

ROeS- Nachrichten

No 56

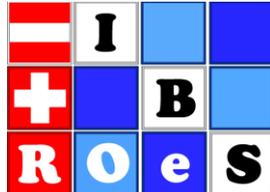
Juli 2020

ROeS-Nachrichten

Mitteilungsblatt der Region Österreich-Schweiz
der Internationalen Biometrischen Gesellschaft

Bulletin de la Région Austro-Suisse
de la Société Internationale de Biométrie

Bulletin of the Austro-Swiss Region
of the International Biometric Society



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Inhalt

	Seite
Welcome Address by the ROeS President.....	3
XXXI st ROeS Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2019	5
Arthur Linder Prize 2019.....	7
Protokoll der ROeS-Mitgliederversammlung 2019.....	7
Annex: Zweijahresrechnung 2017 + 2018	11
Nachruf / Obituary	12
Aus den Sektionen und der Arbeitsgruppe	13
Celebrating 50 years of Medical Statistics.....	13
Veranstaltungshinweise / Events.....	14

Welcome Address by the ROeS President

Dear ROeS members,

I would like to start my first column as president of IBS-ROeS by wholeheartedly thanking the board members who have made the transition and the “learning curve” a very doable experience, in particular the immediate past presidents Valentin Rousson and Martin Posch who have been very generous with sharing their advice. Special thanks go to our outgoing officers Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz who has been our treasurer for many years, as well as Dominik Heinzmann who has been Biometric Bulletin correspondent. We are grateful that both will continue to serve our society – Dominik Heinzmann as our new treasurer, and Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz on the IBS Representative Council, where she is joining fellow ROeS-representatives Andrea Berghold and Martina Mittlböck, while Frank Bretz is serving on the IBS Executive Board. Welcome to our new officer Sonja Zehetmayer who is now acting as Biometric Bulletin Correspondent. There is also continuity: Thanks to Regina Riedl who has agreed to continue as secretary and webmaster, and to Michael Vock who takes care of our news, including this very newsletter. Thanks to all of you serving in these different and important functions! And thanks to ALL of you, namely our members, for letting us serve you.

There are rather sad news to share: Our esteemed colleague Hansruedi Roth who, among other functions, also served as ROeS president, has passed away earlier this year. An obituary written by Peter Bühlmann, Hansruedi Künsch, Lukas Meier, and Werner Stahel is included in this newsletter.

The last months have been dominated by COVID-19 and the manifold challenges surrounding this pandemic. Everyone of us has been affected in different ways. Fundamental questions on how today’s society functions globally and regionally have been raised, and they will hopefully not be forgotten – because this pandemic has not only presented us grand challenges, but it has also given us the unique chance to fundamentally rethink some of the ways we have been living our lives.

COVID-19 has also made it clear that the field of statistics is much more central and integral to the well-being of our nations than many people would have thought before. Statisticians are playing important roles, for example, in the serious attempts to model and forecast the pandemic and its effects on the economy, in assessing the effectiveness of measures to curb its spread, and in evaluating efficacy of possible treatments against the disease.

Therefore, many members of our ROeS have been extremely busy these last few months. Your expertise has often been sought after at higher frequency, and always with urgency, at your workplace, or even by governmental decision makers. A particular challenge for some of you has been redesigning clinical trials that had to be adapted, for example due to study participants not being able to appear for scheduled follow-ups. For those working at academic institutions, the seamless continuation of teaching and advising without physically meeting students has absorbed much of our time. And all this, all the while juggling telecommuting and home-schooling or other family duties, in some households at the same kitchen table.

So, as I write these lines, I sincerely hope that you have been able to get through these last months sufficiently well personally, and healthy. And I do hope that the vital importance of our field has indeed been reaching the awareness of the general public and of our political decision-makers. The last months have also demonstrated again that serious

statistics is always in competition with other solutions that are looking good at the surface, but don't always meet the quality criteria that we have set out in our field.

