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PROCES VERBAUX DES ASSEMBLES GENERALES

Assemblée générale du 22 février 2006
à 17h à la Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Présents: M. Aerts, A. Albert, C. Dehon, G. Haesbroeck, M. Hallin, P. Janssen, P. Lambert, W. Rey, Ch. Ritter, P. Slock, J. Teugels, M. Vandebroek.

Excusés: L. Bijmens, T. Bruss, J.J. Claustrioux, P. Dagnelie, U. Einmahl, I. Gijbels, J. Loris-Teghem, D. Renard, H. Van Oyen.

La séance est ouverte à 17h15.

1. Approbation du procès verbal de l'Assemblée générale du 24 février 2005

Le procès verbal, publié dans le *B-Stat News* N°34 de mai 2005, est approuvé sans modification.

2. Rapport moral et rapport d'activités

Le Président A. Albert dresse le bilan des activités de l'année 2005, première année de son mandat à la présidence de la SBS-BVS.

- Le Conseil d'Administration de la Société s'est réuni à trois reprises, respectivement les 9 mai, 4 octobre et 6 décembre 2005, chaque fois à l'Institut National de Statistique (INS) à Bruxelles. A. Albert profite de l'occasion pour remercier, au nom des membres du Conseil d'Administration, l'INS pour son hospitalité et sa générosité. Comme il l'a écrit dans son éditorial du numéro de janvier du *B-Stat News*, il regrette les moments difficiles que traverse actuellement l'Institut National de Statistique suite à une réorganisation interne. En réalité, l'INS est devenu au sein du Service Public Fédéral (SPF) Economie, Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, Classes moyennes, une entité de la « Direction Générale Statistiques et Informations économiques ». La SBS-BVS a reçu l'assurance de pouvoir maintenir son siège social au 44, rue de Louvain à l'INS, de

continuer à tenir les réunions du CA dans la salle Quetelet et de pouvoir compter sur un soutien financier annuel de 2.500 €.

- L'effectif de la Société a atteint le nombre de 342 membres. En 2005, 26 nouveaux membres ont rejoint la Société et 8 membres supplémentaires seront approuvés à cette Assemblée générale, ce qui conduit à un total de 34 nouveaux membres en 2005. Cependant, un certain nombre de membres seront aussi rayés de la liste car ils ne sont pas en ordre de cotisation. Les règles des ASBL-VZW sont devenues plus strictes et il est important pour la société de respecter la législation en vigueur. Un travail important a été réalisé par la secrétaire G. Haesbroeck pour veiller au respect des dispositions en matière de cotisation de membre et le CA l'en remercie.
- En 2005, il y a eu trois parutions du B-Stat News (N°33, 34 et 35). Le CA a dû pourvoir au remplacement des deux éditeurs du B-Stat News, Mia Hubert (KUL) et Philippe Lambert (UCL) qui ont souhaité se retirer après 4 années de loyaux et fidèles services. Le Président tient à leur exprimer sa plus vive reconnaissance pour la qualité et la quantité de travail accompli. Durant leur mandat, ils ont su maintenir à un bon niveau la revue créée en 1992. En 2005, le CA a nommé deux nouveaux éditeurs pour le B-Stat News, Olivier Thas (UGent) et Sophie Vanbelle (ULg). Le Président tient à les remercier et leur souhaite bon travail. Il demande à l'Assemblée générale de bien vouloir approuver ces deux nominations pour un terme de 3 ans. Le premier B-Stat News (N° 36) de la nouvelle équipe est sorti de presse et a été envoyé à tous les membres.
- Le site web de la Société a été maintenu à jour par Laurence Seidel (ULg) qui ne manque pas de communiquer par email aux membres de la Société toute information intéressante (annonces de conférence ou de workshop, offres d'emploi, vacances de cours, etc.). Les membres du CA remercient L. Seidel de son aide efficace.
- La 13^e réunion annuelle de la SBS-BVS s'est tenue à Oud Turnhout dans le cadre du merveilleux site du « Priorij van Corsendonk », les 14 et 15 octobre 2005, et ce à l'initiative des statisticiens de l'Université de Gand. En particulier, le Président tient à remercier Olivier Thas qui a été la cheville ouvrière du comité d'organisation. Ce Congrès a compté 124 participants, 9 conférenciers invités, 26 présentations orales et 11 posters. Elle fut organisée, pour la première fois, conjointement avec d'autres sociétés scientifiques: la Société A. Quetelet, le « RSS-3CC local group » et b-ENBIS. Dans l'ensemble, cette association s'est avérée être un succès malgré le

fait qu'il était parfois difficile d'opérer un choix entre deux sessions parallèles où intervenaient au même moment des conférenciers de renom. Le Président tient à féliciter Olivier Thas et l'équipe de Gand pour cette réunion annuelle réussie et relevée au niveau scientifique.

- L'organisation de la 14^e réunion annuelle, initialement confiée aux Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix à Namur (FUNDP), a dû être transférée à l'UCL pour des raisons internes aux FUNDP. Le Président tient à remercier Christian Ritter (UCL), membre du CA, Jean-Marie Rolin et l'Institut de Statistique de Louvain-la-Neuve d'avoir accepté cette tâche au pied levé. Il annonce que le Congrès annuel se déroulera les jeudi 13 et vendredi 14 octobre 2006 à Houffalize. Il est envisagé d'organiser une réunion spéciale pour les jeunes statisticiens le mercredi 12 après-midi. En principe, les Facultés de Namur devraient organiser la réunion annuelle en 2008.
- En 2005, la SBS-BVS a subsidié plusieurs événements scientifiques, en particulier le « European Course in Advanced Statistics (ECAS) » qui a eu lieu du 12 au 16 septembre 2005 à La Roche-en-Ardenne, ainsi qu'une exposition sur les « 120 Belges les plus célèbres » au Château de Beloeil (Château des Célébrités) du 16 septembre au 20 novembre 2005. En particulier, la SBS-BVS a soutenu la personnalité d'Adolphe Quetelet (1796-1874), père de la statistique sociale, de l'indice de masse corporelle et de l'homme « moyen ».
- La situation financière de la Société est saine. Le Président tient à remercier Marc Aerts (trésorier) et Hilde Wijnen (UHasselt) de leur aide efficace. Le CA réfléchit actuellement sur des propositions visant à mieux valoriser les moyens financiers au profit des membres. Plusieurs pistes ont été évoquées :
 - Promotion des statistiques via un prix pour la meilleure thèse de doctorat
 - Aide financière aux jeunes chercheurs
 - Soutien accru à la section Biostatistique qui est très active
 - Augmentation du sponsoring des événements scientifiques (annuellement 4×750 € au lieu de 2×750 €)
 - Développement de projets visant à ouvrir les statistiques à un plus large public
- Enfin, le Président tient à exprimer sa sympathie envers les membres de l'Institut de Statistique de l'ULB. Celui-ci vit actuellement des heures difficiles après plus de 40 années d'existence. Il souligne la

contribution exceptionnelle que l'Institut a apportée à la statistique non seulement sur le plan national mais aussi international.

2bis. Rapport moral et rapport d'activités de la section biostatistique

Ph. Lambert présente les activités de la Section "Biostatistique" de la Société.

