



# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

## 1. I-BioStat news

Since March 17 2020, [the Great Corona Study \(GCS\)](#) (bi)weekly monitors how people living in Belgium are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Over the past year 33 survey rounds were organized resulting in a total of 2,910,277 completed surveys. Some frequently investigated topics include COVID-19 symptoms, telework, social distancing, government trust, vaccine acceptance and mental health.

A couple of insights from round 33:

- 55% of the respondents support a short, but very strict lockdown to drastically reduce the number of new coronavirus infections.
- 21% has delayed medical care over the past three months. This often relates to preventive care (e.g. dentist check-up). However, 1.4% of all participants indicate they are currently delaying medical care for a life-threatening condition.
- 11% has consulted professional psychological care over the past year; 66% of them did so for the first time in their life.

The Great Corona Survey is a collaboration between the University of Antwerp, Hasselt University, KU Leuven and Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Interested in incorporating data from the GCS in your research project, please contact [corona-studie@uantwerpen.be](mailto:corona-studie@uantwerpen.be).

# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

## 1.1. Announcements

### Infectieradar.be



On march 29<sup>th</sup> we launched Infectieradar.be. Infectieradar monitors the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases across Belgium. People who have registered as participants in Infectieradar report once a week to Infectieradar whether they have had a fever or other symptoms in the past week. This allows us to monitor how health complaints are distributed in Belgium and how the situation develops over time.

Everyone living in Belgium can register and participate. Participants receive an initial registration form with questions about their background: work, age, and existing diseases and conditions. Following this they receive an email every week asking if they have had any symptoms in the past week and if so, which ones: a runny nose, coughing, sneezing, a high temperature and so on. It is important for the questionnaire to be completed even if a participant has no symptoms.

With the help of people from all over the country we can keep a close watch on how the coronavirus is developing.

More information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTzVSwcSRpw>

Participate: <https://survey.infectieradar.be>

Infectieradar is part of the European consortium Influenzanet.

# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

## Jan Hertogen, collaborator UHasselt COVID-19 Dashboard



On 16/07/2020, Prof. Molenberghs proposed to collaborate, based on my delivery of the daily figures from Sciensano to Prime Minister Wilmès, who publicly complained that Sciensano only announced 'consolidated figures', infections ordered according to the day of testing, even though all results from three days after were already known. Since July, eight files are daily updated for the various tools on the covid-19 dashboard of the UHasselt. It illustrates the sociological theory

and application as taught in 1968-1972 at the KULeuven by professor Ward Leemans. Central is the connectedness of the sociologist with the problem experience, the formulation of the problem and the arrival at policy-oriented solutions, namely agreements, collective agreements, legislation, like the minimum service provision in the Non-Profit sector, an end-of-career scheme (32-hour week for 55+), equal payment for employees in residential care centers and hospitals, harmonization of welfare and health wages on the highest scales, a 13th month salary , 2<sup>nd</sup> pension pillar in the Non-Profit. Mobilization, knowledge and insight of those who experience the problems are central to the realization. The starting point is always the interests and demands of the population and specific groups, regardless of privatization, nationalism or an identitarian discourse. After 4 years as a worker and educator and 6 years of research at the Sociological Research Institute of the KULeuven led by Prof. Van Mechelen, I was a director of a home for severely disabled people in Grimbergen for 10 years. Subsequently I was administrative coordinator for the Fund for Social Security of the private hospitals in Belgium and until the end of my career I was consultant for LBC-NVK/ACV-Puls, Non-Profit sector which included the file format for federal and Flemish Non-Profit agreements in 2000 and 2005. After an early retirement in 2005 I did the format of [www.getuigen.be](http://www.getuigen.be) with 200 testimonials from survivors of deportations in WW2, of [www.herinneringmemoire.be](http://www.herinneringmemoire.be) for maintaining and rebuilding the memory of victims of national socialism and especially the format of [www.npdata.be](http://www.npdata.be) which is a continuation of my scientific activities and support for the defend of interests, and which is also a valorisation of the work of various government administrations. Recently I did the format of [www.npdata.be/corona](http://www.npdata.be/corona), which is a concrete application for my sociology view and

# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

practice. The last is [www.npdoc.be](http://www.npdoc.be) with documents that are no longer accessible to the public but which are valuable for social and political engagement. I am glad, with this background, to be able to make a concrete contribution at an academic level, continuing on (bio) statistics in times of corona. In the future, a physical introduction to the Bio-statisticians will probably be possible in Hasselt, where I was born and raised 73 years ago.