In this regard, let me mention an initiative that has been started by the president of the German Region, Werner Brannath, namely how we can make our field, our science, more known and more appreciated in the general public – including the schools. As we all know, statistics is a very fascinating field, requiring good science and creativity, and being highly relevant for society. We already know that there could hardly be a more interesting, diverse, and rewarding discipline to work in! But how to kindle this fire in others? If you have some good ideas, and are interested in contributing to this initiative, please let me know.

In order to make the voice of our field stronger, it will certainly be helpful to unite forces with neighboring societies, where appropriate. After all, the number of statisticians is not that large, compared to other professions. In this regard, there has been much communication in the last months with the leadership of neighboring IBS regions, and with the Swiss and Austrian Statistical Societies. We would like to connect even closer so that we can join efforts in those areas that are best tackled together, but respecting the individual identities that each of these societies has developed in several decades.

The last months have also established the widespread use of video-conferences and virtual meetings which have already facilitated much exchange within our professional community. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, video-meetings will be complemented again by live presence meetings. However, let us make use of the advantages presented by these tools that have been at our disposal for many years, but only now have become really utilized by many. The Basel Biometric Section (BBS) has already gone ahead and established virtual seminars that have been attended by many.

If any of you are hosting events that are potentially of interest and can be made available via videoconference to members of our society, please let us know. We would also like to collect those on our ROeS webpage. If you have organized such seminars and recorded them, let us know if we may provide a link to your recording.

Of course we strongly hope that our next ROeS meeting can be held in a presence format – in particular the signature ROeS conference hike would be difficult to virtualize. The XXXIInd ROeS Conference will take place from 7 to 10 September 2021 in Salzburg – please save the date! We have already initiated the planning process, and if someone would like to contribute as part of one of the planning committees, please let me know. We have also invited “neighboring societies” to propose fitting sessions, and some sessions from the cancelled Berlin 2020 GMDS-CEN meeting will move to our 2021 ROeS conference. Incidentally, the conference will also provide an occasion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our society, the diamond anniversary.

The 2021 conference motto will be “DATA, INTELLIGENCE, AND EVIDENCE”, highlighting the special and important role played by our profession when seriously making sense of life sciences data – also during times where buzzwords such as “artificial intelligence” are often mistaken as an alternative way to analyze data, but without having to follow the good practices of statistics on how to provide real evidence. I hope for lively discussions on these and other topics!

In hopes that we will get to see each other virtually and in presence at many ROeS events in the coming year,

Sincerely yours,

Arne Bathke

XXXIst ROeS Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2019

The 31st ROeS conference took place in Lausanne, in the French part of Switzerland, from September 9 to September 12, 2019 (Monday to Thursday). The conference venue was located near Lake Geneva (in French called “lac léman”!), on the main campus of Dorigny, in the Génopode building of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne. The local organizing committee was composed of members from the brand new “Center for Primary Care and Public Health” (Unisanté). The scientific committee was composed of 10 members from Swiss and Austrian Universities, as well as from the industry.

A total of 140 participants coming from 15 countries registered to the conference. Of note, all the 69 scheduled talks could take place, which was a statistical achievement. Two short courses were taught on the first day of the conference (Monday). The first one, taking place in the morning and given by Prof. Martin Huber, from the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), was entitled “Introduction to causal analysis”. The second one, taught in the afternoon by Prof. Martin Spindler, from the University of Hamburg, was an “Introduction to big data”. Both courses were attended by more than 40 participants. These two themes were of course not chosen randomly, and were related to the motto of the conference “From controlled trials to big data and back”. The main goal was to foster discussions and reflexions regarding the “right” place of statistics, whether it should favour good or big data, focussing more on ambitious causal inferences or on various forms of exploratory analyses.

