



# 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region International Biometric Society (EMR-IBS)

22-25 April, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL



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22-25 April, 2013 | Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL

**We encourage you to register for the EMR-IBS conference!**

We have an outstanding program lined up, with world-renowned invited speakers. The conference promises to be very stimulating. The topic of the keynote lecture by Prof. Geert Molenberghs is "A flexible modeling framework for over-dispersed, hierarchical data of a combined nature".

We would like to remind you once again that the ~~early registration deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.~~ The early registration rate is \$225 for students, \$370 for EMR members and \$430 for others. After this date, the registration fees go up by \$60 (for students, by \$35).

The above deadline also applies to the pre-conference short courses to be held on 22nd April. Accommodation is available at a range of prices.

The registration form and other details about the conference and short courses are available on the conference website - [Click Here.](#)

Our social program will include a reception, gala dinner in Jaffa preceded by a short guided walking tour, and a half-day trip to Jerusalem to experience the history, sights, sounds and flavors of the holy city.



# Provisional Program

## Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- 08:30-10:00 *PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE 1: USING FDR IN PRACTICE: WHERE, WHY AND HOW*  
Prof. Yoav Benjamini, Tel Aviv University, Israel  
Dr. Daniel Yekutieli, Tel Aviv University, Israel  
Dr. Ruth Heller, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 10:00-10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:30-12:30 *PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE 1: USING FDR IN PRACTICE: WHERE, WHY AND HOW (CONT'D)*
- 12:30-13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:30-15:30 *PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE 2: SURVIVAL ANALYSIS: BEYOND THE COX MODEL*  
Prof. Malka Gorfine, Technion, Israel
- 15:30-16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00-17:30 *PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE 2: SURVIVAL ANALYSIS: BEYOND THE COX MODEL (CONT'D)*
- 19.00-21.30 **RECEPTION AT THE HOTEL**

## Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 08:30-09:00 *OPENING SESSION*  
Welcome from Gertner Institute  
Prof. Boleslav Goldman, The Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research, Israel  
Welcome from EMR  
Prof. Stergios Tzortzios, University of Thessaly, Greece  
Welcome from IBS  
Prof. Clarice Demetrio, Sao Paulo University, Brazil  
About the conference  
Dr. Havi Murad, The Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research, Israel
- 09:00-10:15 *PLENARY SESSION: PERSONALIZED MEDICINE / PHARMACOGENETICS*
- 09:00-09:25 Comparative Effectiveness in the Presence of Competing Risks for Multiple Event Time Observations  
Prof. LJ Wei, Harvard University, USA
- 09:25-09:50 Improving Personalized Risk Prediction by Incorporating Short Term Outcomes  
Dr. Tianxi Cai, Harvard University, USA
- 09:50-10:15 Statistical Methods for Dynamic Spatio-Temporal Networks  
Prof. Adrian Dobra, University of Washington, USA
- 10:15-10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

# Monday

# Tuesday

# Provisional Program

**Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

10:45-12:40 [Parallel Session 1: Biometrical Applications in Agricultural Research](#)

10:45-11:10 The Ecological Footprint of Taylor's Universal Power Law

Prof. Clarice Demetrio, Sao Paulo University, Brazil

11:10-12:40 Contributed papers - TBA

10:45-12:40 [Parallel Session 2: Statistical Methods for Diagnostic Medicine, Prediction and Classification](#)

10:45-11:10 Lecture Title: TBA

Prof. Constantine Gatsonis, Brown University, USA

11:10-12:40 Contributed papers - TBA

10:45-12:40 [Parallel Session 3: Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials I](#)

10:45-11:10 Statistical Designs in Planning Randomized Cancer Screening Trials: Application to the Early Detection of Lung Cancer

Dr. Ping Hu, National Cancer Institute, USA

11:10-12:40 Contributed papers - TBA

12:40-14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00-15:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS 4-6**

