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| Annual report 2018 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 2018, 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 2018   
Members of Biometric section VVS: unkown  
Members of ANed: 128 members

### Board

Composition BMS board before BMS-ANed General Assembly 1 June 2018:

Ernst Wit (President)

Sophie Swinkels (Secretary)

Willem Kruijer (Treasurer)

Dimitris Rizopoulos (Member)

Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (Member)

Joanna in ’t Hout (Contact person education)

Magnus Münch (PhD- student-member, webmaster)

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

Composition BMS board after BMS-ANed General Assembly 1 June 2018:

Mark van de Wiel (President)

Sophie Swinkels (Secretary; until 31/12/2018)

Willem Kruijer (Treasurer)

Dimitris Rizopoulos (Member)

Ernst Wit (Member; until 31/12/2018)

Joanna in ’t Hout (Contact person education)

Magnus Münch (PhD- student-member, webmaster)

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

By the end of 2018, Sophie Swinkels was secretary for 6 years, the maximal term. Rianne Jacobs (RUG, Groningen) joined the board as a member in October 2018. She will replace Sophie as secretary from January 2019 onwards.

### Scientific Activities

*BMS-ANed Meeting June 1, 2018 “Celebrating Statistics” Erasmus MC, room Collegezaal 4, Rotterdam*

Speakers:

- Clelia di Serio (Vita-Salute San Raffaelle University, Italy): Big data and biomedicine, from reproducibility to causal interpretation: A statistical challenge

- Georg Heinze (Medical University of Vienna, Austria): Prediction and explanation in studies with rare events: problems and solutions

- Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (University of Leeds, UK): Statistical Challenges in Functional Data Analysis

*BMS-ANed & PSDM Meeting November 23, 2018 “Biostatistical Challenges in R&D” Wageningen University, Forum C0214, Droevendaalsesteeg 2, Wageningen*

This Meeting was a combined meeting with the working group PSDM.

Speakers:

- Floor van Oudenhoven (Erasmus MC & Danone Nutricia Research) Challenges in RCTs solved with joint models?  
- Pieta C. Ijzerman-Boon (MSD) Validation of Rapid Microbiological Methods – Statistical and Regulatory Challenges  
- Gonnie van Osta (Author!) Conflicting regulators, upbeat developers and big data: How to bring them together?  
- Hans Bogaards (RIVM & VUmc) Unraveling microbial ecosystems to direct prophylactic and probiotic interventions  
- Fred van Eeuwijk (Biometris) Statistical genetics in plants: Finding an equilibrium between academic and commercial interests

Both meetings were well-received by the community. They were attended by 55 and 52 participants, respectively.

### Annual General Meeting 2017

*Annual General Assembly Meeting BMS and ANed*

Venue: During the BMS-ANed meeting “Celebrating Statistics” Erasmus MC, room Collegezaal 4, Rotterdam

Date: Friday June 1st 15:10

Chair: BMS-ANed President Ernst Wit

Minutes: BMS-ANed secretary Sophie Swinkels

An announcement of the AGA was send by email on March 27, April 26 and finally on May 24.

Documents were on the website <http://www.bms-aned.nl>

### 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), Said el Bouhaddani (LUMC).

In 2018, Ron Wehrens left the working group and was replaced by Saskia Burgers (Wageningen UR).

The 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)

Activities:

In 2018, we got involved in the VVS accreditation of applied statistics teaching at university colleges (e.g. Fontys Hogeschool, Tilburg).

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

In 2018 the board consisted of the following members:

Chairman (and EFSPI): - Egbert Biesheuvel (Nutricia, Utrecht)

Secretary (Statistics and Register Biostats): - Corine Baljé-Volkers (AUTHOR!, Hilversum)

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

Data Management (and INCDMA): - Alexander Adema (QPS, Groningen)

Activities:

20 March 2018: ‘*Overview of CDASH and introduction to the new CDASHIG 2.0’*, hosted by SAS Institute. Speakers: Alexander Adema (QPS Netherlands), Jules van der Zalm (OCS Life Sciences), Judith Goud (Nurocor), Tineke Piersma (PRA HealthSciences), Elsbeth Verdonk (Danone Nutricia Research).

23 March 2018: a joined scientific meeting with EFSPI on ‘*Recent Advances in Clinical Trial Design*’, hosted by Astellas. Speakers: Stephen Senn (LIH), Andy Grieve (UCB), Lisa Hampton (Novartis), Martin Fink (Novartis), David Brown (MHRA), Josephine Wolfram (Astellas), Kit Roes (University of Utrecht).

23 November 2018: a joint meeting with the BMS-ANed on ‘*Biostatistical Challenges in R&D*’, hosted by Wageningen University & Research. Speakers: Floor van Oudenhoven (Erasmus MC & Danone Nutricia Research), Pieta Ijzermand-Boon (MSD), Gonnie van Osta (AUTHOR!), Hans Bogaards (RIVM & VUmc), Fred van Eeuwijk (Wageningen University and Research).

### Register Biostatistician-VVS

In 2018, 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 2018 the Board has received 177 applications. These differentiate between 169 accepted and 8 rejected. In 2018, three newly received applications and one pending from 2017 have been processed, resulting in 3 accepted applications and 1 rejected. 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 148 persons are on the public register by end 2018.

In 2018, the Board has dealt with administration and running usual activities. No live meetings have been held. Necessary contacts with the representative from the BMS-ANed Board went smoothly.

In addition, a live meeting to take place early 2019 has been prepared.

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. The chair of our committee, Paul Koopman, has represented the VVS in this ESAC and has participated in the discussions that have led to a report including proposals to move forward. These recommendations have been presented to the FENStatS board in its live meeting on 17 October 2018. In this FENStatS board meeting, the decision was to create a common standard for the national associations to follow. These standards can be included as a by-law to FENStatS statutes. In such a way, a system that is recognizable and equal can be promoted and implemented at the national level. The ESAC has been asked for further work-out and herein Edwin van den Heuvel has replaced Paul Koopman as the Dutch representative who has attended two sessions already held in 2018, from which it can be reported: “within FENStatS we are busy with drafting the conditions and the process towards a European accreditation of statisticians. Herein we use examples from the Netherlands, from Italy and from US. There is a draft document ‘accreditation by-law’ for finalization, and ongoing discussions about responsibilities and registration of persons in a database (local versus global)”.

### **Active Members 2018**

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), was 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 (2017-2021)

•Grzegorczyk (RUG, Groningen) is on the Representative Council of the International Biometric Society (2017-2021)

•Dimitris Rizopoulos (Erasmus MC, Rotterdam) is on the Representative Council of the International Biometric Society (2014-2018)

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

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

•Mark van der Wiel (VUMC, Amsterdam) was 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. Out of 27 submitted papers, the jury consisting of Marta Blangiardo, Clelia Di Serio, Georg Heinz decided the best Dutch paper of the years 2016 and 2017 was the paper of Rianne Jacobs, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Peter FM Teunis, Michael Hohle and Jan van de Kassteele entitled “Identifying the source of food-borne disease outbreaks: An application of Bayesian variable selection”. (Statistical Methods in Medical Research, Doi: 10.1177/0962280217747311)

The jury wrote:

“The Statistical approach by Jacobs et al. helps in classifying responses correctly, selecting covariates in presence of confounding and accounting for effect of missing data. It is fundamental in identifying the responsible food source. The authors seriously take into account the possible usefulness of their methods for the Public Health community. They provide a complete supplementary material where model statement for the likelihood and the SSVS priors are discussed and presented in details with the related R package. This paper is a very good example of the marriage between strong statistical methodology and high communicating skills.”