



STATISTICAL SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2008, Firenze, EBMT Conference

Participants: Myriam Labopin, Antonella Santucci, Simona Iacobelli, Ronald Brand, Richard Szydlo, Carmen Canals, Irina Ionescu, Massimo Berger, Aurélien Latouche, Alessandra Carobbio, Marie Lorraine Balere, Emmanuelle Polge, Benedicte Samey, Henk Jan Van der Wijk, Alessandra Spagnoli, Roberto Crocchiolo

Apologies from : Stefan Suciu, Sandrine Katsahian, Jean-Yves Mary, David Pacheco

Report from the statistical course Firenze 2008 & future :

Antonella and Richard gave us feedback from the first statistical course, held on the Saturday before the official conference opening. It was in general a success. Out of the 100 emails sent out in October, 30 replied saying they would participate and 20 actually attended.

The program was as follows :

1. Basic Statistics (1hr talk, 1 1/2hr exercises)
 - Descriptive stats
 - Comparison of groups
 - Association between variables
2. Survival Analysis (1 3/4hr talk, 3/4hr exercises)
 - Kaplan-Meier
 - Cox
 - Cumulative incidence

Participants were provided with the following files:

- 2 powerpoint lecture presentations
- 2 word files with exercises
- 2 word/SPSS files with answers to exercises
- 1 powerpoint file with SPSS commands
- 1 SPSS datafile

17 participants answered the course assessment and all participants would recommend the course to their colleagues.

It was agreed therefore, to continue organising such courses, with the next one being in Goteborg at the EBMT meeting in 2009.

A mailing will be distributed to all EBMT members (datamanagers and clinicians) but the maximum number of participants should be restricted to 30-50 (2 per computer).

We will ask again for 2* 3 hours if possible on Saturday, but Ronald thought that this might not be feasible. Myriam will contact Per to find out the possible options.

Endpoints definitions for BMT

On behalf of the CLINT project, Myriam is working on endpoints definitions used for clinical trials. The review of on going trials within the CIBMTR and the EBMT has been done and the issues are the following :

- Censoring not used (in two CT)
- Multiple endpoints
- Endpoints defined in multiple ways
- Definition of EFS differs according to the trial
- Different vocabulary covers the same concepts

CLINT Project (work package 5)

Aurélien presented the draft of the inventory of new statistical methodologies.

This review summarizes new survival models with applications in HSCT. Notably, with a meta-package for R that enables users to install all the packages related to survival analysis. A benchmark data set enables statisticians to be trained in all the new methodologies as well as a tutorial on the forthcoming CLINT portal.

The CLINT Framework Program will be completed by April 2009. This coincides with the next EBMT congress. Thus, it was decided to present the CLINT Portal and CLINT Statistical Guidelines during the next EBMT meeting, most likely during the round table.

Program of the next Statistical Symposium Göteborg, 2009

The schedule of the next Statistical seminar (Goteborg 2009) was discussed.

A proposal of 2 invited speakers was made.

- M.J. Zhang , Professor at Medical College of Wisconsin and CIBMTR
- P.K. Andersen, Professor at Department of Biostatistics , Copenhagen.

Round table

The first CLINT Round Table takes place in Florence on Tuesday afternoon. The overall structure of the roundtable was discussed. Notably, the first topic would be « Notorious issue on competing risks » with a short introduction by invited speaker J. Beyersmann. This 5 minutes talk will start and stimulate the debate.

Richard will chair the round table ; Professor JP Fine will debate. Jane Apperley (CLINT project leader) will attend this roundtable as well.

A second round table will be organized in Goteborg in 2009.

The next meeting: will be held in Paris in November 2008.

***Action** : AL will contact the MJ Zhang and PK Andersen. ML will contact Per Ljungman in order to organise the Schedule in Göteborg.*