- Activités organisées, co-organisées ou soutenues par la Section
 - Dr. N. Best (Dpt of Epidemiology & Public Health, Imperial College, London, UK) a été invité à donner le cours intitulé "An introduction to Bayesian inference in biomedical applications" à Louvain-la-Neuve (Eli Lilly Development Center) les 3 et 4 mai 2005. Vingt-sept personnes ont participé à ce cours.
 - La section a organisé le 16 novembre 2005 dans les locaux de EORTC (Brussels) un cours d'une journée dont le professeur invité était Dr. B. Beck (European Early Phase Statistic department, Eli Lilly, Belgium). Le sujet était consacré au thème suivant "Practical Bayesian modelling with BUGS / BRUGS/ CODA / WBDIFF in pharmaceutical R&D" et vingt personnes y ont assisté.
 - Le 17 novembre 2005, la Section a organisé un workshop sur un sujet similaire, "Bayesian inference in biomedical applications", pendant lequel plusieurs orateurs étrangers sont intervenus. Cette activité s'est déroulée à EORTC et 21 personnes y ont participé.
- Activités relatives à la EFSPI (European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry):
 - La Section est représentée à la EFSPI par deux membres (C. Dubois et B. Boulanger).
 - C. Dubois a la responsabilité de rassembler et transmettre toute information sur des événements se déroulant en Belgique et pouvant être intéressants pour les membres de la EFSPI.
 - B. Boulanger a participé à l'*International workshop on statistical methodology in clinical and nonclinical R&D* (26-28 octobre 2005, Nice, France). Il faisait d'ailleurs partie du comité scientifique.

- Activités prévues
 - Elections : B. Boulanger et Ph. Lambert sont arrivés au terme de leur mandat. Un membre académique et un membre de l'industrie pharmaceutique devront être élus pour un nouveau mandat de 4 ans. Un appel à candidature a été envoyé à tous les membres de la Section début février et la date limite pour postuler est le 5 mars 2006. Les votes seront clôturés et dépouillés lors de l'Assemblée générale de la section au printemps 2006.
 - BSS2006 : la section prévoit d'organiser une session et d'inviter un orateur lors du congrès annuel de la SBS-BVS du mois d'octobre 2006.
 - D'autres activités seront annoncées dans le courant de l'année

- Rapport financier: Il sera présenté lors de l'Assemblée générale de la Section au printemps 2006.

Le vote est fait sur ces rapports et l'Assemblée Générale donne décharge au Président et au Conseil sur ce point.

3. Rapport financier

Les comptes de l'année 2005 sont présentés et détaillés par le trésorier M. Aerts. Ceux-ci se finalisent par un bénéfice assez important de 12.597,03 €.

Vu l'état actuel des comptes qui, au 31/12/2005, s'élèvent à 78.730,96 €, on peut conclure que la SBS-BVS se trouve dans une situation financière très confortable.

Le vote est fait sur ce rapport. Ces comptes sont approuvés à l'unanimité.

4. Rapport du Secrétaire

En 2005, 290 membres ont payé leur cotisation. Ce sont ces membres qui seront officiellement repris sur la liste des membres de la Société. En effet, selon la nouvelle loi régissant les ASBL, une liste des membres doit être officiellement établie et fournie aux greffes chaque année. La secrétaire signale que dorénavant, cette liste ne sera constituée que des personnes en ordre de payement pour le 31 décembre de l'année en question.

Par ailleurs, parmi les personnes n'étant pas en règle de cotisation en 2005, 23 n'ont pas payé depuis au moins deux années. Ces membres ont été contactés à plusieurs reprises par le secrétariat afin de leur demander de se

mettre en ordre de cotisation. Sans réponse de leur part et ce, conformément aux statuts de la Société, l'Assemblée Générale procède à leur radiation.

5. Admission de nouveaux membres

Au cours de l'année 2005, 26 membres ont été admis par le Conseil. Il s'agit de:

Bart AMPE (Ghent University), Kaatje BOLLAERTS (Universiteit Hasselt), Toufif BOUEZMARNI (KULeuven), Andreas CHRISTMANN (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Hans COPPENOLLE (Janssen Pharmaceutica), Julia DONY (VUB), Maria José GARCIA ZATTERA (KULeuven), Sarah GELPER (KULeuven), Klara GOETHALS (Ghent University), Alejandro JARA VALLEJOS (KULeuven), Astrid JULLION (UCL), Dan LIN (Universiteit Hasselt), John T. MARINGWA (Universiteit Hasselt), Paul MEYVISCH (UCB), Roger MOORE (Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd.), Harriet NAMATA (Universiteit Hasselt), Florence NOZAY (Glaxo SmithKline Biologicals), Virginie PAUTRET (BMS), Réjane ROUSSEAU (UCL), Sarah RUSCH (Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals R&D), Filomena VALENTE SOARES (Ecole de Santé publique, ULB), Yuik SWAN (ULB), Johan VAN KERCKHOVEN (KULeuven), Tim VERDONCK (Universiteit Antwerpen), Kristien WOUTERS (Universiteit Hasselt), Lixin ZHANG (ULg).

Il faut de plus ajouter 8 nouveaux membres admis lors de la présente Assemblée Générale, à savoir

Emilie BARRE (Bristol Myers Squibb), Saghir BASHIR, Stephen FRANCIS (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Yuri GOEGEBEUR (University of Southern Denmark), Delphine HENNICKEN (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Roxana Alice ION (Janssen Pharmaceutica), Javier SAWCHIK (UCB), Willem TALLOEN (Janssen Pharmaceutica).

L'Assemblée générale ratifie ces nouvelles admissions.

6. Admission de nouveaux membres institutionnels

Il n'y a pas eu d'admission de nouveaux membres institutionnels en 2005. Il semble utile de préciser ici que, bien que l'Institut National de Statistique verse chaque année un montant de 2500 € à la Société, cela ne correspond pas au paiement d'une cotisation en tant que membre institutionnel mais à un don.

7. Etat du *B-Stat News*

Ainsi que déjà signalé dans le rapport d'activité du Président, M. Hubert et Ph. Lambert ont désiré arrêter la charge éditoriale du *B-Stat News* et le conseil d'administration a dès lors pourvu à leur remplacement. Le Président demande l'accord de l'Assemblée Générale pour confirmer la nomination des deux nouveaux éditeurs : S. Vanbelle et O. Thas. Le vote est favorable à l'unanimité.

8. Préparation de la réunion annuelle 2006

Ch. Ritter donne les grandes lignes de l'organisation de la réunion annuelle d'octobre 2006. Elle aura lieu à Houffalize les jeudi 12 et vendredi 13 octobre 2006. Elle sera précédée d'un après-midi scientifique réservé aux jeunes statisticiens pendant lequel seront prévus, entre autres, des présentations de posters, des témoignages de jeunes docteurs ayant récemment entamé une carrière dans le secteur privé, ... Le comité organisateur de l'UCL envisage d'offrir cette activité supplémentaire aux jeunes qui présenteront un exposé lors du congrès.

En ce qui concerne le programme des deux autres journées, il y aura 5 conférenciers renommés invités à présenter leur travaux lors de sessions plénières. Il y aura aussi 3 périodes pendant lesquelles deux sessions parallèles seront prévues. Pour chacune de ces sessions parallèles, le comité organisateur prévoit une session dédiée aux matières théoriques de statistique mathématique et l'autre consacrée plutôt aux applications. La réunion se terminera le vendredi après le repas de midi. Les participants auront alors la possibilité de profiter d'une activité sociale ou encore, de s'inscrire à un workshop dont le thème sera lié au data-mining.

Comme l'année passée, il est prévu d'inviter d'autres sociétés à participer à l'organisation. La section biostatistique ainsi que les sociétés « RSS-3CC local group » et b-ENBIS sont déjà impliquées. La Société Quetelet doit encore être contactée.