Three keynote and 13 invited speakers were invited by the Scientific Committee. On Tuesday morning, Stephen Senn gave a keynote talk entitled “To infinity and beyond, lessons for big data from small experiments”, where he emphasized that the amount of information collected in a (seemingly large) multi-center study is actually limited by the number of centers (which is in some sense, the real sample size), and concluded his talk with a private thought: “A big data-analyst is an expert at producing misleading conclusions from huge data sets; it is much more efficient to use a statistician, who can do the same with small ones”. On Tuesday afternoon, Sander Greenland joined us via video conference for his keynote talk entitled “Statistics as a condemned building: demolition and reconstruction”, where he warned us from what he called “Nullism”,





“Dichotomania”, and from neglecting vast sources of uncertainties, contributing to overconfident inferences. The third keynote talk entitled “Machine learning for causal inference” was at the heart of the concerns of the conference. It took place on Wednesday morning and was given by Stefan Wager, who could convince us with a motivating example on medical data, that modern methods of machine learning could be integrated into the fitting process of a classical statistical model with interpretable parameters, typically taking care for the adjustment part of the model.



A poster session was organized together with some welcome drinks at the end of Tuesday at the “Montreux Jazz Café”, close to the conference venue. A prize was awarded to the best poster. The recipient was Hana Sinkovec from the Medical University of Vienna, who presented a joint work with Georg Heinze entitled “Bring more data! – a good advice? Removing separation in logistic regression by increasing sample size”, where we retrieved the main themes of the conference.



The traditional ROeS excursion took place on Wednesday afternoon. It was an opportunity to discover the beautiful region of Lavaux (UNESCO World Heritage), as well as the shores of the lake towards Montreux and Chillon Castle, with the awesome Chablais region in the background. It included two short walks, probably not challenging enough for self-respecting statisticians, known to enjoy hiking. The first walk (5 km) was along Lake Geneva from Clarens to Chillon Castle, where a guided tour was organized. The second walk (2.5 km) was a descent through the vineyards from Chexbres train station to the Auberge de Rivaz, where the conference dinner took place.

It was nice to share these moments together, in that dear year 2019, at a time where scientific conferences were not yet all virtual.

Valentin Rousson

Arthur Linder Prize 2019

The Arthur-Linder Prize 2019 was awarded on September 12, 2019, on the last day of the ROeS 2019 conference. The two recipients were Nicolas Ballarini and Christine Wallisch. Both just got their PhD at the Medical University of Vienna.

Nicolas Ballarini got the award for his paper: "Subgroup identification in clinical trials via the predicted individual treatment effect", published in PLOS one. The jury agreed that this is a quite impressive paper, in particular through the high standards of reproducibility, this fact alone being worth a price.



Christine Wallisch got the award for her paper: "Re-estimation improved two Framingham cardiovascular risk equations and the Pooled Cohort equations: Nationwide registry analysis". As a reviewer wrote, "this paper can serve as an exemplary paper of how prediction model updating should be done".

Valentin Rousson

Protokoll der ROeS-Mitgliederversammlung 2019

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 12:50–13:40

Place: Room A, Building Génopode, Campus Dorigny, University of Lausanne

Agenda:

1. Welcome and establishment of the quorum
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the president (Valentin Rousson)
4. Report from the IBS (Andrea Berghold)
5. Report from the ROeS sections
 - a. Vienna Biometric Section (S Strohmaier)
 - b. Basel Biometric Section (HU Burger)
 - c. Styria-Carinthia Biometric Section (A Berghold)
 - d. Adaptive Designs and Multiple Testing Procedures (nobody present)
6. Report of the treasurer (Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz)
7. Report of the accounting editors (Hanno Ulmer)
8. Election of the ROeS Board
9. Election of the advisory board
10. Election of additional roles (responsible ROeS newsletter, accounting editors)
11. Arthur-Linder Prize (Valentin Rousson)
12. News from the executive board (Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz)
13. News from the Biometrical Journal (Valentin Rousson)
14. Varia

ad 1) Welcome and establishment of the quorum

Valentin Rousson, President of the Austro-Swiss region, welcomes the participants of the assembly. The quorum is present.

ad 2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is approved unanimously.

ad 3) Report of the President

Valentin Rousson reports about:

