Collaborative Research Center "Statistical Modelling of Nonlinear Dynamic Processes" (SFB 823), supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), is proud to announce an international workshop on "Time Series, Quantile Regression and Model Choice", to be held in Dortmund, Germany, on September 20th/21st 2010. The aim is to bring together internationally renowned experts in these areas with the researchers of SFB 823 in order to review recent developments and initiate scientific exchange. The workshop is in part a continuation of the successful series of "Brussels-Waseda Seminars on Time Series and Financial Statistics".

Speakers:

Rainer **Dahlhaus** (Universität Heidelberg), Xuming **He** (University of Illinois), Junichi **Hirukawa** (Niigata University), Ivan **Mizera** (University of Alberta), Davy **Paindaveine** (ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Stephen **Portnoy** (University of Illinois), Jérôme **Saracco** (Université Bordeaux 1), Hiroshi **Shiraishi** (Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo), Kenichiro **Tamaki** (Waseda University, Tokyo), Masanobu **Taniguchi** (Waseda University, Tokyo), David **Veredas** (ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Keming **Yu** (Brunel University, Uxbridge)

A conference dinner will be held on Monday, 20th September.

There is no registration fee for the workshop, the fee for the dinner (35 Euro) will be collected in cash at the registration desk. For registration, please contact Stephanie Krombach: (krombach@statistik.tu-dortmund) and indicate whether you plan to attend the conference dinner.

The deadline for registration is July 31st 2010.

More information: <http://www.statistik.tu-dortmund.de/1397.html>

NON-CLINICAL STATISTICS CONFERENCE 2010

Lyon, France, September 27-29, 2010

Following the success of the Non-clinical Statistics Conferences organized in 2006 in Potsdam and in 2008 in Leuven, as well as the US edition organized in 2009 in Boston, the organizing committee is delighted to invite you to join the 2010 Non Clinical Statistics conference in Lyon, on September 27 – 29, 2010.

The conference will be held in “Cité Internationale”, offering a wonderful environment for this conference.

The Conference will start with a Workshop delivered by Professor Jerome H. Friedman (Department of Statistics, Stanford University, USA) as invited speaker on “*Regularized regression and classification when the number of parameters greatly exceeds the number of observations*”.

The next two days will be organized in session focused on many different topics, including:

- Model Based Drug Development
- Translational Medicine & Biomarkers
- Chemical Manufacturing & Control
- Toxicology
- Omics
- REACH and its implications on statistics
- Use of Bayesian Statistics in non-clinic areas

Contributions are welcome; there will be oral communication as well as posters (the posters will be displayed during the whole conference). Deadline for abstract submission is 30 April, 2010. The corresponding forms are available on our website (www.ncsc2010.org) for downloading.

You can already register by sending an email to info@ncsc2010.org.

More information: www.ncsc2010.org

18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Spa, Belgium (13) 14-15 October 2010



The 2010 meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society (SBS-BVS) is organised by ULB (Department of mathematics) and will take place at the Domaine Sol Cress in Spa on October 14 and 15, 2010. Additionally, a special afternoon session is held on October 13, 2010, for the presentation of the work of (and by) PhD-students. Everybody is most welcome to attend.

The meeting is organised in collaboration with the Quetelet Society, the Biostatistical section of the BSS, the Interuniversity Attraction Pole on Statistical Analysis of Association and Dependence in Complex Data and Enbis.

Invited speakers

- Els **Goetghebeur** (Universiteit Gent)
- Goran **Peskir** (University of Manchester)
- Winfried **Stute** (Universitaet Giessen)
- Simon **Tavaré** (University of Cambridge)

Important dates:

May 16	Start of reduced fee registration and abstract submission
July 16	Deadline for abstract submissions
August 16	Notification of accepted submissions
August 31	Deadline for reduced fee registration

More information: <http://bss2010.ulb.ac.be>

FORTHCOMING STATISTICAL EVENTS

May 7, 2010 – Hasselt (UHasselt), Belgium, *Estimating infectious disease parameters from data on social contacts and serological status*, Nele Goeyaerts

More information: <http://www.ibiostat.be/seminars/default.asp>

May 18, 2010 – Gembloux, Belgium, seminar on « *Technologie de l'information et de la communication dans l'enseignement* »

