

STRATOS Steering group

conference call - minutes

2020-10-29 (Thursday), 4.00 – 5.50 pm UK time

Participants: Willi Sauerbrei, Marianne Huebner, Ruth Keogh, Harabjan Chadha-Boreham, Michal Abrahamowicz, Mitch Gail, Anne-Laure Boulesteix, Saskia le Cessie, Georg Heinze, Stephen Evans, Els Goetghebeur, Ewout Steyerberg, Victor Kipnis, Mitch Gail,

SG members not able to attend: James Carpenter, Gary Collins, Jörg Rahnenführer

Agenda:

1. Website

- 1.1. At the BIRS meeting we decided that TG-specific websites with a common format need to be created. They will be linked to the STRATOS main website. Websites from TGs 3 and 7 are already linked. Others are under construction. Email from Marianne to TG chairs. All TGs should have a website by **15 December**. *Marianne shared a screen of the TG3 website and explained that it is a quick process to generate one using Google Forms, keeping it these same format across TGs, but other platforms work also. TG7, TG3 and TG4 have websites. TG7 and TG3 are linked from the main STRATOS website, TG4 will follow soon.*
- 1.2. Freiburg website will be updated soon and include a members only part. *The website will be more flexible.*
- 1.3. We will add a page for STRATOS related papers. Why is it on the STRATOS website? If a paper is to be considered, an explanation (**about 2 – 4 sentences**) will be needed. *The explanation will be shown on the website. TG2 discussed that papers more specific to a TG could be listed under the TG on the website and more general under publications on the website. The publication panel could decide whether a paper can be added. Els suggested that one specific paper for each TG should be listed on the main website.*
- 1.4. What about adding **layperson** abstracts for all (longer) STRATOS papers? New TG8 paper (Andersen et al 2020) has a layperson abstract (see STRATOS website). *Adding a layperson abstract may increase our impact. Els will send a link to TG7 layperson abstract.*

2. Collaborations

ISCB – still unclear. Vana Sypsa (current president) promised to send a statement concerning the interest of ISCB. *An ExCom TC is next week. Vana will inform us about interest.*

Furthermore, it is most likely that there will be a STRATOS mini-symposium at the next ISCB.

IBS – short papers from all TGs have appeared in in the Biometric Bulletin. We started with papers from panels (Simulation, Visualisation have appeared, Glossary will be the next. Then perhaps Data Set, then re-start with TG papers? We may also publish something about collaborative projects (e.g. SISAQOL, see below). *Saskia will talk to Maarten van Smeden regarding a dataset panel paper. Marianne suggested that open science is an important topic and of wide interest in this context. In about six months it may make sense having a short BB paper about the SISAQOL project (Els and Saskia). Then we could restart with papers from topic groups. TG3 could write something on reporting and examples for IDA, if there is time when they have made these reserouces available.*

SISAQOL - Setting International Standards in Analyzing Patient-Reported Outcomes and Quality of Life Endpoints Data. Led by the EORTC. For STRATOS Saskia le Cessie, Els Goetghebeur und Willi Sauerbrei joint a large grant application coordinated by members of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC). Project started recently. Email from Saskia to all members of SG and all TG and panel chairs on 31 July 2020. Input from several (or all) TGs is needed.

- 2.1. Add text on website? *Saskia will update the earlier email to the SG about this project. The aim is to develop guidelines for analyzing patient reported outcome (PRO) data both in randomized trials and single arm studies. The updated version can be put on the website.*

3. Panels

- 3.1. Visualization Panel (VP) is chaired by Mark Baillie (Novartis). See BiomBull article. Second chair and further members are needed. *Willi: A co-chair for VP is needed.*
- 3.2. Publication panel (PP). Updated document (version 9.0) sent on xy 2020 to all TG and panel chairs. *Willi: sent on 18 December 2019. All fine for TG and panel papers, but the part about a STRATOS paper needs slight extensions.*
- 3.3. Glossary panel (GP). Our glossary is based on the second edition of the "Dictionary for Clinical Trials" by Simon Day. About 700 terms were selected. Furthermore we have about 100 terms from NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, UK). Martin Boeker (Freiburg, expert in medical informatics) has imported these terms from the original text source into a database. Who is interested to join GP and help with the terms? Each TG will

have many specific terms which need to be added. Therefore each TG should be represented. *Willi: A glossary is important in the long run, but the problem is a lack of time or interest in working on a glossary. Ruth suggested to ask TGs to provide 20 terms. TG3 identified a few terms from the main IDA framework paper, but did not finalize definitions for these terms. Terms were originally selected from Simon Day's book (700 from more than 2000 that would be relevant for observational studies). Stephen Evans will ask Jim Slattery, who is currently retired, to ask about his interest. Probable title for the intended BiomBull paper*

A Glossary: Towards a Unified Semantics of Statistical and Study-related Term

- 3.4. Data set panel (DP) Maarten van Smeden is a new co-chair and his collected repository is linked. It is important to provide better meta data about publicly available data sets.
- 3.5. Simulation panel (SP). The panel is very active. See BiomBull article. *Anne-Laure describes a couple of ongoing projects, including a Level 1 paper to introduce principles of simulations which has been submitted. A Level 2 paper as a follow-up to Tim Morris' paper in Stat Med is needed to cover issues not fully discussed in Morris' paper. Further more a level 2 paper on reporting simulations studies is in the works.*
- 3.6. Knowledge translation panel *Harbajan reported that the knowledge translation panel created a Twitter handle. However, the panel is not active on Twitter. Anne-Laure said, since much is happening on twitter, we should have a strong, unified presence. Georg will investigate about writing a program for a twitter bot to retweet STRATOS hashtags, however more oversight may be needed. After a phone call Marie Delnord (Belgium) was offered membership. But she never applied for it.*

4. Topic Groups

TG9 will submit an overview paper soon. Then we have papers from all TGs. All groups are active and several collaborations among groups started. **Reports will be needed for the newsletter (see point 9).**

No discussion because of time constraints

5. Meetings

For 2020 : Invited sessions at IBC (Seoul) and RSS (Bournemouth), ISCB (invited session and mini-symposium), meeting in Berlin (Biometric Society, GMDS) was substantially shortened and we cancelled the mini-symposium. For all talks we have slides on the website. Videos exist from ISCB presentations. Still unclear whether we receive them for our website.