- Support of events in 2018–2019, including the Summer School 2018/19 in Strobl am Wolfgangsee, Bayesian Clinical Trials at the Medical University of Vienna and the 10th International Workshop on Simulation and Statistics at the University of Salzburg.
- Organization of ROeS 2019: the budget for the conference hosted by UNIL and Unisanté is about 40.000 CHF, composed of money from sponsors, SNF and participation fees (N=140 participants). A profit of 5000–8000 CHF is estimated for the conference.

ad 4) Report from IBS

Andrea Berghold reports about the IBS. She mentions that the Inter-Regional network activities are going on well and informs about the changes in the government. Ulrich Burger's function as a member of the Representative Council ended in June. His successor is Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz starting from 7/1/2019–6/30/2023. Frank Bretz is now in the Executive Board outgoing chair and Martina Mittelböck and Andrea Berghold will be Representative Council members until 2021. Andrea Berghold announces that the next IBC will be held 2020 in South Korea.

ad 5) Report from the ROeS sections and working groups

- a. Vienna Biometric Section of ROeS (WBS): The new board of the WBS consists of Harald Herkner (MUW) as president and Susanne Strohmaier (MUW) as secretary. S Strohmaier reports that, thanks to the commitment of their colleagues, 33 presentations by national and international guests were held since October 2017. Topics included "*Initial Data Analysis*", "*Biomarker Selection*", "*Clinical Trial Design*" and "*Causal Inference*". Furthermore, workshops and short-courses on "*Subgroup Analysis*" (autumn 2017), "*Instrumental Variable Methods*" (autumn 2018) and "*Bayesian Clinical Trials*" (spring 2019) were organized. Joint seminars were held with the Hungarian Society for Clinical Biostatistics in autumn 2017 and the Styria-Carinthia Biometric Section in autumn 2018. A detailed list of all activities can be found on the homepage www.meduniwien.ac.at/wbs/.
- b. Basel Biometric Section of ROeS (BBS): Ulrich Burger reports that quite a large number of people joined the events including the causal inference course by Prof. Miguel Hernan, the seminar "*Precision medicine in drug development*", and further internal trainings. He also announces the upcoming seminar "*Predictive modelling, machine learning and causality*". A detailed list can be found on the homepage at www.ceb-institute.org/bbs/.
- c. Styria-Carinthia Biometric Section of ROeS (BSSK): Andrea Berghold reports about the joint seminar with the Vienna Biometric Section and announces the

guest lecture “*Futility Design for Phase II Trials – An Alternative to Under-powered Phase III trials*” held in October by Prof. Yuko Y. Palesch from the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina.

- d. Adaptive Designs and Multiple Testing Procedures: no representative person present

ad 6) Report of the Treasurer

Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz reports on ROeS finances and presents the financial statements for the years 2017–2018. Currently there are three bank accounts: one in Austria (Bank Austria) and two in Switzerland (Credit Suisse and PostFinance). The detailed financial statements for 2017–2018 are attached. In summary, a small profit was recorded in Austria and a small loss was recorded in Switzerland.

Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz notes that the membership fee cannot cover the fee that has to be payed to the IBS and Wiley. However, this is covered by a positive income from other activities. Taking into account that the ROeS is a non-profit organization and that there are enough savings to cover about two “conference fails” (corresponding to a loss of about 60.000 CHF), no changes in conference fees are foreseen.

In 2017 there was a fraud case yielding a loss of about 2500 Euro. While organizing the CEN IBS conference in Vienna, money was requested via fake E-Mails. This case is still under police investigation. To avoid such cases in the future, the E-Mail Addresses will be removed from the ROeS website.

ad 7) Report of the cash auditors

Hanno Ulmer reports that the accounts are being kept in an exemplary manner and requests that the actions of the board of directors be ratified.

ad 8) Election of the ROeS Board

Valentin Rousson introduces Arne Bathke, the candidate for ROeS president. Arne Bathke (not personally present) is elected unanimously. Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz is replaced as treasurer by Dominik Heinzmann. Dominik Heinzmann (not personally present) is elected unanimously. Regina Riedl is available as secretary and is re-elected unanimously.

