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| Annual report 2017 of BMS and ANed |

The board and activities of the Biometrics Section (BMS) of the Netherlands Society for Statistics and Operations Research (VVS-OR) and the Dutch Region (ANed) of the International Biometric Society (IBS) are identical. Therefore, for 2017, only one annual report is written for both scientific professional associations. All information on the activities of BMS and ANed is available through the website <https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/>

### Members

In December 2017   
Members of Biometric section VVS: unkown  
Members of ANed: 129 members

### Board

Composition BMS board before BMS ANed General Assembly 6 June 2017:

Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (President)

Ernst Wit (Vice-president)

Sophie Swinkels (Secretary)

Willem Kruijer (Treasurer)

Dimitris Rizopoulos (Member)

Joanna in ’t Hout (Contact person education)

Magnus Münch (PhD- student-member, webmaster)

Said el Bouhaddani (PhD- student-member, contact person Education)

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### Scientific Activities

*BMS-ANed Meeting January 20, 2017 “Biostatistics for the future” VUMC, room 'Maas', Amsterdam*

Speakers:

Prof. Hendriek Boshuizen (RIVM, Bilthoven): Measurement error: an ignored source of bias;

Prof. Mark van de Wiel (VU, Amsterdam): Empirical Bayes learning from co-data in high-dimensional prediction settings;

Dr. Michel Hof (UvA, Amsterdam): Record linkage with survival data;

Dr. Aysun Cetinyurek-Yavuz (Danone Nutricia research, Utrecht): A flexible frailty model for interval-censored data using Bayesian p-splines;

*BMS-ANed Meeting June 6, 2017 “Frailty models” LUMC Poortgebouw, “Ontvangstruimte”, Rijnsburgerweg 10, Leiden*

This Meeting was organized around the Hans van Houwelingen award 2016 winning paper “Dynamic frailty models based on compound birth-death processes”, by Hein Putter and Hans van Houwelingen.

Speakers:

Hein Putter (Leiden University Medical Center): Dynamic frailty models based on compound birth-death processes;

Steffen Unkel (Georg August University Göttingen): Shared frailty models and the relative frailty variance;

Malka Gorfine (Tel Aviv University): Different aspects of frailty modelling;

Philip Hougaard (Lundbeck and University of Southern Denmark): Survival of Danish twins born 1870-2000 – preliminary report;

*BMS-ANed Meeting December 15, 2017 “Biomedical image analysis”*

In the morning Joke Durnez (Stanford) gave a short course for PhD students, postdocs and other people interested on the analysis of medical images. (Mathematical Institute, Leiden),

In the afternoon there was a symposium with speakers (Havingazaal, Het Gorlaeus, Einsteinweg 55, Leiden)

Dr Joke Durnez (Stanford University): Power and reproducibility in neuroimaging;

Prof. Beatrijs Moerkerke (Ghent University): Meta-analyses of fMRI studies;

Prof. Christian Beckmann (Nijmegen University): Big data for precision medicine: charting resting-state functional connectivity & connectopies;

Prof. Marie-Colette van Lieshout (CWI, Amsterdam): Stochastic geometric models for image analysis.

### Annual General Meeting 2017

*Annual General Assembly Meeting BMS and ANed*

Venue: After the BMS-ANed meeting “Frailty models” LUMC Poortgebouw, “Ontvangstruimte”

Date: Tuesday June 6th 17:00

Chair: BMS-ANed President Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat

Minutes: BMS-ANed secretary Sophie Swinkels

An announcement of the AGA was send by email on April 21, May 18 and finally on May 31 with all relevant documents attached.