A ce sujet, A. Albert profite de la présence de M. Vandebroek, représentante nationale de la Société b-Enbis jusqu'en 2005, pour avoir son avis sur l'organisation conjointe du congrès d'octobre 2005. Elle regrette le peu de participants venant des industries et espère que cette situation va évoluer favorablement avec le choix d'organiser le congrès le jeudi et le vendredi au lieu du vendredi et du samedi. Plusieurs membres académiques présents signalent cependant que, si le jeudi et le vendredi conviennent mieux aux participants provenant du secteur privé, cela perturbe par ailleurs

énormément l'activité d'enseignement des membres académiques de la SBS. Pour conclure ce point, Ch. Ritter note que l'UCL avait déjà privilégié ce choix de jour lors de l'organisation du congrès en 2000.

Ch. Ritter termine son rapport en rappelant que SAS organise chaque année une journée de formation le jeudi de la même semaine que celle du congrès SBS. Il serait peut être judicieux de leur demander de changer de semaine afin de ne pas se faire concurrence.

9. Etat sur le sponsoring de la SBS-BVS

La SBS-BVS apporte son support (financier ou non) à l'organisation de conférences, ateliers, cours ou séminaires, afin de stimuler et de soutenir la statistique dans le pays. Elle souhaite ainsi offrir à ses membres des réductions de droit d'inscription à ces rencontres scientifiques. Dans son rapport, le Président a déjà mentionné les octrois offerts en 2005. Aucune demande n'a été reçue pour le moment pour l'année 2006. Il est rappelé que le nombre d'activités sponsorisées par an par la Société vient d'être augmenté : 4 x 750 € sont maintenant disponibles. Un rappel concernant cette possibilité de sponsoring va être envoyé à tous les membres de la Société.

10. Cotisation annuelle pour l'an 2007

Pour l'année 2007, l'Assemblée Générale propose de ne pas modifier le montant des cotisations annuelles, à savoir :

- Membre ordinaire: 40 €
- Etudiant et membre retraité: 20 €.

De plus, les membres qui s'inscrivent conjointement à la SBS-BVS et à la Société Quetelet bénéficient d'une réduction de 15 €.

Pour les membres institutionnels, la cotisation annuelle minimale est fixée à 625 €.

11. Activités futures de la Société

Le Président invite les membres à consulter le site web de la Société puisque les activités futures de la Société ainsi que les prochains événements 'statistiques' en Belgique y sont mentionnés.

12. Divers

- Paul Janssen informe l'Assemblée que le centre de statistique (CenStat) de l'Université de Hasselt et l'Institut de Statistique de l'UCL organisent conjointement le 19 mai 2006 un colloque dans le cadre du réseau IAP. Le thème est consacré à l'analyse de survie et les quatre conférenciers suivants ont été invités : M. Akritas, J. de Uña Alvarez, A. Janssen et Y. Li.
- A. Albert invite les membres présents à soumettre des contributions personnelles aux éditeurs de B-Stat News. Il suggère par exemple à M. Hallin de rédiger un bref article sur les leçons qu'il a données dans le cadre de la Chaire Francqui au titre belge que la Fondation Francqui lui a attribuée cette année.

Le Président remercie au nom de tous la KUL et Irène Gijbels en particulier pour l'accueil et pour l'organisation des conférences qui ont précédé la réunion. Le Président remercie ensuite l'Assemblée Générale et clôt la séance à 18h15.

Pr. G. Haesbroeck
Secrétaire

Pr. A. ALbert
Président

VERSLAGEN VAN DE ALGEMENE VERGADERINGEN

Algemene Vergadering van 22 februari 2006 om 17u in de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Aanwezigen: M. Aerts, A. Albert, C. Dehon, G. Haesbroeck, M. Hallin, P. Janssen, P. Lambert, W. Rey, Ch. Ritter, P. Slock, J. Teugels, M. Vandebroek.

Verontschuldigd: L. Bijmens, T. Bruss, J.J. Claustriaux, P. Dagnelie, U. Einmahl, I. Gijbels, J. Loris-Teghem, D. Renard, H. Van Oyen.

De vergadering wordt geopend om 17u15.

1. Goedkeuring van het verslag van de Algemene Vergadering van 24 februari 2005

Het verslag dat gepubliceerd werd in *B-Stat News* N°34 van mei 2005 wordt ongewijzigd goedgekeurd.

2. Verslag van de Voorzitter en activiteitenverslag

De voorzitter A. Albert maakt de balans op van de activiteiten van het jaar 2005, het eerste jaar van zijn mandaat als voorzitter.

- De Raad van Bestuur van de Vereniging kwam driemaal samen in het jaar 2005, respectievelijk op 9 mei, op 4 oktober en op 6 december, in het NIS te Brussel. A. Albert maakt van de gelegenheid gebruik om – in naam van de leden van de Raad van Bestuur – het NIS te bedanken voor de geboden gastvrijheid.

Zoals hij geschreven heeft in zijn editoriaal van het januari 2006 nummer van *B-Stat-News* betreurt de voorzitter dat het Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek momenteel doorheen een moeilijke periode gaat omwille van een interne reorganisatie. In feite is het Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek één van de algemene directies geworden van de Federale Overheidsdienst Economie, KMO en Middenstand (*Algemene Directie Statistiek en Economische Informatie*). De BVS-SBS heeft de verzekering gekregen dat zij haar vergaderzetel kan behouden op het NIS (Leuvensestraat 44), de vergaderingen van de Raad van Bestuur blijven dus doorgaan in de Quetelet zaal van het NIS

en de vereniging mag blijven rekenen op de jaarlijkse financiële steun van 2.500 EURO.

- Het ledenaantal van de Vereniging bedraagt 342. In de loop van 2005 zijn 26 nieuwe leden toegetreden tot de Vereniging en op de algemene vergadering van 22 februari 2006 zijn daar nog acht extra leden bijgekomen; dus een totaal van 34 nieuwe leden in 2005. Anderzijds zijn een aantal leden van de ledenlijst geschrapt omdat zij niet in orde zijn met de betaling van hun lidgeld. De regels dienaangaande, die gelden voor VZW's, zijn strenger geworden en het is belangrijk ons aan die regels te houden. G. Haesbroeck heeft al het mogelijke gedaan om de leden met achterstallige betaling van de lidgelden tot betaling aan te manen en de Raad van Bestuur dankt haar voor deze inspanning.
- Volgens plan verschenen drie nummers van *B-Stat News* in 2005 (N° 33, 34, 35). De Raad van Bestuur heeft moeten voorzien in een vervanging van de twee uitgevers van *B-Stat News*, Mia Hubert (KUL) en Philippe Lambert (UCL). Na vier jaar loyale en trouwe dienst hebben zij de wens uitgesproken om van deze taak ontslagen te worden. De Voorzitter houdt eraan hen hartelijk te bedanken voor het vele kwaliteitsvolle werk dat zij hebben gedaan. Tijdens hun mandaat zijn zij erin geslaagd om het tijdschrift dat in 1992 werd opgestart op een goed niveau aan te bieden. In 2005 heeft de Raad van Bestuur twee nieuwe uitgevers voor *B-Stat News* benoemd: Olivier Thas (UGent) en Sophie Vanbelle (ULg). De Voorzitter dankt hen en wenst hen succes toe in hun werk. Hij vraagt de Raad van Bestuur deze benoeming goed te keuren voor een periode van drie jaar. Het eerste nummer van *B-Stat News* (No 36), dat gemaakt werd door deze nieuwe ploeg, is inmiddels gedrukt en is naar alle leden verzonden.
- De webstek van de Vereniging werd met zorg onderhouden door L. Seidel. De Voorzitter dankt haar voor het geleverde werk. Zij is erin geslaagd om de webstek op een zeer accurate en efficiënte manier te onderhouden, zodat vlot gecommuniceerd kan worden omtrent alle informatie die interessant is voor de leden van de Vereniging (aankondigingen van conferenties en workshops, jobaanbiedingen, zomercursussen, enz.).
- De 13de jaarlijkse bijeenkomst van de BVS-SBS is op 14 en 15 oktober 2005 gehouden in Oud-Turnhout in de mooie omgeving van de « Priorij van Corsendonk ». De organisatie was in handen van de statistici van de Universiteit Gent. In het bijzonder wenst de Voorzitter Olivier Thas te bedanken die de spilfiguur was binnen het organiserend comité. De bijeenkomst telde 124 deelnemers waarvan negen uitgenodigde

