

Welcome from the Local Organising Committee

Dear Delegate,

We begin with some 'futuristic' notes.

- (1) The University of Leeds is in the process of establishing the "Centre of Statistical Bioinformatics" which will focus and expand the interdisciplinary activities in this area.
- (2) The preparations for LASR 2006 are already in full swing! This will be our 25th official workshop and we will be celebrating our Silver Anniversary in style!! The dates for LASR 2006 are July 4th, 5th, 6th 2006 and we have selected a very attractive venue, Hinsley Hall, which is set in picturesque surroundings and has a building of great Victorian character. The theme we have chosen is very broad: "The Role of Statistics in Interdisciplinary Research".

I am pleased to say that we already have a number of speakers confirmed. To name a few: Sir David Cox (Oxford), Fred Bookstein (USA), Alf Linney (UCL), Julian Besag FRS (USA), Janet Thornton (EBI, Cambridge), Brian Athey (USA) and Wally Gilks (Cambridge) The Vice Chancellor of Leeds University, Professor Michael Arthur, has also agreed to open the Conference.

Coming now to LASR 2005, we are fortunate to have received sponsorship from "Nonlinear Dynamics", Newcastle Upon Tyne. The company is a world leading software developer for proteomic data analysis. In particular, their commercial package "Phoretix" is well known. We are currently looking for sponsors for LASR 2006!

One of the exciting feature of this year's workshop is that we have received a greatly increased number of poster submissions, and we have correspondingly increased the time to view these. We are pleased to have a preliminary session given by Wally Gilks on "Introduction to Bioinformatics for Statisticians", promoting our aim of interdisciplinary research.

In LASR 2004, I wrote a feature article "LASR workshops and emerging methodologies". The idea was to try(!) to foresee future lines of research in statistics in a very broad context. Bioinformatics is definitely a growth area and in these proceedings, the feature article is on "A vision of statistical bioinformatics". We cannot predict the future without looking into history and it turns out that Professor W.T. Astbury, FRS, who was at The University of Leeds from 1928 - 1961, can be regarded as an early pioneer in Molecular Biology which has led to the new field of Bioinformatics!

Again, following recent Workshops, the abstracts are on our website:

<http://www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/statistics/workshop>

As in previous years we hope that there is again going to be significant formal and informal discussions during this Workshop leading to exciting collaborations and advances.

Kanti Mardia,
June 2005.