**ISBA Section on Biostatistics and Pharmaceutical Statistics**

**Report for the period June 2020 – June 2021**

1. **Personnel**

Current section officers:

* Section Chair: Rodney Sparapani (2021-2022)
* Program Chair: Anna Freni Sterrantino (2021 – 2022)
* Secretary: Lisa Hampson (2021 – 2022)
* Treasurer: Lorin Crawford (2021 – 2022)

Openings in the coming election:

* We currently have two volunteers who will run for election as program chair-elect. These are Valerie Poynor (Cal State Fullerton, US) and Tony Pourmohamad (Genentech, US).

Current members:

* As of June 2021, the Section has 78 members. This represents an increase from previous years (53 members in May 2020; 35 in May 2019) and could partly reflect the outreach activities undertaken in previous years and the popular events held in 2021 which were opened to non-members.
* The majority of section members are located in the United States (currently 48 members), with the remainder predominately drawn from Europe. It will be an aim for the next year to increase membership beyond the US and Europe.

1. **Finances**

As of June 2021, the Section account total were USD 8,971. In the period 5/21/2020 – 5/31/2021, Section dues totaled USD 770. Additional expenses (250 USD) were incurred through gifts for speakers in the Bayesian career event (see below for details). No additional expenses were incurred, as all events have been on-line this year.

1. **Activities**

Meetings:

* Our former chair, Gary Rosner, is/was on the Bayes 2020 organizing committee. However, this meeting was postponed until 2021 originally and now again until 2022. We are planning to replace Gary with one of our current officers (Rodney has volunteered and is awaiting instructions).
* Our Section has submitted a proposal for an Invited Session at ISBA 2022 World Meeting entitled: Bayesian Statistics in Pharmaceutical Drug Development. Speakers would be Tony Pourmohamad (Genentech), Paul Faya (Eli Lilly), and José Ramirez (Amgen). Gary Rosner would chair the session.

Webinars:

* [Bayesian Regression Tree Models for Causal Inference: Regularization, Confounding, and Heterogeneous Effects](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIijEBrXTrE) presented by Dr. P. Richard Hahn. September 25, 2020
* Dr Sebastian Weber presented a 1hr webinar on his recent paper “Predictively Consistent Prior Effective Sample Size” on 17th December, 2020.
* Bayesian Careers Event: This 1hr webinar took place on 25th March, 2021, and featured contributions from 5 prominent Bayesian statisticians who shared their thoughts on careers in academia, public sector and industry (Deborah Ashby, Scott Berry, Nicky Best, Gregory Campbell, Frank Harrell). Advanced questions were also invited from Section members. The webinar was well attended with ~65 participants dialing in on the day. The meeting was broadly advertised both to Section and non-Section members.
* Dr Scott Berry presented a 1hr webinar on 16th June 2021 on “REMAP-CAP: A Bayesian Approach to Learning and Treating COVID-19”. Again the webinar was well attended with ~40 participants and lively Q&A discussion.
* In Autumn 2021, Section members will be offered the opportunity to participate in a webinar on Causal Inference led by the Wisconsin Chapter of ASA.

Other activities:

* Dr Lorin Crawford has acted as co-chair of the J-ISBA committee administering the Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award which will be announced on 31st October.

1. **Website**

Our Program Chair, Anna Freni Sterrantino, has maintained the website for the Section with

information about us (mission, news), about past and future activities (conferences and webinars),

our bylaws, officers, contact information and with a discussion forum:

https://isba-biostatspharma.github.io.

1. **Social media presence**

Rather than release general posts on social media forums, the Section made targeted efforts to connect with members of J-ISBA, the Young Statisticians Section of the RSS, DIA BSWG and ASA BIOP by inviting them to attend meetings of joint interest.