sprekers; er waren 26 mondelinge presentaties en 11 posters. Voor de eerste maal werd de bijeenkomst georganiseerd samen met andere wetenschappelijke verenigingen: de A. Quetelet Vereniging, de lokale RSS-3CC groep en b-ENBIS. Globaal gezien is deze gezamenlijke organisatie een succes te noemen ondanks het feit dat het soms moeilijk kiezen was tussen de parallelle activiteiten waar op hetzelfde moment gerenomeerde sprekers voordrachten gaven. De Voorzitter wenst Olivier Thas en zijn Gentse ploeg te danken voor het organiseren van een geslaagde bijeenkomst van goed wetenschappelijke niveau.

- De organisatie van de 14de jaarlijkse bijeenkomst, die initiëel werd toevertrouwd aan de Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix te Namen (FUNDP), is nu in handen gegeven van de UCL omwille van interne oorzaken binnen de FUNDP. Christian Ritter (UCL), lid van de Raad van Bestuur van de Vereniging, Jean-Marie Rolin en het Institut de Statistique van Louvain-la-Neuve hebben aanvaard om alsnog de organisatie op zich te nemen. Christian Ritter kondigt aan dat de bijeenkomst zal plaats vinden op donderdag 13 en vrijdag 14 oktober 2006 in Houffalize. Er wordt ook voorzien om op woensdag 12 oktober in de namiddag een speciale sessie te organiseren voor de jonge statistici. In principe zal de FUNDP de bijeenkomst van 2008 organiseren.
- In 2005 heeft de BVS-SBS een aantal wetenschappelijke evenementen gesteund, in het bijzonder de « European Course in Advanced Statistics (ECAS) » die plaats vond van 12 tot 16 september 2005 in La Roche-en-Ardenne, alsook een tentoonstelling over « de 120 meest beroemde Belgen » in het Kasteel van Beloeil (Château des Célébrités) van 16 september tot 20 november 2005. Meer bepaald heeft de BVS-SBS financiële steun gegeven om de personaliteit van Adolphe Quetelet (1796-1874) in de schijnwerpers te zetten. Hij is de vader van de sociale statistiek, van de bodymass index en van de “gemiddele” mens.
- De financiële situatie van de Vereniging is gezond. De Voorzitter dankt Mark Aerts (schatbewaarder) en Hilde Wijnen (UHasselt) voor hun efficiënt werk. De Raad van Bestuur houdt momenteel een reflexie over het beter aanwenden van de beschikbare middelen ten voordele van de leden. Verschillende denkpistes worden afgetast.
 - Het promoten van statistiek via het toekennen van een prijs voor de beste doctoraatsthesis
 - Financiële steun voor jonge onderzoekers
 - Verhoogde steun voor de sectie Biostatistiek die erg actief is

- Het vermeerderen van de steun voor wetenschappelijke evenementen (4 X 750 EURO per jaar in plaats van 2 X 750 EURO per jaar)
 - Het ontwikkelen van projecten die statistiek meer zichtbaar maken voor het grote publiek
- Tenslotte spreekt de Voorzitter zijn genegenheid uit ten aanzien van de leden van het Institut de Statistique van de ULB. Zij kennen momenteel moeilijke momenten na een activiteit van meer dan 40 jaar. Hij beklemtoont dat het Instituut uitzonderlijke bijdragen heeft geleverd voor de statistiek zowel op nationaal als op internationaal vlak.

2bis. Verslag van de voorzitter en activiteitenverslag van de sectie Biostatistiek

Ph. Lambert stelt de activiteiten voor van de sectie 'Biostatistiek' van de Vereniging.

- De Sectie organiseerde, co-organiseerde of steunde de volgende activiteiten:
 - Dr. N. Best (Dept of Epidemiology & Public Health, Imperial College, London, UK) werd uitgenodigd voor het geven van de cursus "An introduction to Bayesian inference in biomedical applications" in Louvain-la-Neuve (Eli Lilly Development Center) op 3 en 4 mei 2005. Het aantal deelnemers aan deze cursus bedroeg 25.
 - Op 16 november 2005 organiseerde de Sectie een cursus van één dag, die doorging op het EORTC (Brussel). Prof. dr. B. Beck (European Early Phase Statistic Department, Eli Lilly, Belgium) gaf lezingen omtrent het thema "Practical Bayesian modelling with BUGS / BRUGS/ CODA / WBDIFF in pharmaceutical R&D". Twintig personen namen deel aan deze activiteit.
 - Op 17 november 2005 organiseerde de Sectie op het EORTC een workshop met als titel "Bayesian inference in biomedical applications". Een aantal buitenlandse sprekers leverden een bijdrage tijdens deze dag, die werd bijgewoond door 21 deelnemers.
- Activiteiten in het kader van de EFSPI (European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry):

- De Sectie is binnen de EFSPI vertegenwoordigd door twee leden (C. Dubois et B. Boulanger).
 - C. Dubois heeft als taak om informatie te verzamelen en door te spelen omtrent evenementen die in België doorgaan en die interessant kunnen zijn voor de leden van de EFSPI.
 - B. Boulanger nam deel aan de *International Workshop on Statistical Methodology in Clinical and Nonclinical R&D* (26-28 oktober 2005, Nice, Frankrijk). Hij maakte ook deel uit van het wetenschappelijk comité.
- Geplande activiteiten
- Verkiezingen : B. Boulanger en Ph. Lambert zijn aan het einde van hun mandaat gekomen. Een academisch lid en een lid dat actief is in de farmaceutische industrie moeten verkozen worden voor een periode van vier jaar. Een oproep tot kandidaatstelling is gestuurd naar alle leden van de Sectie en de deadline voor kandidaatstelling is 5 mei 2006. De stemmen zullen verzameld en geteld worden tijdens de volgende Raad van Bestuur in de lente van 2006.
 - BSS2006 : de sectie zal een activiteit organiseren met een uitgenodigde spreker naar aanleiding van het jaarlijks congres van de BVS-SBS in oktober 2006.
 - Andere activiteiten zullen aangekondigd worden in de loop van het jaar.
- Financieel rapport : het financieel rapport zal voorgesteld worden tijdens de bijeenkomst van de Raad van Bestuur in de lente van 2006.

De beschikbare rapporten worden goedgekeurd door de Algemene Vergadering en decharge wordt verleend aan de Voorzitter van de Sectie en aan de Raad van Bestuur.