Bioinformatics - Contributed papers TBA

Survival - Contributed papers TBA

Longitudinal Analysis and Time Series - Contributed papers TBA

15:30-15:50 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:50-16:50 **PLENARY SESSION: BIOINFORMATICS AND STATISTICS FOR MICORARRAYS**

15:50-16:15 Removing Unwanted Variation from High-Dimensional Data Using Negative Controls

Prof. Terry Speed, University of Berkeley, USA

16:15-16:40 Bayesian False Discovery Rate Controlling Procedures

Dr. Daniel Yekutieli, Tel Aviv University, Israel

16:40-16:50 Discussion

16:50-17:50 **KEYNOTE LECTURE: A FLEXIBLE MODELLING FRAMEWORK FOR OVERDISPERSED, HIERARCHICAL DATA OF A COMBINED NATURE**

Prof. Geert Molenberghs, Hasselt University, Belgium

17:50-18:35 **EMR BUSINESS MEETING AND STUDENT COMPETITION AWARDS**

19:15 **LEAVE FOR JAFFA AND GALA DINNER**

# Tuesday

# Provisional Program

Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

08:30-10:35 [Parallel Session 7: Statistical Methods for Image Analysis](#)

08:30-08:50 Surfaces, Shapes and Anatomy

Prof. Adrian Bowman, University of Glasgow, Scotland

08:50-09:10 [Multi-Scale Multiple Testing for Detection of Regions of Genomic Copy Number Change in Population Analyses](#)

Dr. Armin Schwartzmann, Harvard University, USA

09:10-09:30 [Wavelet-Domain Methods for Scalar-on-Image Regression](#)

Prof. Phil Reiss, New York University, USA

09:30-10:05 [A Life-Table Approach to The Kinetic Analysis of Time-Course Data from Molecular Imaging Studies with PET in Cancer](#)

Prof. Finbarr O'Sullivan, University College Cork, Ireland

10:05-10:35 Contributed Papers - TBA

08:30-10:35 [Parallel Session 8: Statistical Issues in Monitoring Institution Performance](#)

08:30-08:55 Provider Comparisons: Identifying and Meeting Goals

Prof. Tom Louis, Johns Hopkins University, USA

08:55-09:20 [The National Program for Quality Indicators in Community Healthcare in Israel: Methodological Challenges](#)

Prof. Orly Manor, Hebrew University, Israel

09:20-10:35 Contributed Papers - TBA

10:35-10:55 COFFEE BREAK

10:55-12:40 [PLENARY SESSION: STATISTICAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL TRIALS](#)

10:55-11:15 [Statistical Issues in Clinical Trial Reporting: Revised FDA Regulations for Safety](#)

Prof. David DeMets, University of Wisconsin, USA

11:15-11:35 [Adaptive Designs for Clinical Trials](#)

Dr. Frank Bretz, Novartis, Switzerland

11:35-11:55 [Statistical Considerations in Studies of Medical Devices](#)

Prof. Sharon-Lise Normand, Harvard University, USA

11:55-12:40 Floor Discussion

12:40-13:40 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 VISIT TO JERUSALEM