Valentin Rousson presents Arne Bathke’s plans for ROeS presidency:

- Next ROeS Conference 2021: The next conference is to be held likely in early September 2021 in Salzburg. The title/motto of the conference is still to be decided; suggestions for a title are welcome. Arne Bathke also proposes a joint conference with the Italian Region or another statistical society. Leonhard Held organized a joint meeting with the Italian Regions in 2015 and therefore offers his help. Andrea Berghold reminds that there will be a large meeting next year (CEN in Berlin) and she would be more in favour of a smaller conference. However, cooperation’s with neighboring regions (e.g. Croatia) should be considered.
- Arne Bathke has three propositions for how the ROeS can be strengthened:
 - 1) By working closely with strategic allies, for example with the neighboring regions, or with other statistical societies. Several years ago, Germany has started the DAGSTAT as an umbrella organization for all the professional statistical associations present in the country. Is that a feasible model for statisticians in the Alpine region(s)?

- 2) By supporting the next generation of statisticians. Apart from Summer Schools and International Workshops, he considers a mentor program organized by the society. Perhaps some “seasoned” biostatisticians are willing to act as mentors for aspiring younger ones?
- 3) By being vocal. He suggests initiating public statements regarding current issues.

ad 9) Election of the Advisory Board

The ROeS Board proposes that Martin Posch from Austria and Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz from Switzerland be elected to the Advisory Board (in place of Arne Bathke and Dominik Heinzmann who will join the executive board). The vote was unanimously positive.

ad 10) Election of additional roles (responsible ROeS newsletter, accounting editors)

Michael Vock continues to be responsible for ROeS newsletter. Hanno Ulmer and Kaspar Rufibach will be again available as accounting auditors.

ad 11) Arthur-Linder Prize

This year's Arthur Linder Prize is awarded to Nicolas Ballarini and Christine Wallisch. Valentin Rousson reported a small conflict of interest. As foreseen in the updated award rules, Dominik Heinzmann was replaced by Leonhard Held. New jury members for 2021: Helga Wagner (Austria) and Marcel Wolbers (Switzerland) are available for the new jury of the Arthur Linder Prize and are elected unanimously.

ad 12) News from the executive board (Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz)

Shu-Fang Hsu Schmitz reports about decisions made in the executive board meeting on February 21:

- The support for bookkeeping from the University of Bern was discontinued. Pia Weingart is now supporting the bookkeeping on a private basis and has to be paid for her work. For the next treasurer a new secretary support for bookkeeping could be found.
- In the future, membership invoice and newsletter will be sent per e-mail only.

There were no questions or comments.

ad 13) News from the Biometrical Journal (Valentin Rousson)

Arne Bathke (Salzburg) and Matthias Schmid (Bonn) have been asked to follow the footsteps of Dankmar Böhning and Marco Alfö as co-editors of the Biometrical Journal. The contract with Wiley is currently being negotiated. If everything goes well, Arne and Matthias will be responsible for new submissions to the Biometrical Journal starting January 2020. Dankmar and Marco would still handle all submissions that are submitted by the end of December 2019.

ad 14) Varia

No Varia.

Annex: Zweijahresrechnung 2017 + 2018

A. OESTERREICH

<u>Einnahmen:</u>	<u>Euro</u>
Mitgliederbeiträge	8'440.00
CEN-ISBS income deducting AIM service	19'029.22
Bayesian Workshop Feb 2019 (Ausgaben in 2019)	5'253.50

	32'722.72

<u>Ausgaben:</u>	<u>Euro</u>
IBS, Payment Dues Renewal 2017	7'419.47
Wiley, Biom. Journal 2017 + 2018	4'504.37
Bankspesen, Gebühren, Porti	295.52
Domain-Hosting Homepage	153.60
CEN-ISBS-Tagung 2017	17'352.82
Fraud case 2017 (under police investigation)	2'550.00
Reisespesen (Vorstand)	28.45
Sommerschule Univ. Salzburg 2018	347.91

	32'652.14

<u>Vermögensnachweis</u>	<u>1.1.2017</u>	<u>31.12.2018</u>
UniCredit/Bank Austria	22'251.52	22'322.10
	-----	-----
	<u>22'251.52</u>	<u>22'322.10</u>