3. Financieel verslag

De rekeningen van 2005 worden voorgesteld en geduid door de schatbewaarder M. Aerts.

Ze vertonen een batig saldo van 12.597,03 EURO.

Gezien de stand van de rekeningen op 31 december 2005 resulteert in een batig saldo van 78.730,96 EURO, kan men besluiten dat de BVS-SBS zich in een gunstige financiële situatie bevindt.

Het verslag wordt bij stemming unaniem goedgekeurd door de Algemene Vergadering.

4. Verslag van de secretaris

In 2005 betaalden 290 leden hun lidgeld. Dat zijn de leden die officieel vermeld staan op de ledenlijst van de Vereniging. Immers, volgens de nieuwe reglementen omtrent VZW's, moet jaarlijks een ledenlijst worden neergelegd op de Griffie. De secretaris deelt mee dat voortaan deze lijst enkel de personen zal bevatten die voor 31 december van het betreffende jaar hun lidgeld hebben betaald.

Verder is het zo dat van de personen die in 2005 hun lidgeld niet betaalden er 23 zijn die op zijn minst twee jaar niet hebben betaald. Deze personen zijn herhaaldelijk gecontacteerd door het secretariaat met de vraag zich in orde te stellen voor wat betreft de betaling van het lidgeld. Bij gebrek aan reactie van hun zijde en conform de statuten van de Vereniging, beslist de Algemene Vergadering om deze personen van de ledenlijst te schrappen.

5. Toelating van nieuwe leden

In het jaar 2005 zijn 26 nieuwe leden toegelaten door de Raad, met name:

Bart AMPE (Universiteit Gent), Kaatje BOLLAERTS (Universiteit Hasselt), Toufif BOUEZMARNI (KULeuven), Andreas CHRISTMANN (VUB), Hans COPPENOLLE (Janssen Pharmaceutica), Julia DONY (VUB), Maria José GARCIA ZATTERA (KULeuven), Sarah GELPER (KULeuven), Klara GOETHALS (Universiteit Gent), Alejandro JARA VALLEJOS (KULeuven), Astrid JULLION (UCL), Dan LIN (Universiteit Hasselt), John T. MARINGWA (Universiteit Hasselt), Paul MEYVISCH (UCB), Roger MOORE (Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd.), Harriet NAMATA (Universiteit Hasselt), Florence NOZAY (Glaxo SmithKline Biologicals), Virginie PAUTRET (BMS), Réjane ROUSSEAU (UCL), Sarah RUSCH (Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals R&D), Filomena VALENTE SOARES (Ecole de Santé Publique, ULB), Yuik SWAN (ULB), Johan VAN KERCKHOVEN (KULeuven), Tim VERDONCK (Universiteit Antwerpen), Kristien WOUTERS (Universiteit Hasselt), Lixin ZHANG (ULg).

Bovendien moeten 8 nieuwe leden worden toegevoegd die toegelaten worden tijdens de huidige Algemene Vergadering, met name :

Emilie BARRE (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Saghir BASHIR, Stephen FRANCIS (Bristol- Myers Squibb), Yuri GOEGEBEUR (University of Southern Denmark), Delphine HENNICKEN (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Roxana Alice ION (Janssen Pharmaceutica), Javier SAWCHIK (UCB), Willem TALLOEN (Janssen Pharmaceutica).

De Algemene Vergadering keurt de lijst van nieuwe leden goed.

6. Toelating van nieuwe institutionele leden

Er zijn geen nieuwe institutionele leden in 2005.

Het is nuttig om hier op te merken dat het bedrag van 2500 EURO dat jaarlijks door het NIS wordt betaald geen lidgeld is in de hoedanigheid van institutioneel lid maar dat het gaat over een gift.

7. Toestand van *B-Stat News*

Zoals reeds gemeld door de Voorzitter hebben Mia Hubert en Philippe Lambert de wens uitgesproken ontheven te worden van hun taak als uitgevers van *B-Stat News* en is reeds voorzien in hun vervanging. De Voorzitter vraagt de Algemene Vergadering om de aanstelling van de twee nieuwe uitgevers goed te keuren: Sophie Vanbelle en Olivier Thas. De raad stemt unaniem gunstig.

8. Voorbereiding van de jaarlijkse bijeenkomst 2006

Christian Ritter schetst in grote lijnen de organisatie van de bijeenkomst van oktober 2006. De bijeenkomst zal plaats vinden in Houffalize op donderdag 12 en vrijdag 13 oktober. Zij zal worden voorafgegaan door een wetenschappelijke namiddag voor de jonge statistici. Daar worden onder meer posters voorgesteld, getuigenissen van jonge doctors die recent een loopbaan gestart zijn in de privé sector, ...

Het organiserend comité van de UCL voorziet om deze activiteit aan te bieden aan jongeren die een presentatie willen geven tijdens het congres.

Het programma tijdens de twee dagen van het congres wordt als volgt samengesteld: er zullen vijf gerenomeerde uitgenodigde sprekers zijn die hun werk zullen voorstellen in plenaire sessies tijdens het congres. Er zullen ook drie momenten zijn waarop parallelle sessies worden georganiseerd. Tijdens elk van deze sessies zal het organiserend comité een sessie voorzien die handelt over methodologie van de wiskundige statistiek en een toegepaste sessie. De bijeenkomst zal eindigen vrijdag na de lunch. De deelnemers kunnen dan eventueel nog deelnemen aan een sociale activiteit of kunnen zich inschrijven voor een workshop over data-mining.

Zoals vorig jaar is voorzien dat andere verenigingen deelnemen aan de organisatie. De Sectie Biostatistiek en de verenigingen RSS-3CC en b-ENBIS zijn reeds actief betrokken. De Quetelet vereniging moet nog worden gecontacteerd.

Dienaangaande maakt A. Albert gebruik van de aanwezigheid van M. Vandebroek, nationaal vertegenwoordiger van de b-NBIS vereniging, om te informeren naar haar idee over de co-organisatie van de bijeenkomst van oktober 2005. Zij betreurt het gering aantal deelnemers vanuit de industrie en hoopt dat, door het organiseren van de volgende bijeenkomst op een donderdag en een vrijdag, dit euvel kan verholpen worden.

Verscheidende academische leden signaleren dat, alhoewel donderdag en vrijdag misschien beter is voor deelnemers uit de industrie, dit een probleem kan geven voor hun onderwijskalender. De discussie wordt afgesloten door Ritter die opmerkt dat de UCL de voorkeur voor donderdag en vrijdag al heeft aangewend bij de organisatie van de bijeenkomst in 2000.

Christian Ritter meldt tenslotte dat SAS elk jaar een vormingsdag organiseert op donderdag van dezelfde week als de BVS-SBS bijeenkomst. Het lijkt nuttig om SAS te vragen om een andere week te kiezen voor hun activiteit om concurrentie te vermijden.

9. Sponsoring van BVS/SBS

De BVS-SBS verleent haar steun (financieel of niet) aan de organisatie van conferenties, workshops, cursussen en seminars, teneinde de statistiek in het land te stimuleren en te ondersteunen. Aldus wenst de BVS-SBS aan haar leden een korting te verlenen op de inschrijvingsgelden voor deze wetenschappelijke bijeenkomsten. In dit verslag heeft de Voorzitter reeds de sponsoring vermeld voor 2006. Op dit moment zijn voor 2006 nog geen aanvragen voor steun binnen. We herinneren eraan dat het aantal activiteiten dat gesteund wordt door de Vereniging stijgt: 4 X 750 EURO per jaar zijn nu beschikbaar. Een memo over deze nieuwe mogelijkheid zal gestuurd worden naar alle leden van de Vereniging.