# Wednesday

Continued 



# Provisional Program

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

- 08:30-10:20 **PLENARY SESSION: CAUSAL INFERENCE**
- 08:30-08:55 Adjusting for Time-Varying Confounding in Survival Analysis Using Structural Nested Cumulative Failure Time Models  
Prof. Stijn van Steelandt, University Ghent, Belgium
- 08:55-09:15 Selective and Future Ignorability in Causal Inference  
Dr. Marshall Joffe, University of Pennsylvania, USA
- 09:15-09:35 Robust Estimation of Causal Effects of Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents on Mortality  
Dr. Roee Gutman, Brown University, USA
- 09:35-10:20 Contributed Papers - TBA
- 10:20-10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**
- PARALLEL SESSIONS**
- 10:45-12:20 **Parallel Session 9: Machine Learning Methods in Biostatistics**
- 10:45-11:10 Advances in Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trials and Treatment Policies  
Prof. Susan Murphy, University of Michigan, USA
- 11:10-11:30 Support Vector Regression for Right Censored Data  
Dr. Yair Goldberg, Haifa University, Israel
- 11:30-11:50 Identifying Subgroups in Large Observational Data Sets  
Dr. Marianthi Markatou, TJ Watson Research Center, IBM, USA
- 11:50-12:20 Contributed Papers - TBA
- 10:45-12:20 **Parallel Session 10: Spanish-Italian Session**
- 10:45-11:05 P-Splines Mixed Models: A Flexible Approach for Spatio-Temporal Data  
Prof. Maria Durban, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
- 11:05-11:25 Smoothing Survival Estimates Through Pseudo Values  
Dr. Federico Ambrogi, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy
- 11:25-11:45 A New Method for Choosing the Best Model: "Farms"  
Ms. Susana Perez-Alvarez, IrsiCaixa Foundation, Spain
- 11:45-12:05 Comparative Randomized Inverse Sampling  
Prof. Mauro Gasparini, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- 12:05-12:20 Contributed Papers - TBA
- 12:20-13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

Thursday

# Provisional Program

Thursday

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

- 13:30-14:35 [Parallel Session 11: Modeling Infectious Disease](#)
- 13:30-13:55 Hope-Simpson's Progressive Immunity Hypothesis Explains Herpes Zoster Incidence Data  
Dr. Piero Manfredi, University of Pisa, Italy
- 13:55-14:20 The Impact of Misspecified Disease Dynamics on Modeling Individual Heterogeneity in The Acquisition of Infectious Diseases  
Dr. Niel Hens, Hasselt University, Belgium
- 14:20-14:35 Contributed Paper - TBA
- 13:30-14:30 [Parallel Session 12: Student Competition](#)
- 13:30-13:50 Revisiting Random Effects Analysis in Group FMRI Studies  
Mr. Jonathan Rosenblatt, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 13:50-14:10 Quasi-Likelihood Inference and Prediction for Count Time Series  
Mr. Vasiliki Christou, University of Cyprus
- 14:10-14:30 Causal Mediation Analysis to Study The Relation Between Physical Activity and Prostate Cancer Incidence  
Ms. Alessandra Grotta, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
- 14:35-14:45 **BREAK**
- 14:45-16:30 [Parallel Session 13: Survival and Longitudinal Analysis](#)
- 14:45-15:10 Lecture title: TBA  
Prof. Patrick Heagerty, University of Washington, USA
- 15:10-15:35 Combining Joint Models with Different Association Structures Using Bayesian Model Averaging  
Dr. Dimitris Rizopoulos, Erasmus University, Netherlands
- 15:35-15:55 Estimating a Survival Distribution in the Presence of Dependent Left Truncation  
Prof. Rebecca Betensky, Harvard University, USA
- 15:55-16:15 Clustering Longitudinal Count Data  
Dr. Dimitris Karlis, Athens University, Greece
- 16:15-16:30 Contributed Paper - TBA
- 14:45-16:30 [Parallel Session 14: Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials 2](#)
- 14:45-15:10 Observational Studies in Healthcare: Are They Any Good?  
Prof. David Madigan, Columbia University, USA
- 15:10-15:30 Resolving Inference Issues in Mixed Models  
Dr. Samaradasa Weerahandi, Pfizer, USA
- 15:30-16:30 Contributed Papers - TBA
- 16:30-16:55 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:55-18:25 *PLENARY SESSION: REPLICABILITY OF RESEARCH RESULTS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES*
- 16:55-17:25 Lecture Title: TBA  
Prof. John Ioannidis, Stanford University, USA
- 17:25-17:55 Lecture title: TBA  
Prof. Yoav Benjamini, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 17:55-18:15 Replicability Analysis for Genome-Wide Association Studies  
Dr. Ruth Heller, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 18:15-18:25 Discussion
- 18:25-18:35 **CLOSING REMARKS**

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