Einnahmenüberschuss 2017-2018 + 70.58 Euro

B. SCHWEIZ

<u>Einnahmen:</u>	<u>sFr.</u>
Mitgliederbeiträge	7'595.30
Zinsertrag	10.10

	7'605.40

<u>Ausgaben:</u>	<u>sFr.</u>
div. Frankaturen	408.00
IBS, Payment Dues Renewal 2018	9'379.45
Druckkosten ROeS Newsletter	199.35
Bankspesen, Gebühren, Porti	202.15
Arthur-Linder-Preis 2017 (3x)	3'000.00

	13'188.95

<u>Vermögensnachweis</u>	<u>1.1.2017</u>	<u>31.12.2018</u>
PC-Konto 80-62648	11'675.75	6'082.10
CS, Bern PK 169586-60-1	50'476.81	50'486.91
	-----	-----
	<u>62'152.56</u>	<u>56'569.01</u>

Ausgabenüberschuss 2017-2018 - 5'583.55 sFr.

Nachruf / Obituary

Hansruedi Roth, 1944–2020

Hansruedi Roth, Senior Scientist im Ruhestand der ETH Zürich, ist am 12. März nach geduldig ertragener Krankheit in seinem 76. Altersjahr in Zürich verstorben.

Hansruedi Roth wurde am 27. März 1944 geboren und verbrachte seine Kindheit und Jugend in Zürich. Er studierte Agrarwissenschaften an der ETH Zürich und promovierte 1973 unter der Leitung von Professor Henri Le Roy. Seine Promotionsarbeit mit dem Titel „Künstliche Selektion nach mehreren Merkmalen in simulierten Populationen“ liegt inhaltlich an der Schnittstelle zwischen Genetik und Statistik. Nach der Promotion verbrachte er einige Jahre in der Industrie, bevor er als Senior Scientist an die ETH Zürich zurückkehrte, zuerst an das Institut für Nutztierwissenschaften und 1993 an das Seminar für Statistik.

Hansruedi Roths wissenschaftliche Tätigkeiten sind in der Angewandten Statistik, der Biometrie und der Populationsgenetik anzusiedeln. Sein Stil und Vorgehen waren stets geprägt von seinem Werdegang von der Populationsgenetik zur Statistik: Ausgehend von der wissenschaftlichen Fragestellung sollen statistische Modelle und Methoden adäquat eingesetzt und innovativ vorangetrieben werden. Er war ein grosser Spezialist der statistischen Versuchsplanung und Datenanalyse und ein anerkannter Experte für moderne Varianzanalyse. Hansruedi Roth hat sich auch mit Themen der Sensorik in der Lebensmitteltechnologie befasst. Seine Errungenschaften und Kompetenzen, die er nie gross zur Schau stellte, wurden sehr geschätzt. So war er unter anderem Präsident der ROeS von 1994 bis 1995 und auch während vieler Jahre Mitglied einer Ethikkommission des Universitätsspitals Zürich.

Hansruedi Roth hat sich mit viel Herzblut für die Lehre und die Ausbildung engagiert. Seine praxisorientierten Vorlesungen waren beliebt bei den Studierenden, Doktorierenden und in den Weiterbildungslehrgängen in Statistik an der ETH Zürich und der Universität Bern. Insbesondere seine beliebte Vorlesung in statistischer Versuchsplanung und Varianzanalyse hat unzähligen Studierenden einen grundlegenden Einblick in die angewandte Statistik vermittelt. Er hat sich auch unermüdlich und erfolgreich für den statistischen Beratungsdienst der ETH Zürich eingesetzt und sein grosses Wissen und seine wertvolle Erfahrung den Anwendern und Mitarbeitern gekonnt weitervermittelt. Hansruedi Roth hat sich als Pionier früh für den Einbezug des Computers in die Lehre eingesetzt und die dafür benötigten Computerräume für Studierende eingerichtet.

