

# Report of the Editors—2010

**Co-Editors:** Thomas A. Louis

Russell Millar

Geert Verbeke

David Zucker (retired in 2010)

**Executive Editor:** Marie Davidian

*Biometrics*, a journal of the International Biometric Society (IBS), is a respected scholarly publication reporting work promoting the use of statistical and mathematical theory and methods in the biosciences. *Biometrics* articles are authored by the foremost researchers in the statistical profession. Information about the journal, including detailed instructions for authors; new developments; and review-time statistics (updated monthly) are available at the journal website, <http://www.biometrics.tibs.org>. A column reporting on *Biometrics* news appears in each issue of the *Biometric Bulletin*, the newsletter of the IBS.

## Changes to the Editorial Board

David Zucker completed his term as Co-Editor on December 31, 2010. Many thanks to David for his outstanding service to the journal. We are delighted to welcome David's successor, Russell Millar of the University of Auckland, New Zealand (Australasian Region), whose 3-year term commenced on January 1, 2011. The Editorial Board currently consists of 94 Associate Editors, who are among the top experts in the discipline from a diverse range of methodological and application areas. In 2010, 19 Associate Editors retired or resigned, and 16 new Associate Editors joined the board. We thank all of our current and former Associate Editors for their excellent and dedicated service. We are also grateful to the numerous referees who have volunteered their time and expertise to participate in our peer review process. All referees serving during 2010 are listed in the December 2010 issue.

We are indebted to our outstanding Editorial Manager, Ms. Ann Hanhart, for her incomparable and dedicated service to *Biometrics*. Ms. Hanhart has served the journal for well over a decade, and her unrivaled organization, skill, and knowledge are invaluable to the journal's continued success. We also recognize Ms. Fran Smith, Ms. Hanhart's Editorial Assistant, who works with Ms. Hanhart on day-to-day journal processes.

The position of Liaison Editor is an internal, rotating position held by one of the Co-Editors, carrying responsibilities for handling day-to-day manuscript processing issues and for taking the lead on scientific initiatives. Co-Editor Tom Louis was Liaison Editor in 2010 and is succeeded by Co-Editor Geert Verbeke for 2011.

## Submission and Acceptance Statistics

In 2010, 602 new manuscripts were submitted to the Biometric Methodology and Biometric Practice sections, a slight decrease from the record 615 submitted in 2009. The journal also received five new submissions of Reader Reaction articles and three Letters to the Editors.

The 602 new manuscript submissions came from 39 countries/districts. The greatest proportion of submissions was from the United States (57.8%), followed by Canada (6.5%), the United Kingdom (4.5%), France (3.8%) Italy (3.2%), and Japan (2.3%). Each of the remaining countries/districts contributed less than 2% of the total new submissions. Table 1 shows the distribution of 2010 new manuscript submissions by geographic region.

Table 2 shows the first review status and the current review status (as of January 4, 2011, the date on which this report was prepared) of 2009 and 2010 new manuscript submissions, respectively. In 2010, about 23% of new manuscripts were rejected by the Co-Editors without external review. The overall acceptance rate was around 25%.

Of the five Reader Reaction papers submitted in 2010, one is still under review, three were rejected, and one is under revision. All three Letters to the Editors received in 2010 were rejected.

In 2010, *Biometrics* published 98 papers in the Biometric Methodology Section; 37 Biometric Practice papers, two Reader Reaction papers, and one Letter to the Editor.

## Review Times

*Biometrics* continued in 2010 its practice of providing swift and high-quality reviews. Our review times are among the best in the statistics profession, and we are indebted to our associate editors and referees for their dedication to timely and constructive reviews. Table 3 presents major percentiles of review times for first submissions and for first revisions for 2009 and 2010, where review time is defined as the time period between the date when a manuscript was received by the journal and the date when a letter and reports were sent to the author(s). Results are presented for all submissions and for manuscripts that were sent out for external review by the Co-Editor, where manuscripts of the latter type exclude those rejected or accepted by the Co-Editors without being

**Table 1**

*Distribution of 2010 new manuscript submissions (n = 602)  
by geographical region*

Region	Frequency	Percentage
Africa	0	0.00
Asia	72	11.96
Europe	125	20.76
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	1.16
North America	387	64.29
Oceania	11	1.83

sent to an Associate Editor. Each line of the table is derived from Kaplan–Meier estimates of survival curves for time to review, treating manuscripts for which reviews are pending as noninformatively censored.

