

15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

(18), 19 and 20 October 2007, Antwerp, Belgium



The 15th annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society will be held on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 October 2007 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Antwerp. The meeting will be preceded by a Young Statistician Day on the same location on Thursday 18 October. The conference venue is easy to reach by car and public transport.

StatUa, the forum for statistics and applied statistics at the University of Antwerp, will take care of the practical organisation of the 15th edition of the annual meeting, which will feature sessions organized by the Biostatistical Section of the Belgian Statistical Society, the Three Country Corner local group of the Royal Statistical Society, the Quetelet Society and the Belgian branch of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics in addition to the contributed sessions.

Confirmed invited speakers include:

Shirley Coleman (University of Newcastle), **Laura Sacerdote** (Università di Torino), **Léopold Simar** (Université Catholique de Louvain) and **Stefaan Walgrave** (Universiteit Antwerpen).

Their talks will be on the Six Sigma total quality management program in business and industry, molecular epidemiology and cancer prevention,

frontier estimation and the drawing of samples at manifestations, respectively.

On Saturday afternoon, Geert Molenberghs (Universiteit Hasselt) and Geert Verbeke (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) will give a short course: *The analysis of longitudinal data, subject to missingness*. The aim of this course is to give a short overview of popular classes of models for the analysis of repeated measurements or longitudinal data. We first present linear mixed models for the analysis of continuous data. Second, two classes of models for the analysis of discrete data will be discussed and compared: generalized estimating equations (GEE), and generalized linear mixed models. The main emphasis will be on model formulation as well as on the correct interpretation of the results from the various models. Finally, when analyzing longitudinal data, one is often confronted with missing observations. In the last part, it will be shown that such missingness can seriously jeopardize results, and some methods for properly analyzing incomplete data will be presented.

The major deadlines are:

- May 15st: Start of reduced fee registration and abstract submission.
- July 15st: deadline for abstract submissions.
- July 30th: Notification of accepted submissions
- August 31st: deadline for reduced fee registration.
- September 30th: deadline for registration.

Confirmed sponsors of the event are Roche, SPSS, Genzyme, Shell and Pearson Education.

More details on the conference will soon be posted at <http://www.ua.ac.be/bss2007>

Meanwhile, a tentative program is given below.

Thursday, October 18 (Young statistician day)

9h30 Registration and welcome

10h30 Introductory session

12h00 *Lunch*

13h30 Session 1
15h15 *Coffee break*
15h45 Session 2
19h00 *Dinner*

Friday, October 19

9h00 Registration and welcome
9h50 Opening of the conference by the rector of the Universiteit
Antwerpen
10h00 Invited speaker
11h00 Parallel sessions: Quetelet & Methodology
12h30 *Lunch*
14h00 Invited speaker
15h00 Parallel sessions: RSS 3 Country Corner & Methodology
16h00 *Coffee break*
16h30 Session
17h30 Invited speaker
19h00 *Poster session + drink*
20h00 *Dinner*

Saturday, October 20

8h00 *Breakfast*
9h00 Parallel sessions: Biostatistics & bENBIS
11h00 *Coffee break*
11h30 Invited speaker
12h30 Conference adjourn
12h45 *Lunch*
14h00 Short course