## 1.2. Press releases

Newspaper articles of members of the Data Science Institute - CenStat are available on google drive, in the folder: [Newspaper articles - COVID](#)

## 1.3. Links of the month

## 1.4. Recent issues statistical journals

Van Houtven, J., Hooyberghs, J., Laukens, K., & Valkenborg, D. (2021). CONSTAND: An Efficient Normalization Method for Relative Quantification in Small-and Large-Scale Omics Experiments in R BioConductor and Python. *Journal of Proteome Research*.

Van Houtven, J., Cuypers, B., Meysman, P., Hooyberghs, J., Laukens, K., & Valkenborg, D. (2021). Constrained standardization of count data from massive parallel sequencing. *bioRxiv*. Computation Resources (2021) special issue of the Journal of Molecular Biology

Florez, A.J., Van Keilegom, I., Molenberghs, G., and Verhasselt, A. (2021). Quantile regression for longitudinal data via the multivariate generalized hyperbolic distribution. *Statistical Modeling*, accepted.

Mamouris, P., Nassiri, V., Molenberghs, G., van den Akker, M., Verbeke, G., and Vaes, B. (2021). Fast and optimal algorithms for case-control matching using registry data: Application on the antibiotics use of colorectal cancer patients. *BMC Medical*



# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

Research, accepted.

Megraud, F., Bruyndonckx, R., Coenen, S., Wittkop, L., Huang, TD., Hoebeke, M., Benejat, L., Lehours, P., Goossens, H., Glupczynski, Y. (2021). *Helicobacter pylori* resistance to antibiotics in Europe in 2018 and its relationship to antibiotic consumption in the community. *Accepted for publication in Gut*.

Nazmul Hasan, M., Braekers, R. (2021) Estimation of the association parameters in hierarchically clustered survival data by nested Archimedean copula functions. *Computational Statistics*.  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00180-021-01094-3>

## Book

## Book Chapters

# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

## 2. Personnel page

### 2.1. New staff

### 2.2. Visitors

### 2.3. Voluntary Scientific Collaborators

- Jonas Crèvecoeur, DSI, 1 April 2021 - 15 November 2021

### 2.4. Colleagues leaving

### 2.5. PhD obtained

- 

### 2.6. Celebrating their birthday in April

- Kris Bogaerts, 9 April
- Leandro Garcia Barrado, 15 April
- Nolen Joy Perualila, 20 April
- Lisa Hermans, 22 April
- Luc Bijmens, 27 April
- Emmanuel Lesaffre, 30 April

Congratulations!

*If you are celebrating your birthday this month and if you do not appear in the list, do inform us!*

### 2.7. Personal facts & figures

No news has reached our ears!

# I-BioStat Newsletter

Volume 2021, Issue 3

April 2021

## 3. Upcoming events

### 3.1. I-BioStat events

#### Seminars

#### Upcoming PhD defenses

**Joris Van Houtven**, 9 April 2021, 3pm, <https://meet.google.com/hve-qiom-uvc>  
*Proteome Analysis, Fast and Slow*

#### Workshops

### 3.2. External events

- **InterPore 2021 Online**, 31 May - 4 June  
<https://events.interpore.org/event/25/>
- **SIAM Conference on Mathematical and Computational Issues (GS21) Online**, 21-24 June  
<https://www.siam.org/conferences/cm/conference/gs21>
- **Bernoulli-IMS 10th World Congress in Probability and Statistics**, Online, 19-23 July, Hosted by Seoul International University  
<https://www.wc2020.org/>
- **FLAMES Summer School 2021**, 6-17 September 2021, UHasselt.  
Registrations open on April 26.  
<https://www.flames-statistics.com/summer-school/>
- **Applied Bayesian Biostatistics Conference**, September 2021, Rockville, USA  
<http://www.bayes-pharma.org/>
- **Non Clinical Statistic Conference**, October 2021, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium  
<https://ncs-conference.org/>