For 2021 :

- 5.1. Invited session at the meeting of the German Region of IBS (March, virtual, Münster). Anne-Laure Boulesteix is in the PC, the main talk in the STRATOS session will give Lisa McShane (TG9).
- 5.2. Most likely we will have a mini-symposium at ISCB (Lyon)
- 5.3. Apply for an invited session at RSS (**September**). Aris Perperoglou will organize a session on 'multivariable model building', deadline is 18 November. *This general title allows contributions from (nearly) all topic groups. Please send an email to Aris and Willi if your TG is interested to give a presentation. We may have three presentations from three different groups. **Deadline: November 9.** Michal suggested a presentation by TG8 to discuss alternative models like AFT, Cox PH,...*
- 5.4. We will apply for an invited session at the next meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (San Diego) **in June**. Michal Abrahamowicz to organize it. *Michal reported that a proposal for a STRATOS mini symposium (90 minutes, 3-5 speakers) would be welcomed. Whether this conference is in person or virtual will be decided later. It is one of the two best Epidemiology meetings. Proposal submission should be at the beginning or middle of December. Please send an email to Michal and Willi if your TG is interested to give a presentation. **Deadline: November 23.***
- 5.5. Further proposals

For 2022 : Another general in-person meeting of STRATOS? *Hopefully we will meet in person: Leiden or Banff. Further proposals? SISAQOL project will meet in a year.*

In 2021 we may have several smaller virtual meetings (joint meetings of several groups)

6. STATROS papers and involvement

- 6.1. We have a STRATOS poster (see website). Should we have modified versions from TGs and panels? *Put posters up at institutions or take it to meetings. Discussion is deferred until we can meet in person again.*
- 6.2. STRATOS paper on 'Methodological issues in medical research and patient care - critical appraisal of statistical and machine learning techniques'. Discussions started in Banff. Led by Jörg Rahnenführer (TG9) and Matthias Schmid (TG2). – **SKIPPED**
- 6.3. Scientists rise up against statistical significance (Amrhein et al, Nature 567, 305-307 - attached). What about a STRATOS paper to this key topic? Led by Michal.
We had a short discussion at the last TC of SG. Including comments from several STRATOS members Michal has produced an updated outline for a paper, which was sent to all members of SG before the TC. We had an intensive discussion and several members expressed strong interest to work on such a paper. Victor and James (decision after TC) will join Michal to co-lead the paper. Furthermore, Saskia, Willi, Mitch, Marianne, Georg, Ewout, Anne-Laure and Els expressed interest to contribute. Obviously, other members may also be interested and can contribute important parts to the paper.

Soon we will send a more detailed summary to all members of SG and the chairs of TGs and panels. They should inform further members from their groups.

Several people had to leave at 5:35pm: Stephen, Els, Saskia, Anne-Laure. Further discusses below. End of meeting at 5:50pm.

7. Level 1 material

- 7.1. Review of Statistical Series in medical journals (TG2, led by Geraldine Rauch). *After the TC the first paper (protocol) was accepted by PLOS ONE.*
- 7.2. Series of short videos (3-4 minutes). Led by Rolf Groenwold. See email 17 September. Release when we have 15 videos. *. – Discussed. Willi will resend email from September. TGs need to respond whether they plan to contribute. Willi don't start with less than 10.*
- 7.3. Shiny apps. Georg Heinze and Daniela Dunkler started with an app about non-linearity. Should we do more with apps? *-Discussed. Nice exploratory tools for difficult ideas. https://biometrician.shinyapps.io/nonlinear_visualisation/ Harbajan suggests Coursera courses that are accessible to 1000's of people. Several STRATOS courses are available (TG4 and TG7), but TG4 is not available on a website. A more detailed discussion about courses for websites was postponed.*
- 7.4. Paper from the simulation panel (led by Anne-Laure). *See BiomBull article on website*
- 7.5. Paper to summarize most of the information about statistical issues in E+E reporting papers (Boxes about continuous variables, missing data, interactions etc). Comment on it and update the literature. It may become a joint paper with EQUATOR. Led by Willi. Interested are Gary Collins, Marianne, Michal, Georg Heinze. *Briefly mentioned but time was not sufficient.*

8. Literature reviews

Literature reviews are important. Some papers are published and several projects have been started. More needs to be done. *Not discussed.*

9. Newsletter

The first newsletter is from May 2018. There are several news to summarize. We would need a short report from each TG. Panels – papers in the BiomBull are more recent and reports are not needed.

Another STRATOS Newsletter will be welcome to inform all STRATOS members on activities. Ruth and Willi will work on an outline. Updated reports from all TGs are needed. Deadline: December 15.

10.Membership

We have the first Early Career Adjunct Members and now we have more than 100 members.

Clinical affiliates – we need to become active.

Not discussed

11. AOB *No further topic.*