More information: Dominique.Marchal@ulg.ac.be

May 19, 2010 – Gembloux, Belgium, *4th Annual Doctoral Workshop of the Graduate School in Statistics and Actuarial Sciences*

More information: <http://www.fsagx.ac.be/si/DocWork.htm>

May 19-21, 2010 – Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium, *First applied Bayesian biostatistics workshop BAYES2010*

More information: http://www.sbs-bvs.be/bayes2010_1.pdf

May 19-21, 2010 – Gembloux, Belgium, Short course on “*Applied mixed models*”, Pr. Demetrio, Escola Superior de Agricultura “Luis de Queiroz”, Piraicaba, Brazil

More information: <http://www.fsagx.ac.be/si/DocWork.htm>

June 1-3, 2010 – Louvain-la-neuve (UCL), Belgium, short course on “*Regression estimation under shape constraints - an overview* ” given by Professor Menalie Birke from Bochum University

More information: edt-stat-actu@uclouvain.be

June 4, 2010 – Hasselt (UHasselt), Belgium, *Modelling of high-resolution mass spectra*, Qi Zhu

More information: <http://www.ibiostat.be/seminars/default.asp>

June 30-July 2, 2010 – Santiago de Compostela, Spain, International workshop on spatio-temporal modelling (METMAV)
More information: <http://eio.usc.es/pub/METMA>

Augustus 17-22, 2010 – Piraeus, Greece, *European meeting of statisticians 2010*
More information: <http://stat.unipi.gr/ems2010>

Augustus 25-27, 2010 – Leuven, Belgium, *CSCDA2010*
More information: <http://www.aimontefiore.org/cscda2010>

September 8-10, 2010 – Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium, *Deuxième colloque francophone international sur l'enseignement de la statistique*,
More information: <http://cfies2010.ulb.ac.be/>

September 12-16, 2010 – Antwerp, Belgium, *ENBIS10*,
More information:
http://www.enbis.org/events/current/94_ENBIS10_Antwerpen

September 20-21, 2010 – Dortmund, Germany, *International workshop on "Time series quantile regression and model choice"*,
More information: <http://www.statistik.tu-dortmund.de/1397.html>

September 27-29, 2010 – Lyon, France, *Non-clinical statistics conference*,
More information: <http://www.ncsc2010.org/>

October 13-15, 2010 – Spa, Belgium, *18th Annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society*,
More information: <http://bss2010.ulb.ac.be>

December 5-10, 2010 – Florianópolis, Brazil, *XXVth International Biometric Conference*,
More information: <http://www.rbras.org.br/~ibcfloripa2010/>

JOB MARKET

All vacancies are posted in full detail at our website

- GSK - Senior biostatistician
- Universiteit Hasselt – Vacancy ZAP bioinformatics
- Universiteit Antwerpen - PhD position
- Universiteit Antwerpen - Academic staff in the domain of Statistics
- Université de Grenoble (France) - Professeur invité de Statistique
- Universiteit Antwerpen - Academic Job Opening
- EORTC - Senior biostatistician
- University of Wolongong - Fellow position, Australia
- SEC - SEC Senior Biostatisticien, Suisse
- SEC - SEC SAS Programmer, The Netherlands
- SEC – SEC Study Statistician, Germany (South)
- AGRER - Support for alignment of Albania Statistics with EU standards
- GSK - Biostatisticien senior R&D, position d'expert, CDI
- IDDI - Biostatistician

EDITORIAL NOTE

We would like to publish in this *Newsletter* any statistical matter such as:

- Information about universities, institutes (1 to 3 pages);
- Lists of recent publications and technical reports;
- Abstracts of recent PhD theses;
- News of members;
- Forthcoming statistical events and announcements;
- Short papers about teaching methods in statistics, statistics in the industry, official statistics, etc.

Suggestions are welcome: please, contact us.

Suitable information for the next issue, prepared as **(LA)TEX or WORD FILES**, should reach the editors of the Newsletter **BEFORE August 31, 2010**, preferable by e-mail to:

sophie.vanbelle@ulg.ac.be or herbert.thijs@uhasselt.be

Any change of job, address, phone number, ... ?

Please notify the Secretary of the Society:

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