Documents are also on the website <https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/>

### Working group – PhD day

*PhD day Erasmus MC, Rotterdam on Tuesday October 10th 2017.*Committee: Greg Papageorgiou (Erasmus MC), Sara Baart (Erasmus MC), Said el Bouhaddani ([LUMC](mailto:s.el_bouhaddani@lumc.nl))*.* On 10 October 2017 many PhD students – 24 to be precise – from all over the Netherlands gathered at the Erasmus MC for a day filled with social and scientific activities. The day started with the co-editor of Biostatistics with a talk on how to get your papers published. For both junior and senior PhD students this is one of the main challenges of their PhD life. It boils down to two principles: 1) don’t feel bad if your paper is rejected, you’re part of the majority and 2) never stop trying, you’ll succeed eventually! The second part of the morning session was reserved for three recent graduates (the brave survivors). They all had their specific experiences and “horror stories” to tell, and were very keen to answer all questions of the audience. But one thing was for sure: the PhD life is an unforgotten and worthwhile experience! After refueling with a nice lunch it was time for the PhD students themselves to present their hard work. Work and results in many different research fields were shared, and everyone took part in the discussions. It appeared that a PhD in biostatistics not only teaches you how to maximize a likelihood, but also how joint analysis can be related to the famous cartoon ‘catdog’. A big thank you to Sara Baart and Greg Papageorgiou (from EMC) for co-organizing this event, and to BMS-ANed for sponsoring. The next edition is likely to be in two years, I hope to see you all there!

### Working group – Education

Committee:

* Joanna in ‘t Hout (chair, Radboudumc)
* Ron Wehrens (Wageningen UR)
* Said el Bouhaddani (LUMC)

The current aims of the Working Group Education are

1. to promote the importance of education in statistics
2. to make an inventory of the available (medical) statistics courses at universities, including the target audience and by whom these courses can be attended
3. to be involved in accreditation of statistical expertise (Register Biostatistician-VVS)

In March 2017 the WG Education had its kick-off, after a period with very few activities. The objectives of the WG were reformulated and an action plan was made. As a follow-up, a preliminary overview of statistical courses at the universities was made, and we have been in contact with Fred van Eeuwijk, the chair of the VVS-OR. Together with Fred we decided that it would be a good idea to base the WG Education directly under the VVS-OR, instead of limiting the focus to medical statistics, which would give the WG more influence - if needed - in discussions on statistics education. This initiative needs a follow-up up in 2018, and members from other VVS sections must be invited.

### Working group - Pharmaceutical Statistics and Data Management (PSDM)

The PSDM (Pharmaceutical Statistics and Data Management) is a Dutch network group of statisticians, clinical programmers and data managers working in and for the pharmaceutical industry.

In December 2016, the board consisted of:

· Chairman (and EFSPI): Egbert Biesheuvel  
(Director Data Sciences AMN, Nutricia Research, Utrecht)

· Secretary (Statistics and Corine Baljé-Volkers

Registration Biostats): (Consultant Biostatistics, Author!, ‘s Graveland)

· Treasurer (and Statistics): Frans Sollie  
(Statistician, PRA International, Zuidlaren)

· Data Management: Alexander Adema (Sr. Clinical Data Manager, QPS) (new)

· Website: Maritza Witteveen  
(Data Management Coach, Pro-CDM, Huis ter Heide (UT))

The PSDM was co-organiser of the joined EFSPI/PSDM meeting on “*Analysis of Safety Data in Clinical Trials*” hosted by Astellas on June 23 2017.

Speakers: Maria Costa (GSK), Adam Crisp (GSK), Johannes Hengelbrock (University of Hamburg), Bernd Heinen (JMP), Kit Roes (University of Utrecht), Gerd Rosenkranz (University of Vienna), and Robert Snijder (Astellas).

### Register Biostatistician-VVS

In 2017, no new assignments for the Board for Registration of Biostatisticians took place, so the Board consisted of:  
Chair – Paul Koopman (Cromsource, Vianen)  
Secretary – Corine Baljé (Author! et al. BV, Hilversum)  
Member – Edwin van den Heuvel (University of Eindhoven)  
Member – Gerard van Breukelen (University of Maastricht)

Since the start of the register in 2000 until end of 2017 the Board has received 174 applications. These differentiate between 166 accepted, 7 rejected and 1 in progress. In 2017, six newly received applications have been processed, resulting in 4 accepted applications, 1 rejected and 1 in progress. Excluding the registered persons who have deceased or terminated their registration, or have indicated to withhold consent for inclusion into the public register, in total 146 persons are on the public register by end 2017.