10. Jaarlijks lidgeld voor 2007

Voor het jaar 2007 stelt de Algemene Vergadering voor het lidgeld niet te veranderen en vast te leggen op

- Gewoon lid: 40 €
- Studenten en gepensioneerden: 20 €.

Bovendien genieten de leden die tegelijk lid worden van BVS-SBS en de Quetelet Vereniging een korting van 15 €.

11. Toekomstige activiteiten van de Vereniging

De Voorzitter nodigt de leden uit om de webstek van de Vereniging te raadplegen omdat informatie over de toekomstige activiteiten van de Vereniging alsook over een aantal andere statistische evenementen in België daar te vinden zijn.

12. Varia

- Paul Janssen informeert de Algemene Vergadering dat het Centrum voor Statistiek van de UHasselt en het Institut de Statistique van de UCL gezamenlijk een colloquium, dat past binnen het IUAP netwerk, organiseren op 19 mei 2006. Het thema van de dag is “overlevingsanalyse”. De vier uitgenodigde sprekers zijn : M. Akritas, J. de Uña Alvarez, A. Janssen en Y. Li.
- A. Albert nodigt de leden uit om persoonlijke bijdragen te leveren aan de uitgevers van *B-Stat News*. Hij suggereert bijvoorbeeld dat M. Hallin een korte bijdrage zou leveren over de colleges die hij heeft gegeven in het kader van de Francqui leerstoel (Marc Hallin was houder van de Belgische Francqui leerstoel in 2005).

De Voorzitter dankt in aller naam de KUL en in het bijzonder Irène Gijbels voor de ontvangst en voor de organisatie van de lezingen die vooraf gingen aan de Algemene Vergadering.

De Voorzitter dankt ook de Algemene Vergadering en sluit de zitting om 18u15.

Pr. G. Haesbroeck
Secretaris

Pr. A. ALbert
Voorzitter

14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY SBS-BVS

October (11), 12 and 13, 2006, Houffalize

The 14th annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society (BSS) will be organised by the Institute of Statistique of UCL (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) and will be held on October (11th), 12th and 13th in Ol Fosse d'Outh in Houffalize. This meeting is jointly organised with three other statistical societies: B-ENBIS, RSS-3cc and the Quetelet Society.

Some special events:

- The first day (October 11) will be devoted to a **special afternoon for young statisticians**.
- The meeting will offer, in parallel, methodological and applied sessions during the two days of the conference to reflect the diversity of the Belgian statistical community.
- The meeting will “officially” be closed on Friday after lunch but a hand-on workshop and a hike will be organised on that afternoon.

Invited speakers include:

Bart Baesens (KULeuven), Dave Collett (UK Transplant, UK), Erich Neuwirth (University of Vienna, Austria), Jean Opsomer (Iowa State University, USA), Jean-François Richard (University of Pittsburgh, USA).

More information and instructions on how to register and submit abstracts can be found on

<http://www.stat.ucl.ac.be/BSS2006>

Early registration and abstract submission are now open !

The major deadlines are:

- May 1st: Start of reduced fee registration and abstract submission.
- July 1st: Closing of abstract submission.
- July 15: Notification of paper (poster) acceptance by the scientific committee.
- August 30: Closing of reduced fee registration.
- September 30: Closing of normal registration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST LEUVEN STATISTICAL DAY

KU Leuven, June 12, 2006

A large variety of applied and theoretical statistical research is performed at the K.U. Leuven. The aim of the annual Leuven Statistical Day is to highlight this research, not only to our colleagues but to a wide audience. However, it is impossible to illustrate all statistical activity at our university in one day and therefore we decided to select each year a different topic. This year we have chosen Mixed Models as a common theme. This class of models enjoys a growing interest, both from a theoretical as from an applied point of view. The keynote lecture at our first Leuven Statistical Day is given jointly by Geert Verbeke and Geert Molenberghs. Both are internationally recognized for their books on mixed models and longitudinal data. Their lecture will first review the basic material on linear, generalized linear and non-linear mixed models. In the second half of the lecture, they will treat the more novel aspects of mixed models. After the keynote lecture, a number of K.U.Leuven researchers from different faculties will present their research on mixed models and illustrate their richness in a variety of areas of application.

Programme:

8.30 Registration and Coffee

9.15 Opening

Session 1, Chair: E. Lesaffre

9.30 Opportunities and Challenges in Mixed Models and Incomplete Data,
G. Verbeke, G. Molenberghs

11.00 Coffee Break

Session 2, Chair: M. Lacante

11.30 Attitudes towards Migration in Europe: a Cross-Cultural and Contextual Approach, *B. Meuleman*

12.00 A Double-Structure Structural Equation Model for Three-Mode Data,
J. González, P. De Boeck, F. Tuerlinckx

12.30 Mixed Models for Postharvest Quality Assessment of Horticultural products, *B. De Ketelaere, J. Lammertyn*

13.00 Free Lunch

Session 3, Chair: A. Carbonez

14.00 Using Mixed Models in Actuarial Statistics, *K. Antonio*

14.30 The impact of Education on Third Births. A Multilevel Discrete-Time Hazard Analysis, *M. Callens, C. Croux*

15.00 Prediction of Renal Graft Failure Using Multivariate Longitudinal Profiles, *S. Fieuws*

15.30 Coffee Break

Session 4, Chair: F. Tuerlinckx

16.00 Penalized Splines as Mixed Models for Survey Estimation, *G. Claeskens*

16.30 Piecewise Linear Mixed Models with Random Change-Points, *W. Van den Noortgate, P. Onghena*

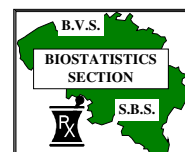
17.00 Reception

More information can be found on the Website

http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/ucs/seminars_events/other/lsd1.htm

Entrance is free, but the participants have to register.

BIostatISTICS SECTION OF SBS/BVS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the next meeting and General Assembly of the Biostatistics section of SBS/BVS.

The General Assembly will be preceded by an intensive presentation with room for discussion of the East software version 4, by Y. Jemai PhD, who is a biostatistician working for Cytel in the US. As this software is extensively used by many of us, we hope it will be of interest to you.

Date: 14 June 2006, PM

Place: UCB, Chemin du Foriest, 1420 Braine l'Alleud

Agenda:

1.30: Arrival, registration

1.45-2.00: Brief introduction

2.00-3.30: Presentation of East version 4, Part I

Some of the topics:

- Innovative designs in the spirit of the FDA's Critical Path Initiative.
- Fixed sample size design, group sequential design
- Simulation and interim monitoring for group sequential trials
- Survival designs: multiple accrual periods, piecewise constant hazards, differential dropouts, simulation of non-proportional hazards
- Information based designs and adaptive designs

3.30-3.45: break

3.45-5.15: part II

5.15-5.45: room for informal discussion – break

5.45-end: General Assembly

1. Year Report from the president
2. Presentation of the financial report by the treasurer and approval by the Assembly
3. Election of the new members of the board
4. Plan for the next two years
5. Other business

We look forward to meeting you at GA.

Best regards,

Philippe Lambert

UCL

Bruno Boulanger

Lilly

Cécile Dubois

UCB

Jan Bogaerts

EORTC

B-ENBIS WORKSHOP

Design and Analysis of Experiments:

June 2nd 2006

The next workshop of the Belgian branch of the European Network on Business and Industrial Statistics organizes a workshop on the design and analysis of experiments at 2pm on June 2nd. The focus will be on cost-efficient screening experiments, including supersaturated designs and split-plot type of designs. Speakers include Bradley Jones (SAS JMP) and Eric Schoen (TNO).