From the table, the median review time in 2010 for all first submissions was 1.9 months, and the 75th and 95th percentiles were 2.4 and 3.3. These figures are almost the same as those for 2009. The median time to first review for all revisions was 1.7 months, which is the same as last year. The 75th and 95th percentiles were 2.1 and 2.9 months,

respectively, which are about the same as the 2.1 and 3.1 months in 2009. Only one paper experienced a review time of any kind of over 5.0 months in 2009 or 2010. Kaplan–Meier survival curves based on the 2010 data are presented in Figure 1 and show the comparison with the 2009 figures. Overall, review times in 2010 are similar to those in 2009, with perhaps a slight worsening for first submissions and slight improvement for first revisions in the “right tail” of the distribution.

The number of journal pages allotted in 2010 was 1376, which has remained the same since 2007. *Biometrics* continues to sustain a rather lengthy backlog (defined as the time between acceptance and appearance of an article in the *print* version of the journal). Backlog for papers accepted in 2010 ranges from 12 to 14 months, the same as in 2009. To avoid further increases in backlog, we pay careful attention to the length of accepted manuscripts, and we ask that authors use the Supplementary Materials feature to report additional material. The number of journal pages will continue to be 1376 in 2011; thus, given the volume of high-quality submissions to the journal, we do not expect our backlog to improve. The Early View feature provided by our publisher ensures that accepted papers are published electroni-

**Table 2**

*Review status of new submissions in 2009 and 2010*

Year	Status	First review		Current*	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
2009 (n = 615)	Rejected w/o external reviews	142	23.1	141**	22.9
	Rejected w/ external reviews	289	47.0	314	51.1
	Revision allowed at own risk	98	15.9	19	3.1
	Revision invited	86	14.0	13	2.1
	Accepted	0	0.0	124	20.2
	First submission under review	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Revision under review	–	–	4	0.6
2010 (n = 602)	Rejected w/o external reviews	140	23.3	140	23.3
	Rejected w/ external reviews	246	40.9	247	41.0
	Revision allowed at own risk	64	10.6	31	5.2
	Revision invited	62	10.3	32	5.3
	Accepted	0	0.0	40	6.6
	First submission under review	90	14.9	90	14.9
	Revision under review	–	–	22	3.7

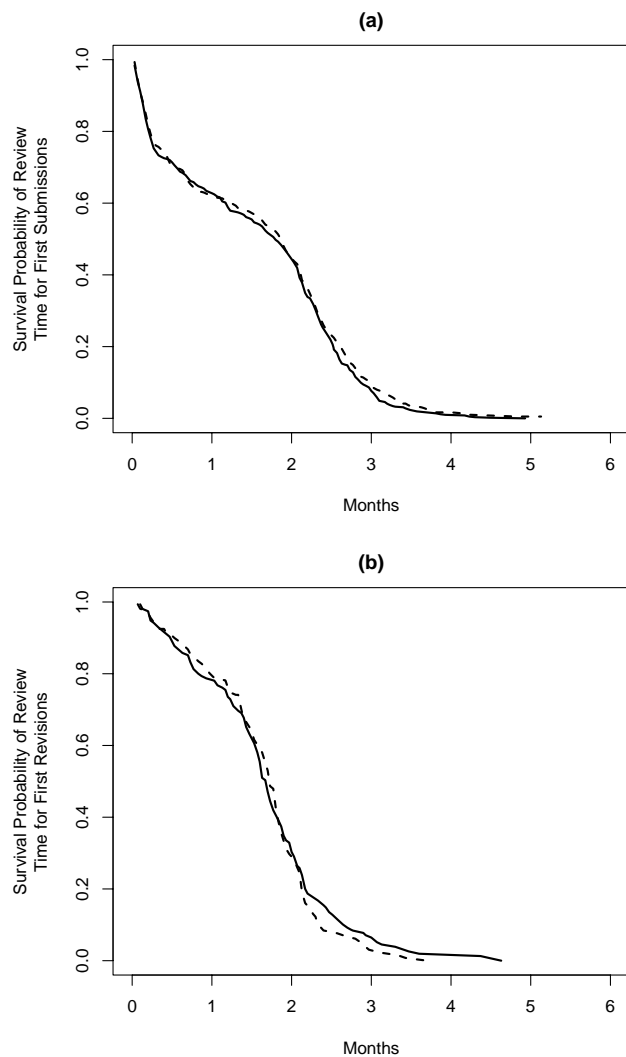
\*As of January 4, 2011, the date on which this report was prepared.

