

**Minutes Annual General Meeting BMS-ANed 2023**

Assembly of the BMS (Biometric Section of the Dutch Society for Statistics and Operations Research - VVS) and ANed (Dutch region of the International Biometric Society - IBS)

Date: Thursday June 15th 2023

Venue: During the BMS-ANed Spring meeting in Utrecht (at “Vredenburg 19”)

Chair: BMS-ANed President Mark van de Wiel

Minutes: BMS-ANed secretary Mar Rodríguez Girondo

Other BMS-ANed board members present:

Treasurer Dennis te Beest

Jeroen Hoogland

Roula Tsonaka

 Joost van Rosmalen

Kim Luijken (new)

Floor van Oudenhoven (new)

The general assembly was planned and accordingly announced to happen during the Hans van Houwelingen award ceremony and symposium on June, 15th 2023, in Utrecht.

On June 1st, 2023, an email was sent announcing that the 2023 General Assembly of the BMS (Biometric Section of the Dutch Society for Statistics and Operations Research - VVS) and ANed (Dutch region of the International Biometric Society - IBS) would take place during the Hans van Houwelingen award ceremony and symposium on June 15th, 2023, in Utrecht. A reminder email was sent on June 14th. On June 12th, 2023, an email was sent referring to the 2022 financial summaries of BMS-ANed, the agenda for the General Assembly 2023, and the minutes of the 2022 General Assembly. All the documents could be found on the BMS-ANed website: <https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/pages/archive/>

All emails were sent to the email lists of both IBS-ANed and VVSOR-BMS.

1. Opening

* The president Mark van de Wiel opened the assembly. 15 participants

2. Approval of Agenda

* New point proposed by Mark van de Wiel: Registry of Biostatisticians (point 6.a.).
* Agenda is approved

3. Minutes annual general meeting 2020

* Mark van de Wiel explained the status of one of the action points from the past General Assembly 2022. The Corsten fund has been transferred to the IBS. The topic is now closed.
* The minutes of the 2022 assembly were approved.

4. Overview BMS-ANed events, 2022-2023.

* Mark van de Wiel summarized the events that took place in 2022 and provided an update until June 2023. He made a call for anyone with ideas for events to contact BMS-ANed.

5. Changes in the BMS-ANed board.

* Farewell and thanks to: Said el Bouhaddani and Joanna in ’t Hout
* Proposal for new board members+ voting: Kim Luijken and Floor van Oudenhoven. No objections. The proposal for the new board members is approved.
* Kim and Floor introduced themselves. Floor expressed her willingness to strengthen connections between academia and industry.
* It was mentioned that currently, there is no PhD board member, but there is a desire for more collaboration with the Young Statistician VVS section. If there is an enthusiastic PhD student who would like to join the BMS-ANed board, their participation is welcomed. They can reach out to the BMS-ANed board via email.

6. Hans van Houwelingen award: change in regulations

* Proposal: Clarification of Peer-Reviewed Requirements (attached as annex 1).
* Mark explained the motivation behind the change proposal, citing instances where papers published in journals based on post-publication review or journals without a guaranteed peer-review process were received. The core of the proposal aims to consider papers that have undergone a comparable level of peer review, typically involving two reviews. The intention of the modification is not to introduce strict and specific rules but to grant the BMS-ANed board the authority to request evidence of the existence and characteristics of the peer-review process.
* One attendee raised a question regarding whether the associate editor should be counted as one of the peer reviews. This led to a debate about certain ambiguities in the current wording of the proposal, such as the requirements related to international repositories. It was clarified that the goal is not to establish strict rules but rather to empower the board to make decisions in cases where doubts exist. The proposal was accepted by the attendees and Mark suggested a slight rewording of the text to reflect this intent (to be done after the general assembly).

Action point BMS-ANed board: adapt proposal to incorporate attendees suggestions and eliminate ambiguities.

6.a. Biostatisticians registry

* Several institutions require the registration of employed Biostatisticians. Peter van de Ven highlighted a bottleneck in the process, where individuals have to justify five years of experience. It was suggested to investigate the registration process in other countries via the Federation of European National Statistical Societies (FENStatS) as an idea. The consensus was that it is important for BMS-ANed to address this topic. It was agreed that the BMS-Ned board would examine the issue and propose improvements to the registration process.