Detailed information on the location and programme will be posted on <http://www.stat.ucl.ac.be/B-ENBIS/index.html>

FORTHCOMING STATISTICAL EVENTS

June 2, 2006 – B-ENBIS Workshop: Design and Analysis of Experiments. Detailed information on the location and programme will be posted on <http://www.stat.ucl.ac.be/B-ENBIS/index.html>

June 12, 2006 – K.U. Leuven – First Leuven Statistical Day. More information can be found on the Website http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/ucs/seminars_events/other/lsd1.htm

June 14, 2006 – UCB (Braine l'Alleud) – next meeting and General Assembly of the Biostatistics section of SBS/BVS

August 27-31, 2006 – Geneva – ISCB 2006. Contact persons: David W. Warne (david_w_warne@bluewin.ch), Chair, Local Organising Committee, or Lutz Edler (edler@dkfz-heidelberg.de), Chair, Scientific Programme Committee.
Website: <http://www.iscb2006.info>

September 3-8, 2006 – Liège – International Congress for Mathematical Geology.
Website: <http://www.geomac.ulg.ac.be/iamg06/>

October (11)-13, 2006 – Houffalize – 14th annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society (BSS). More information and instructions on how to register and submit abstracts can be found on <http://www.stat.ucl.ac.be/BSS2006>

MEMBER NEWS

Uwe Einmahl (VUB) is since 1 March 2006 associate editor of the "Journal of Theoretical Probability".

He has also been appointed for a 3 year term (2006-2008) as member of the IMS (Institute of Mathematical Institute) committee on fellows. There are in total 9 members. The task of the committee is to evaluate all candidates who have been nominated for IMS fellowship and to decide who will become fellow.

**Speech presented by J. Beirlant at the occasion of the inaugural
lecture of the Belgian Francqui Chair awarded
to Professor Marc Hallin**

Leuven October 20, 2005

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you as Dean of the Faculty of Science of KU Leuven and as a statistician, at this Inaugural Lecture of the Belgian Francqui Chair proposed by the KU Leuven and awarded to our friend and colleague Professor Marc Hallin from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

In 1932, Emile Francqui and Herbert Hoover together decided to set up a foundation, which they entrusted with a large amount of money. The Francqui Foundation was founded by Royal Decree of February 1932 under the legal form of an “Institution of Public Utility”. The purpose of the Francqui Foundation is to encourage the prestige of fundamental research. It also provides Belgian scholars and scientists with indisputable moral support. The statutes clearly state that its objective is to “further the development of higher education and scientific research in Belgium.” This implicitly means that interuniversity collaboration is also encouraged.

In order to realize this aim, the work of the Francqui foundation revolves around four areas of activity: The Francqui prize, The Belgian Francqui Chairs, The Interuniversity Foreign Francqui Chairs, and collaboration with the Belgian American Educational Foundation.

Within the framework of the Belgian Francqui Chairs, each year each university may propose to the Francqui Foundation the organization of a course of lectures on a particular subject. The Foundation invites a Belgian or foreign professor to hold the Chair and organize an educational course of the HIGHEST LEVEL in his or her field. The added benefit of the Belgian Francqui Chairs is that they encourage exchanges between Belgian universities. The Inaugural Lecture for such a course is usually an opportunity to bring together all the prominent figures of the field in question and to emphasize this collaboration.

So far extracts from the website of the Foundation itself. In the remainder of my introduction I would like to demonstrate that the choice of Marc Hallin

has a high goodness of fit value (or a high correlation with) these basic principles from the Foundation. First a statistical proof: it is a pleasure for me to welcome here today colleagues from several other universities in Belgium, next to several statisticians from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and our own K.U Leuven.

The Belgian academic statistical community has largely expanded over the last two decades, both in the number of excellent researchers, in the quality of work and the international recognition of the work that is delivered here. The Belgian Statistical Society refounded in 1993 was designed as an excellent instrument for academic cooperation and exchange in our field. I became a friend and close colleague of Marc Hallin after I was able to assist him when restarting the Belgian Statistical Society. So I consider myself as a privileged observer of Marc's skills.

Among this community of Belgian statisticians Marc Hallin in my opinion receives an extreme high international recognition.

Marc's work and personality shows a combination of several characteristics

- **The high standard of his research.** The relevance, volume, impact and viability of his research is excellent. This is confirmed by citation counts, many invitations on all continents, editorship of eight journals, the large proportion of his papers that appeared in top journals like *Annals of Statistics*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, *Bernoulli* to mention some. For instance right now: he just comes back from giving a series of lectures in the US invited by the top schools in the northeast of the US. He is invited this year at the famous Lunteren conference in the Netherlands; in fact not many Belgians have been asked by our neighbors.
- **The broadness of his research.** He started off with some important papers in game theory, after which he made some nice contributions in actuarial science. The last twenty years he now mainly concentrates on time series analysis, rank-based statistics, and semiparametric models. Since the startup of the ECARES research center at ULB he returns more often to econometric applications such as the analysis of panels of time series data.
- **His leadership.** He pulled the Belgian statisticians together and created a sense of pride in the Belgian Statistical Community, after years of dedicated and hard work as the President of the Belgian Statistical Society, as the organizer of multiple Journées de Statistique for the French speaking statisticians from all over the

world, and as the early leader of the Journées de Statistique Franco-Belge,”.

- **His personality.** He has a kind, caring, unselfish personality. He cares for cooperation and especially interuniversity cooperation. He is always keen on the fact that nobody is forgotten in a research proposal submitted by different universities.

Further, Marc is not only an excellent mathematician, he also has a great knowledge of literature and is an excellent musician. “He is a grand monsieur of statistics in Belgium.” He is respected and loved by the colleagues who know him well and work with him.

The series of lectures he starts today is on Rank tests, asymptotic statistics and semiparametric models.

His work on rank tests has its origins in his longer-term interest in hypothesis testing problems in time-series analysis. This remarkable work since rank tests in the setting of dependent data are a particularly difficult introduction to nonparametric methods.

In Asymptotic statistics and semiparametric models the unknown statistical parameters are functions. He has about 40 papers in this area, culminating in his Bernoulli paper in 2003 and recent papers in the Annals of Statistics where he presents general results that have many implications for methods that deal with general semiparametric models.

I hope to have demonstrated that Marc is an outstanding figure in statistics and probability and hence deserves this exceptional award. Please Marc the word is to you.

Professor Jan Beirlant
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

2006 ENBIS AWARDS

At its annual conference in Wroclaw in September (see <http://www.enbis.org>), the **European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics** (ENBIS) will present the George Box Medal, the Best Manager Award and the Young Statistician Award.

Recipients of this year's George Box Medal for outstanding contributions to industrial statistics is **Gerry Hahn**. Gerry Hahn has been responsible for the success of Six Sigma within *General Electric* and, through his articles and books, worldwide. By his contributions to Statistics and Industrial Statistics, Gerry Hahn forms a bridge between academia, industry and business which is exactly what ENBIS aims to do.

Recipient of this year's Best Manager Award, which recognises managers who made a significant contribution to the success of their companies by advancing the spread and the practice of statistics, is **Gerhard Rappitsh**, who has been engaged at the semiconductor company *austriamicrosystems AG* since 1997. He has been working in the areas of analog circuit simulation, statistical device modeling and Design for Manufacturability (DFM).

