

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO THAT ORIGINALLY LISTED**

**Tuesday 25th November 2008 7:15 for 7:45**

The Statistical Laboratory,  
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,  
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

## Understanding Uncertainty

**David Spiegelhalter**

Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk

**Abstract:** I will talk about work we are doing in understanding and communicating uncertainty, particularly with school audiences in mind. There will be a lot of animations and examples, many involving horrible deaths, but also some sport and gambling.

**Speaker:** After obtaining his PhD in Mathematical Statistics from the University of London in 1978, David spent a year at the University of California in Berkeley and Nottingham University before joining the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge in 1981. He currently divides his time between the MRC and the Centre for Mathematical Sciences where he is the first Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk. His current research interests include Bayesian approaches to health technology assessment and the BUGS software for implementing Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. In his 'Risk' job he is developing materials for the public and schools to illustrate the value and possible limitations of formal approaches to dealing with uncertainty.

**Directions:** The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion D, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 4 in Pavilion A.. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads.

**Provisional Next Meetings (2009):**

3rd February – Peter Lane (GSK) on 'Meta-analysis of clinical trials, particularly of rare adverse events'.

5th March – Ben Marchant (Rothamsted Research).

2nd April – Phil Dawid (Statistical Laboratory).

7th May – Jenni Barclay (UEA).

**Supper:** Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at 6pm. All welcome !

**Subscriptions:** of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2008-2009 session.

**Secretary:** Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF;

telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail [peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)

**Take a look at our website:** <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/~peterw/csdg.htm>

## Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2006-2007

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2006-2007 was held at the Statistical Laboratory on 28th November 2007. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Rebecca Cox, David Edwards, Graham Healey, Jayantha Ratnayake, Helen Parracho, Haidee Philpott, Susan Pitts, Helen Tate, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Margaret Corbett, Paul Garcia, Mary Garratt, Pamela Morris. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

**Treasurer's report:** The CSDG started the year in October 2006 with £243.72 cash. The previous treasurer had moved to work abroad and so there was no treasurer's report for 2005-6.

Expenditure	2006-2007	Income	2006-2007
Speakers' expenses	£23.80	Balance at Oct 2006	£243.72
		Subscriptions	£26.00

Balance at October 2007 £245.92.

At a committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 it was agreed that the CSDG open a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society. This was eventually opened; the account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Helen Tate (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. £200 was deposited in the Cambridge building Society, leaving a cash balance of £45.92. The secretary reported attendance in the last session (meeting median of 12.5) was in line with previous years and drew attention to the new group website. Any volunteers interested in hosting or speaking at meetings are welcome as are enquiries from anyone interested in joining the committee.

**Election of officers and committee:** Committee (unchanged) for 2007-2008: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Helen Tate ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott.

**Any Other Business:** None

## Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2007-2008

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2007-2008 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 28th October 2008. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Jack Bowden, Margaret Corbett, Chafia Cucks, Daniela Deangelis, Audrey Fu, Paul Garcia, Eleftherios Garyfallidis, Leonard Goldstein, Vincent Van Hees, Luigi Palla, Haidee Philpott, Jayantha Ratnayake, Matt Ritchie, Ian Saunders, Andrea Sottoriva, Simon Tavare, Dennis Wang, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Mary Garratt, Helen Tate, Peter Treasure. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

**Treasurer's report:**

Expenditure		Income	
Speakers' expenses	£31.86	Balance at Oct 2007	£45.92
		Subscriptions	£31.00

Cash balance at October 2008 £45.06. There remains £200.00 (plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society. The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Helen Tate (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. I suggest we keep the subscription at £1 for 2008-2009. This was agreed.

**Election of officers and committee:** Committee (unchanged) for 2008-2009: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Helen Tate ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott.

**Any Other Business:** None