

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Monday 17th November 2014 7:15 for 7:45**

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics,  
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,  
Wilberforce Road,  
Cambridge, CB3 0WB

## **Reflections on a career as a professional statistician and the increasing value of the role of professional bodies**

**Trevor Lewis, PhD, CStat, CSci, PStat**

Director, TLwise Consulting Limited and RSS Theme Director for Professional Affairs

**Abstract:** This presentation is focused on statisticians rather than statistical science. Trevor will provide a personal perspective on the challenges of switching direction during a career as a statistician from working in academia to statistical consulting in the pharmaceutical industry; and then switching from a senior management role in a multinational pharmaceutical company to working as an independent statistical consultant. In parallel to pursuing a career there are opportunities to support your profession by taking on volunteer roles within your professional body. Trevor will talk about his experiences participating in activities with the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and the direction currently being taken to enhance the RSS as a professional body for statisticians. He will cover recent developments in the Chartered Statistician award, the evolution of the RSS professional pathway to encourage and support careers in statistics and the introduction of the Professional Statisticians' Forum.

**Speaker:** Trevor Lewis has had a career as a statistician in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and most recently as an independent statistical consultant. He has a PhD in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Birmingham, UK (1974), has been a Chartered Statistician (CStat) since 1993, a Chartered Scientist (CSci) since 2009 and an ASA Accredited Professional Statistician (PStat) since 2010. Trevor held positions of increasing responsibility in Pfizer, a multinational pharmaceutical company, from 1982 to 2004; initially as a senior statistical consultant and progressing to Vice President of Development Operations. As well as supporting the progression of several important medicines to worldwide registration, he led major change initiatives to introduce new technology, globalise operations and integrate organisations following mergers. From 1991 to 2001 he was a member of several UK (ABPI), European (EFPIA) and international (ICH) pharmaceutical industry statistical expert working groups; including the ICH-E9 (Statistical Principles for Clinical Trials) Expert Working Group. Since 2004 he has worked as an independent statistical consultant (Director, TLwise Consulting Limited) providing services primarily to biotechnology companies. Trevor has been active for many years in the Royal Statistical Society being Vice-President and Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee (1998-2000, 2011-2012) and is currently Theme Director for Professional Affairs. Since 2011 Trevor has also been active in the work of the Science Council, chairing their CPD learning group and as a member of the Registration Authority.

**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. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads and by entering the site off Wilberforce Road. Admittance may be difficult after 7:45.

### **Provisional Next Meetings (2015):**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 – Anthony Edwards (Gonville and Caius) on 'On reading Bernoulli's Ars conjectandi 1713'.

5<sup>th</sup> March – Tom Bramley (Cambridge Assessment).

26<sup>th</sup> March – Richard Steward (Blyth Estuary Group).

7<sup>th</sup> May – Donal McCarthy (RSPB). 13<sup>th</sup> October – Chris Rogers (Statistical Laboratory).

November – Yoryos Lyratzopoulos (Department of Public Health and Primary Care).

**Supper:** Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **6pm**. Feel free to join them.

**Subscriptions:** of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2014-2015 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).

**Slides and .mp3 files of old talks:** <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>

## Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2012-2013

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2012-2013 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 15th October 2013. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Mike Bithell, Susana Conde, Mark Hill, James Lester, Pamela Morris, Anastasia Raievska, Michael Thorne, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Margaret Corbett, Mary Garratt, Martin Gibson, Ian Nimmo-Smith, Haidee Philpott, Helen Tate, Adam Wagner. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 92 (same as 2011-2012) for the 2012-2013 session. He also invited anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee to please contact a committee member.

### Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2012-2013:

The CSDG started the year in October 2012 with £26.45 cash in addition to £200 in the Cambridge Building Society (plus ~£6.00 interest). The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct12 to Sept13).

Expenditure		Income	
Speakers' expenses	£46.81	Balance at Oct 2012	£26.45
		Subscriptions	£41.00

Cash balance at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 £26.45, cash remaining 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 £20.64.

There remains £212.22 (plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society.

The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (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. Given we almost broke even in 2012-2013 it is suggested subscriptions stay at £1 for the 2013-2014 session.

**Election of officers and committee:** Committee (unchanged) for 2013-2014: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott.

**Any Other Business:** None.

## Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2013-2014

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2013-2014 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 21st October 2014. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Danielle Belgrave, Margaret Corbett, Nelson Kinnersley, Adrian Mander, Paul Metcalfe, Clive Moncrieff, Jayantha Ratnayake, Ann Smith, Adam Wagner, Peter Watson, Caroline Whately-Smith. **Apologies:** Susana Conde, Mary Garratt, Martin Gibson, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 103 for the 2013-2014 session. He also invited anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee to please contact a committee member.

### Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2013-2014:

The CSDG started the year in October 2013 with £20.64 cash in addition to £212.22 in the Cambridge Building Society (plus ~£6.00 interest). The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct13 to Sept14).

Expenditure		Income	
Speakers' expenses	£42.00	Balance at Oct 2013	£20.64
		Subscriptions	£55.00

Cash balance at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 £20.64, cash remaining 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 £33.64.

There remains £212.22 (plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society.

The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (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. It is suggested subscriptions should stay at £1 for the 2014-2015 session.

**Election of officers and committee:** After many years on the committee Pamela Morris has stepped down to be replaced by Tony Sabin. Pamela has, and continues to be, a staunch supporter of the group and was thanked for her long service. Committee for 2014-2015: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Haidee Philpott, Tony Sabin.

**Any Other Business:** None.