1. Committee Work

ERC—EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The ERC had a meeting in Vilnius (Lithuania) during the 22nd European Meeting of Statisticians. Jacek Koronacki (Warsaw, Poland) has now been declared elected as new chairman and he started his term of office right after the Vilnius Meeting. He is very enthusiastic about his task and, as he stated himself, he will particularly work on the further integration of Eastern European statisticians into the whole European community.

Another important position is that of programme coordinator. For the next two years the ERC has elected Arnoldo Frigessi (Rome, Italy) for this task. Also seven new members have been elected for the period 1998–2002: Tina Rydberg (Denmark), Wenceslao Gonzalez Manteiga (Spain), Yakov Nikitin (Russia), Pascal Massart (France), Ursula Gather (Germany), David Firth (UK) and Lars Holst (Sweden). The ERC will now start working on the organization of the 23rd European Meeting of Statisticians in 2001 in cooperation with Dinnis Pestana who is prepared to hold this meeting in Lisbon (Portugal). As outgoing chairman, I want to thank all of you for your kind cooperation and I wish all success to the incoming chairman and his team.

Noel Veraverbeke, Diepenbeek

Aims for chairmanship

Let me begin in a somewhat personal vein and come back to the time when my candidacy for the chairmanship was about to be announced. Had I then not been encouraged by Volker Mammitzsch and Noel Veraverbeke, I would have not agreed to stand for the election. Honestly, if bluntly put, I did not find myself deserving the *honour*. At the same time, however, their argumentation, and my earlier membership on the Committee, made me think that I hopefully can be fit for the *duty*. In particular, Volker and Noel referred to a now undeniable need to foster reintegration of Eastern European scientific community into the European fold and argued that a chairman from "emerging economies" should prove particularly suitable to help fulfill that need (for the sake of clarity, let me add that Eastern Europe is meant here to include the whole region east of current European Union). Thus, being in addition a witness to an impressive and steady growth of Bernoulli Society over the years, no wonder that I have finally found myself eager to join the Committee and undertake the task of co-ordinating its important work for the European statistical community. I shall do my best to live up to the high standards set up by my predecessors.

The challenges ahead are manifold, and I know that our Committee will have an input to many important endeavours. In accordance with the ERC's tradition we have again elected an outstanding Programme Coordinator, Arnoldo Frigessi, but I believe that we shall not rest on our laurels leaving him without any suggestions of ours for the 23rd EMS. We shall be encouraging our colleagues in the Bernoulli Society to organize satellite meetings to the next EMS's, assisting them to the extent our capacity allows. Already now we shall start picking the best candidates for the organization of the 24th EMS. And it will remain our constant duty to promote the Society's initiatives, encourage colleagues around to join the Society and, in particular, help young statisticians take advantage of those endeavours which the Society addresses especially to them.

Jacek Koronacki, Warsaw

$C(PS)^2$ —Committee on Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences

$C(PS)^2$ has initiated the SESS-TIES'99 Conference to mark the continuation of the first such sponsored meeting on *Earth and Space Sciences* at Leuven 1989. The SESS-TIES'99 is an international conference to be hosted in the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) during August 23-27, 1999, as a satellite meeting to the 52nd Biennial Session of the ISI (August 11-18, 1999, Helsinki, Finland). This interdisciplinary conference is jointly organized by the Committee on Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences (CPSPS) of the Bernoulli Society, and by The International Environmetric Society (TIES). The theme of SESS-TIES'99 is Environmetrics and Statistics in the Earth and Space Sciences (ESESS). The aim of the organizers is to bring together developers and users of state of the art probabilistic and statistical methods, with a special focus on Geophysical and Environmental applications.

Detailed information about the scientific organization, registration, abstracts, accommodation, etc. is available at the SESS-TIES'99 web-site:

`http://www.stat-athens.aueb.gr/esess/`

The organizers will be most pleased to particularly receive suggestions and proposals for the organization of sessions relevant to the conference theme.

Chairman of the Programme Committee

Abdel H. El-Shaarawi, address on page 26

Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee

Harry Pavlopoulos, address on page 26

Ed Waymire, Corwallis

CCSP—Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes

CCSP sponsors the Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications (SPA) annually except in the year of the World Congress of the Bernoulli Society. These one week-long meetings typically feature lectures by 15–18 invited speakers and a large number of contributed talks. Featured topics include both theoretical developments in probability and stochastic processes and important areas of application.

The *25th Conference* was held at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, USA, July 5–11, 1998, and we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the SPA conference series with a historical talk by Tom Kurtz and with an anniversary cake (see photograph below). An overview over the history of SPA is given on the next page.

The *26th Conference* will be held in Beijing, China, June 14–18, 1999. For more information see p. 20. There will be *no meeting in 2000*, because of the World Congress, which will be held in Guanajuato, Mexico, see the announcement on p. 29. The *27th Conference* will be held in Cambridge, UK, July 9–14, 2001. The principal organizer is J.R. Norris (email: spa27@staslab.cam.ac.uk). The location of the *28th Conference* in 2002 will be decided at the CCSP meeting in Beijing, June 1999.

History of SPA

(Conferences on Stochastic Processes and their Applications)

Conf	Year	Location	Principal Organizer
27th	2001	Cambridge, UK	J.R. Norris
	2000	*No meeting* (5th World Congress in Guanajuato)	
26th	1999	Beijing, China	Jia-An Yan
25th	1998	Corvallis, Oregon, USA	Ed Waymire
24th	1997	Vina del Mar, Chile	Rolando Rebolledo
	1996	*No meeting* (4th World Congress in Vienna)	
23rd	1995	Singapore	Louis Chen
	1994	*No meeting* (3rd World Congress in Chapel Hill)	
22nd	1993	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Onno Boxma
21st	1992	York, Canada	George O'Brien
20th	1991	Nahariya, Israel	Robert Adler
19th	1990	Eisenach, Germany	
	1990	(2nd World Congress in Uppsala)	
18th	1989	Madison, USA	David Griffeath
17th	1988	Rome, Italy	G. Koch
16th	1987	Stanford, USA	D. Iglehart
	1986	*No meeting* (1st World Congress in Tashkent)	
15th	1985	Nagoya, Japan	K. Ito/T. Hida
14th	1984	Gothenburg, Sweden	Peter Jagers
13th	1983	Varanasi, India	S.N. Singh
12th	1983	Ithaca, NY, USA	Narahari U. Prabhu
11th	1982	Clermont-Ferrand, France	Paul-Louis Hennequin
10th	1981	Montreal, Canada	Anatole Joffe
	1980	*No meeting*	
9th	1979	Evanston, USA	Erhan Cinlar/Stanley R. Pliska
8th	1978	Canberra, Australia	Christopher Heyde
7th	1977	Enschede, The Netherlands	Jos H.A. de Smit
6th	1976	Tel Aviv, Israel	B. Epstein/R. Rubinovitch
5th	1975	College Park, Maryland, USA	Ryszard Syski/Grace Yang
4th	1974	York, Canada	R.A. Schaufele
3rd	1973	Sheffield, UK	Joseph Gani
2nd	1972	Leuven, Belgium	Jeff L. Teugels/Jos H.A. de Smit
1st	1971	Rochester, NY, USA	Julian Keilson

Makoto Maejima, Yokohama