Neben all seinen Leistungen und Errungenschaften in der Lehre und Wissenschaft war Hansruedi Roth aber auch ein äusserst grosszügiger Mensch, der allen Mitarbeitenden am Seminar für Statistik viel Wohlwollen entgegenbrachte, sich generationenübergreifend für viele Themen begeistern konnte und sich für die Anliegen anderer Personen stets viel Zeit nahm.

Er offerierte jeden Freitagmorgen frisch duftende „Gipfeli“ (Croissants) und organisierte Jogging-Trainings; vor allem aber bereicherte er uns alle mit seinem Humor, seinem Lachen, seiner Sympathie und seiner Feinfühligkeit.

Wir werden Dich, Hansruedi, vermissen und Dir immer ein ehrendes Andenken bewahren.

Peter Bühlmann, Hansruedi Künsch, Lukas Meier, Werner Stahel

Aus den Sektionen und der Arbeitsgruppe

Wiener Biometrische Sektion

Trotz der COVID-19-bedingten Einschränkungen kann die Wiener Biometrische Sektion von zahlreichen Biometrischen Kolloquien und Seminaren berichten. Unser Dank geht hier (wie immer) an unsere Kollegen an der MUW, die durch ihren viel geschätzten Einsatz eine Reihe von interessanten Vorträgen ermöglicht haben. Wir konnten zwölf Vortragende zum Biometrischen Kolloquium in Wien begrüßen, die ihre Beiträge zu verschiedenen Aspekten der Überlebenszeit-Analyse, sowie Themen wie z. B. „adaptive designs“, „joint variable selection“, „measurement error“ oder „computational sociology“ präsentierten. Die COVID-19-Maßnahmen motivierten die Organisation von zwei virtuellen Kolloquien, die mit regem Interesse aufgenommen wurden. Unser letztjähriges Herbstseminar fand zum Thema „Update in Evidence Synthesis Methods – Current Topics in Meta-analysis“ statt. Dafür konnten wir hochkarätige Vortragende aus dem In- und Ausland gewinnen, die uns sowohl methodische Neuentwicklungen als auch praxisnahe Aspekte näherbrachten. Harald Herkner wird sich im Herbst aus seiner aktiven Rolle als Präsident zurückziehen. Vielen Dank an dieser Stelle für die großartige Zusammenarbeit!

Susanne Strohmaier

Celebrating 50 years of Medical Statistics

On the 8th and 9th of October 2019 we celebrated the 50th birthday of the Institute of Medical Statistics together with former and current members, collaborators and friends. After a welcome by the university's rector Markus Müller, the milestones of the department's 50 year-long history and its major achievements were brought to life by the department head Martin Posch. The highlight of the evening, however, was the keynote talk by Sir David Spiegelhalter, Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge. In his insightful and entertaining talk on "Trust in Numbers", he addressed the reproducibility crisis in science and impressively demonstrated the need to appropriately communicate the uncertainty of quantitative and scientific evidence. Press offices, the public press and also the scientific community were not spared from criticism as "numbers are often used to persuade rather than inform".

The second day of the symposium was dedicated to the current research of former and current members of the institute. On the one hand methodological research was presented as in talks on "deep neural networks" and a "population-wise error rate". Insights into the applied research was given by talks on medical projects as the nutrition day study or the collaboration with the Austrian Center for Documentation and Quality Assurance in Intensive Care Medicine. Furthermore, with a little humor thrown in, the audience was entertained with "Humoriges aus der Ethikkommission" and "When the patient became a customer".

We enjoyed meeting former and current members as well as collaborators and friends of the department. It was a pleasure to jointly remember past achievements and anecdotes while looking forward to the next 50 years.

Alexandra Graf and Sonja Zehetmayer

Veranstaltungshinweise / Events

GMDS & CEN-IBS 2020

Replaced by an online format, September 6–9, 2020
<https://www.gmds-cen-2020.de/>

XXXIInd Conference of the Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS) of the International Biometric Society Data, Intelligence, and Evidence

Salzburg, Austria, September 7–10, 2021

XXXI International Biometric Conference (IBC 2022)

Riga, Latvia, July 10–15, 2022