Finally, **Peter Goos** will receive the 2006 Young Statistician Award for introducing innovative Statistical methods and promoting the use of Statistics in daily practice. Peter Goos is a Professor at the Faculty of Applied Economics of the *Universiteit Antwerpen*. Most of his work is on the design and analysis of industrial experiments and discrete choice experiments.

Fabrizio Ruggeri
ENBIS President

**StatUA: NEWLY FOUNDED FORUM FOR (APPLIED)
STATISTICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP**

On March 9, Rector Francis Van Loon opened the official starting day of *StatUA*, the recently founded forum for (applied) statistics at the University of Antwerp. The aim of the initiators was to make *StatUA* known inside as well as outside the Antwerp university. The diversity of the backgrounds of the 50 attendees – nearly every faculty of the University of Antwerp was represented – shows that statistics is considered an important auxiliary science for researchers in different fields of study.

Not coincidentally, the interdisciplinary nature of statistics was the central theme of the starting day. That statistics benefits from contacts with other disciplines was also emphasized by the first speaker, Geert Molenberghs (Universiteit Hasselt). He drew, for example, the attention to the fact that famous statisticians, such as Wilcoxon and Tukey, actively participated in applied biometrical workshops on entomology to make the point that interdisciplinarity is a key factor for successful research in statistics. Johan Suykens (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Christian Ritter (Monnet Centre International Laboratory, Université Catholique de Louvain) delivered two other captivating presentations. The former provided a lecture on *support vector machines*, whereas the latter entertained the public with a talk on *statistical error*.

In the short run, *StatUA* aims at becoming a contact for all whom are involved in statistics and applied statistics within the University of Antwerp. For that purpose, a series of monthly seminars has been launched, to provide an opportunity for making cross-faculty contacts. The first speakers in the series were Christophe Croux (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Jack Kleijnen (Universiteit van Tilburg). The seminars, which are also open to colleagues from outside the university, take place on Thursdays between 12.30 and 13.30. Before and after the talks, sandwiches and coffee are provided. The next few presenters in the *StatUA* series will be Andreas Christmann (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Geert Verbeke (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and Jeroen Vermunt (Universiteit van Tilburg). More information on the seminars (abstracts, venues, registration) can be found at

<http://www.ua.ac.be/statua/>

StatUA does not only hope to offer inspiration for ongoing and novel research in statistics, but it also aims at providing high-quality statistical support to research projects and publications in any scientific domain where

people from the Antwerp university are active. As *StatUA* is a joint initiative from people with entirely different backgrounds (Joost Weyler (Faculty of Medicine), Ann De Schepper, Peter Goos (both from the Faculty of Applied Economics) and Lucien Lemmens, Anja Struyf, Stefan Van Dongen and Floris Wuyts (Faculty of Sciences)), we are convinced that *StatUA* has the potential to become a driving force in the generation of research output of the entire university, so that statistics can claim the central position in Antwerp it deserves.

Another goal of *StatUA* is to act as a contact for companies and research institutions with questions concerning statistics and data analysis. *StatUA* will also try to put the University of Antwerp on the Belgian statistical map through the active participation to meetings of the Belgian Statistical Society, its bio-statistical section, the Belgian branch of the European Network on Business and Industrial Statistics and the Belgian Chemometrics Society. Evidently, it will also attempt to play a role on the international statistical scene.

When these goals are met, *StatUA* can evolve from an informal forum to a center with a more formal character.

Peter Goos
<http://www.ua.ac.be/statua/>

RECENT PhD THESES

Universiteit of Hasselt

Ivy Jansen. *Flexible Model Strategies and Sensitivity Analysis Tools for Non-Monotone Incomplete Categorical Data* (June 24, 2005) – Promotors: Prof. dr. G. MOLENBERGHS and Prof. dr. M. AERTS)

In applied sciences, data are more and more measured repeatedly over time, resulting in so-called longitudinal data. However, they typically suffer from incompleteness. Since incompleteness usually occurs for reasons outside of the control of the investigators and may be related to the outcome measurement of interest, it is generally necessary to address the process governing incompleteness. Only in special but important cases it is possible to ignore the missingness process.

In this thesis, an alternative was given for the frequently used but highly restrictive complete case analysis and last observation carried forward analysis. While the latter assume the data to be missing completely at random, the assumption of missing at random is sufficient for the linear mixed models, when the data are continuous, and for the generalized linear mixed models in the random-effects approach, or the weighted generalized estimating equations in the marginal model context, when the data are of the binary type. Analyses were performed on data in different scientific fields (depression, sociology).

While in current statistical practice, still a lot of effort is needed before people come to recognize the necessity of those missing at random modeling approaches as the main mode of analysis, research is, already for many years, directed towards the development of missing not at random models for all types of data and missingness mechanisms, since not at random missingness cannot be fully ruled out based on the observed data.

The main objective of this thesis was to develop non-random models to handle non-monotone missing data within the non-Gaussian setting, since also categorical outcomes are very prominent in statistical practice, and techniques for this type of data are less standard, because of the lack of a simple analogue to the normal distribution.

First, a family of joint models for outcomes and non-response, based on an extension and reparameterization of Baker, Rosenberger and DerSimonian (1992), has been proposed, to avoid the risk of invalid solutions, and in which (possibly continuous) covariates are allowed, in the measurement model as well as in the missingness model. Focus was on bivariate binary outcomes. Second, a set of models for multivariate ordinal data, based on the multivariate Dale model (Molenberghs and Lesaffre, 1994) was developed. A (bivariate or multivariate) Dale model for the outcomes was combined with a bivariate Dale model for the non-response. In the hierarchy of those Dale-Dale models, the inclusion of constant or varying covariate effects was also possible in both the measurement and missingness model.

All previous models were based on the selection model factorization of the joint model for the outcomes and non-response process. Also within the pattern-mixture models, a distinction can be made between continuous or discrete data, and monotone or non-monotone missingness. In this thesis, we developed a pattern-mixture model framework for non-monotone discrete outcomes, using the multivariate Dale model to analyze the data per pattern. Identifying restrictions were used to specify the conditional distribution of the unobserved measurements, given the observed ones in a specific pattern. Specific assumptions were defined to deal with intermittent missingness. Attention was also devoted to the determination of marginal effects across patterns.

Since MNAR models are sensitive to the underlying model assumptions, generally performing a sensitivity analysis is strongly advisable. Contrasting several models within one of the families proposed here (extended BRD, Dale-Dale or pattern-mixture), is in itself a way to perform a sensitivity analysis. Also comparing the results from selection models and pattern-mixture models can be fruitful to assess the sensitivity of such models. On the other hand, a sensitivity analysis can also be conducted at the level of the individuals. Therefore, in this thesis, the already existing methods of global and local influence (Cook and Weisberg, 1982; Cook, 1986) have been adjusted to assess the influence in the case of selection models for bivariate binary outcomes subject to non-monotone missingness. Clearly, it is advisable to combine several of those methods within an integrated sensitivity analysis.

Until now, local influence was mainly used to detect observations that had a high impact on the conclusions due to their aberrant missingness mechanism. However, in many applications, the situation turned out to be more complex than anticipated. Indeed, the influential subjects often are influential for other than missingness related features. The questions that

arose from those findings were (1) When can a subject or a group of subjects be considered as influential?, and (2) What reasons might be related to high influence values? An attempt was made to answer those questions.

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