\*\*One paper originally rejected w/o external review was reconsidered.

**Table 3**

*Summary statistics for manuscript review times in 2009 and 2010*

Year	Submission type	MS type	n	Percentiles of review time in months					
				Min	25th	50th	75th	95th	Max
2009	First submission	All	615	0.0	0.3	1.8	2.4	3.1	4.5
		Reviewed externally	473	0.0	1.3	2.1	2.5	3.2	4.5
	First revision	All	155	0.0	1.1	1.7	2.1	3.1	4.6
		Reviewed externally	139	0.0	1.3	1.7	2.2	3.1	4.6
2010	First submission	All	602	0.0	0.3	1.9	2.4	3.3	5.1
		Reviewed externally	462	0.0	1.5	2.1	2.6	3.4	5.1
	First revision	All	160	0.0	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.7
		Reviewed externally	124	0.0	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.9	3.7



**Figure 1.** Kaplan–Meier survival curve estimates of the review times in months for (a) first submissions and (b) first revisions: 2009—solid line; 2010—dashed line.

cally in their final, typeset form within 8 weeks of being sent to the publisher (provided authors return proofs within 48 hours) at the *Biometrics* website at Wiley Online Library (<http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/biom>) and are assigned a digital object identifier (DOI) so that they may be formally cited. Information on how to cite Early View articles using the DOI number can be found at the journal website (<http://www.biometrics.tibs.org>) under the **Information for Authors** link.

### New Online Platform for *Biometrics*

The publisher of *Biometrics*, Wiley-Blackwell, moved all of its journals from the Wiley Interscience platform to a new platform called Wiley Online Library in July 2010. Previous Interscience URLs have been redirected to the new site. The new site (URL given above) offers enhanced features for accessing and exploring journal content.

### Award for Best *Biometrics* Paper

An IBS practice starting in 2006 is the biennial presentation of the Award for Best *Biometrics* Paper Published by an *IBS* Member at the International Biometric Conference (IBC). At the 2010 IBC in Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, two awards were presented, one to a paper published in 2008 and one to a paper published in 2009, and the authors presented the work in the *Biometrics* showcase session described below. The 2008 award was presented to Iryna Lobach, Raymond J. Carroll, Christine Spinka, Mitchell J. Gail, and Nilanjan Chatterjee for their paper “Haplotype-based Regression Analysis and Inference of Case–Control Studies with Unphased Genotypes and Measurement Errors in Environmental Exposures,” published in the September issue. The 2009 award was given to Dean Follmann and Michael Proschan for “Chop-Lump Tests for Vaccine Trials,” published in the September issue.

### *Biometrics* Sessions at Leading Statistical Conferences

Two *Biometrics* “Showcase” sessions organized by the Co-Editors took place at leading statistical conferences in 2010. A session entitled “Breakthroughs in Bioinformatics and Statistical Genetics,” chaired by Executive Editor Marie Davidian, was held at the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The session included three accepted or published *Biometrics* papers selected by the Co-Editors: “Nonparametric Functional Mapping of Quantitative Trait Loci,” by J. Yang\*, R. Wu, and G. Casella; “Linear Mixed Model Selection for False Discovery Rate Control in Microarray Data Analysis,” by C.Y. Demirkale, D. Nettleton\*, and T. Maiti; and “Gaussian Process Based Bayesian Semiparametrics Quantitative Trait Loci Interval Mapping,” by H. Huang, H. Zhou, F. Cheng, I. Hoeschele, and F. Zou\* (the speaker is indicated by an asterisk). The *Biometrics* showcase session at the 2010 IBC in Florianópolis-SC, Brazil, also chaired by the executive editor, featured authors Iryna Lobach (2008) and Dean Follmann (2009) presenting the award-winning papers.

*Biometrics* Showcase sessions are planned for the 6th biennial meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the IBS, to be held in May 2011 in Crete, Greece, and the Joint Statistical Meetings, Miami, Florida, United States, in August 2011.