



**Boletín
de la Sociedad de Estadística
e Investigación Operativa**

Editorial de la presidenta del ISI

Redes sociales

***Qatris Imanager, un sistema CBIR
basado en regresión logística***

***Respuestas a algunas paradojas y
curiosidades estadísticas***

***La estadística del estado y el
estado de la estadística***

***Bioestadística y la Rama de
Ciencias de la Salud***

***On the measurement research
performance in mathematics
and statistics,* Peter Hall**



REDACCIÓN

Editor: Jesús López Fidalgo
jesus.lopezfidalgo@uclm.es
Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha

Editores Asociados:

Estadística:

Miguel Angel Gómez Villegas
ma_gv@mat.ucm.es
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Investigación Operativa:

Ana Meca Martínez
ana.meca@umh.es
Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche

Aplicaciones:

Manuel Molina Fernández
mmolina@unex.es
Universidad de Extremadura

Estadística pública:

Montserrat Herrador Cansado
herrador@ine.es
Instituto Nacional de Estadística

Parte informativa:

María Teresa Santos Martín
maysam@usal.es
Universidad de Salamanca

Editor Técnico:

Fco. Javier Toledo Melero
javier.toledo@umh.es
Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche

SEIO:

Facultad de CC. Matemáticas, Despacho 502
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Plaza de Ciencias, 3
28040 Madrid (Ciudad Universitaria)
oficina@seio.es, <http://www.seio.es>
Tel: (+34) 91 544 91 02

Imprime SEROTEL

Pº de la Castellana, 87.

Dep. Legal: M-13647-1995

ISSN: 1699-8871

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Boletín de la SEIO

Volumen 23, número 2
ABRIL 2007

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Índice

Editorial	2
1. Artículos de Investigación Operativa	4
<i>Redes sociales</i> , Conrado Manuel y Juan Tejada	4
2. Artículos de Aplicación	9
<i>Qatris Imanager, un sistema CBIR basado en regresión logística</i> , José P. Arias Nicolás, Fernando Calle Alonso e Inés M. Horrillo Sierra	9
<i>Respuestas a algunas paradojas y curiosidades estadísticas</i> , Carles M. Cuadras	14
3. Estadística Oficial	22
<i>La estadística del estado y el estado de la estadística</i> , Cristóbal José Rojas Montoya	22
4. Estudios monográficos y opiniones sobre la profesión	25
<i>Bioestadística y la Rama de Ciencias de la Salud</i> , Agustín García Nogales	25
<i>On the measurement research performance in mathematics and statistics</i> , Peter Hall	27

EDITORIAL

Denise Lievesley

President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)

I am honoured to be asked, in my capacity as incoming President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), to write an editorial for the Bulletin of the Spanish Statistical and Operational Research Society.

Every President has to ensure that all aspects of the ISI's very broad remit continue to be actively fulfilled but will of course also wish to highlight areas which particularly concern them. Among the aspirations of my presidency are to consider the serious crisis in several countries in recruiting new members to our profession and to raise the profile of the ISI's activities in relation to statistics in developing countries. These themes are not unrelated as both the developed and developing worlds are afflicted by a shortage of statisticians, and developed countries reduce their recruitment problems by attracting statisticians from poorer countries thereby exacerbating the shortages in those parts of the world.

Increasing the numbers of trained statisticians will require greater collaboration between the ISI

and national statistical societies to address the problems of recruitment and retention. Training for entry into the profession and continuing professional development are vital for practising statisticians and professional societies should provide a forum for sharing information to improve the quality and accessibility of both.

We are justifiably proud of the important work being carried out by statisticians across so many diverse fields. To continue as a vibrant discipline, we must excite young people by showing them the significant contributions made by statistics to major public issues. Making it easier for younger statisticians to participate in professional activities will pay great dividends. I was very fortunate to give an invited paper in my early thirties at an ISI conference and I have never lost the enthusiasm for our subject engendered at that meeting. And the professional friendships made there have remained important to me throughout my career.

At the heart of the recruitment problem is young people's poor proficiency in mathematics which still

prevails in many countries and the shortage of inspirational and well-qualified mathematics teachers. Our collective task must be to find solutions and to campaign with all the means at our disposal for more resources to be injected both by governments and philanthropic foundations. We must also argue cogently for greater public recognition of the importance of mathematics and its application to statistics.

The ISI with its international remit has a particular role to play in the support of developing countries but, because of its limited resources, it can only be effective through partnerships with other societies. Crafting the right policies for such support should be a key issue for all national and international statistical societies but this must entail the active involvement of the statistical communities in the developing countries themselves.