Action point BMS-ANed board: analyze current situation with the Registry of Biostatisticians and eventually propose improvements in the registration process.

7. Financial overview + report financial audit (kascontrolecommissie)

* Dennis te Beest presented the financial summary. It is mentioned that Marco Grzegorczyk and Marianne Jonker have audited the 2022 finances. Details can be found here: [Archive - VVSOR](https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/pages/archive/).
* Marianne Jonker took the floor on behalf of the kascontrolcommissie (financial control committee) and confirmed a positive audit of the finances.
* A question was raised regarding why the amount obtained from fees is less than the amount given to the IBS. Dennis explained that this difference is due to the fluctuation between the dollar and euro exchange rates. The proposed increase in fees (to be voted upon) will address and rectify this discrepancy.

8. Membership fee increase

* The Proposal of 5 euros per year increase (students exempt) was approved.

9. Budget 2023

* Dennis te Beest explained the budget, which includes the possibility of introducing small fees for event attendance. While BMS-ANed events have traditionally been free, the tight budget has led to the consideration of experimenting with this idea.
* An amount of 2000 euros was requested from the VVS (attached as annex 2).
* An attendee expressed curiosity about why there is a significant amount of reserve money. It was explained that the surplus comes from the past, and while its origin cannot be specifically explained (it has existed for a long time), it is important to maintain this reserve for potential losses related to the channel meeting, which is shared among the four societies involved. Having this buffer is deemed important.

10. Any other business

None

11. Closing

* The president Mark van de Wiel closed the assembly.

**ANNEX 1**

Proposal: Clarification of Peer-Reviewed Requirements in the Hans van Houwelingen Award Regulations (Addition: Emphasized Text in bold).

Biometry Award Regulations

Every two years the Netherlands Region of the International Biometric Society (ANed) rewards the most stimulating recent paper on a biometric subject, by handing out the Hans van Houwelingen Award. The Hans van Houwelingen Award consists of a certificate and a cash award for the first author. The author of the winning paper is expected to organize the Autumn meeting of BMS-ANed in the year that the Award is assigned. The winning paper is selected by a jury that is appointed by the board of ANed. The board of ANed reserves the right to enroll a sponsor for the Award with, as compensation, publicity of the sponsors name. A paper can be nominated if it meets the following requirements:

• it is written in the English language and published in a peer-reviewed journal in the area of biometrics or in a journal publishing biometric papers. ***Here, ‘peer reviewed’ means that the paper is reviewed by at least two reviewers. In the case of post-publication review the paper should, in addition, be accepted for indexing by the international repositories. If in doubt, the ANed board may ask for proof of those reviews.***

• it is published (either in printed or electronic form) in the two calendar years preceding the year in which the ANed Biometry Award will be given.

• its first author is of Dutch nationality or is employed at a Dutch institution.

• it hasn’t been nominated before.

• no other paper with the same first author is nominated.

• it is submitted to the secretary of ANed before the final date mentioned in the announcement for the ANed Biometry Award.

• it hasn’t been (co-)authored by a member of the jury.

In unforeseen cases, the board of ANed decides whether a paper is eligible for nomination.

**ANNEX 2**

“Namens de BMS sectie zou ik voor 2023 nog willen vragen om een geschatte bijdrage van 2,000 euro. Wij organiseren in ieder geval één event ter ere van de uitreiking van de Hans van Houwelingen award, eind mei/begin juni. Hierbij komt de jury over vanuit België, Duitsland, Noorwegen, dus er zijn wel wat reiskosten aan verbonden, ik schat zo’n 750 euro. Verder willen we nog zo’n 1250 euro uittrekken voor zaalhuur, drankjes etc. Hiervan zullen we 500 euro uit de reserves afdekken. Dus voor dit event vragen we 1500 euro. Daarnaast een kleinere thematische meeting in het late najaar. Daarvoor willen we een bijdrage van 500 euro vragen aan de VVS. De rest doen we dan zelf  evt met gebruikmaking van dat nieuwe betalingssysteem. Totaal vragen we dus een bijdrage van 2,000 euro voor BMS.”