In 2017, the Board has dealt with administration and running usual activities. No live meetings have been held. Necessary contacts with the representative from the ANED/BMS Board went smoothly.

In addition, a promotion campaign has been initiated in 2017. Mailshots have been sent to potential registrants and heads of departments. This has led to a limited number of new applications.

In 2015 FENSTATS (<http://www.fenstats.eu>) decided to install a European Statistics Accreditation Committee (ESAC) with the task to advice on a European harmonization of the various national registration schemes and to determine which aspects play a role in its implementation. Points for attention are the juridical protection of the certification for the branch/discipline, but also periodical renewal of registration related to permanent education. The chair of our committee, Paul Koopman, has been nominated by the VVS board to represent VVS in this ESAC, and thus to participate in upcomings discussions. Late 2017, first activities have been developed, to be followed up in 2018.

### Active Members 2017

Members of BMS-ANed active and/or formerly active in various other committees and boards in the field of biostatistics:

•Ernst Wit (RUG, Groningen) was on the Executive board of the International Biometric Society (2015), is member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the International Biometrics Society (2014-2017) and associate editor of Biometrics (2014-2017)

•Rene Eijkemans (UMCU, Utrecht) is chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the International Biometric Society (2014)

•Marianne Jonker (Radboudumc, Nijmegen) is on the Representative Council of the International Biometric Society (2018)

•Grzegorczyk (RUG, Groningen) is on the Representative Council of the International Biometric Society (2018)

•Dimitris Rizopoulos (Erasmus MC, Rotterdam) is on the Representative Council of the International Biometric Society (2014)

•Marcos Malosetti (WUR, Wageningen) is on the Editorial Advisory Committee (2016)

•Roula Tsonaka (LUMC, Leiden) is an associate editor of Biometrics (2013-2016)

•Mark van der Wiel (VUMC, Amsterdam) is member of the steering committee of the International Biometric Society’s Channel Network Region (2014-2017) and was member of local organizing committee of Channel Meeting 2015  
•Jelle Goeman (LUMC, Leiden) will be member of the steering committee of the International Biometric Society’s Channel Network Region (2018-2021) and member of local organizing committee of Channel Meeting

•Sophie Swinkels (Danone, Utrecht) is member of the steering committee of the International Biometric Society’s Channel Network Region (2016-2019) and was member of local organizing committee of Channel Meeting 2017

•Fred van Eeuwijk (Biometris, Wageningen) is member of the program committee International Biometric Conference (2017-2019), member of JABES Editorial Management Committee (2014-2016) and president of the VVS-OR

•Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (LUMC, Leiden) is member of the program committee International Biometric Conference (2017-2019)  
•Egbert Biesheuvel (Danone Nutricia Research, Utrecht) is member of the financial committee of the ANed  
•Ton de Haan (Radboud UMC, Nijmegen) is member of the financial committee of the ANed

For PSDM the following people are active in the EFSPI:

•Egbert Biesheuvel (Danone Nutricia Research, Utrecht) is representing PSDM as Council member (National contact) of the EFSPI

•Stefan Driessen (Abbott Laboratories, Weesp) ) is representing PSDM as Council member (Second representative) of the EFSPI

### BMS-ANed Biometry Award

Every two years we reward the most stimulating recent paper on a biometric subject by handing out the Hans van Houwelingen Award. The paper has to be written by either a Dutch author or someone employed by a Dutch institution. The Hans van Houwelingen Award consists of a certificate and a cash award for the first author. The winning paper is selected by a jury that is appointed by the board of ANed.

The call for nominations for Hans van Houwelingen Award 2018 was send out on 30 November 2017.