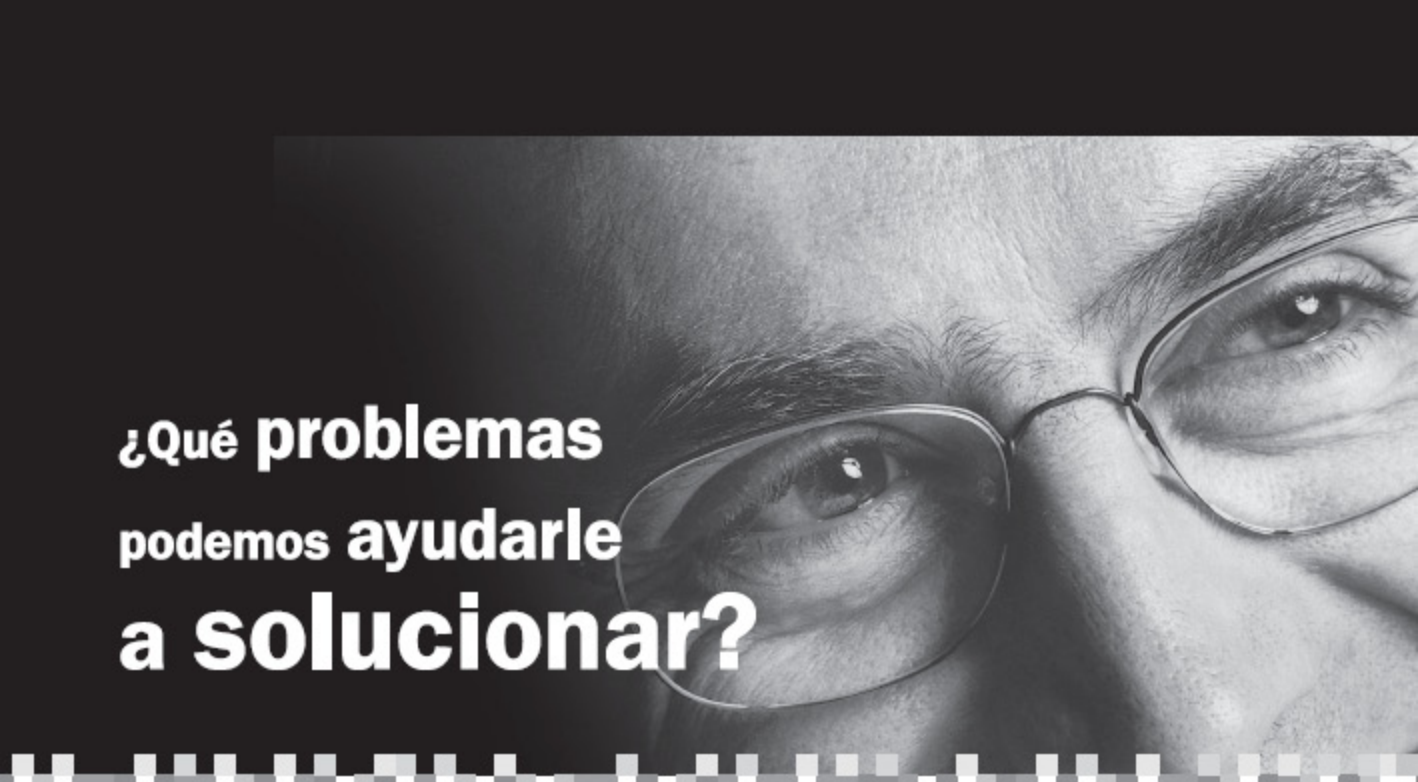
A number of current initiatives focus on statistics in developing countries, but we must have a better understanding of the obstacles which prevent statisticians in poorer countries from participating fully in professional activities. Publications distributed worldwide provide an outlet for papers by statisticians across the world, but in practice those in developing countries may be unable to contribute through language barriers and a lack of resources. We must seek to reduce these obstacles. General conferences and special topic meetings provide opportunities for statisticians from around the world to discuss the discipline. Reduced registration fees and special funds are often available for participants from developing countries and statisticians from such countries are also encouraged to present papers. However the numbers able to take advantage of such opportunities are limited.

There are successes - for example the Internatio-

nal Association of Survey Statistics (IASS) has run noteworthy short courses with many of the topics deliberately selected to appeal to developing world statisticians. These have proved to be valuable networking opportunities for less-advantaged statisticians and we need concerted efforts to raise more scholarships from the UN and charitable foundations to build on these impressive initiatives.

The greater use of technology can benefit statisticians in some developing countries especially those with poor postal systems and can alleviate the tyranny of distance. We aim to enable statisticians in poorer countries to participate in professional activities such as committees, meetings and consultations without the need to meet high travel costs. However we need to be sensitive to the fact that some developing country statisticians may not have access to technology, and that phone calls can be extortionately expensive limiting internet use.

My conclusion is that a shared strategy across international and national societies on developing country statistics could act as a reminder to address the needs of these statisticians in as many of our activities as possible. It would serve to keep the needs of developing country statisticians at the forefront of our collective mind. We should review the subject areas of our committees and our participation in high profile issues to see whether we have a balance which includes topics of especial relevance to developing country statisticians. Although we generally seek to have representation from developing countries in professional activities we have to re-double our efforts to create a more comprehensive list of statisticians to select from, so that we are not always drawing on the same small number of people.



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