

**PIMS ENVIRONMETRICS COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP
MEETING
SEMIAHMOO, January 23-24, 2007**

The first meeting of the PIMS CRG on Climate & GeoRisk will take place on January 23-24, 2007 at the Semiahmoo Resort (go to <http://www.semiahmoo.com> for information on the venue, a map & directions). We are delighted by the large number who have expressed interest in the CRG. Moreover, we thank you for agreeing to attend this meeting – your thoughts on its role & future will be welcome.

GOALS OF THE MEETING: The meeting will introduce you to the CRG & some of the activities we foresaw for it when we submitted our successful proposal to PIMS. Moreover we will invite your suggestions on both short & long term directions for the CRG, which has PIMS funding for two years beginning Jan 1, 2007. In particular, we need your thoughts on how it can be sustained & how it can develop into a program of research & graduate education that takes advantage of the very large number of talented faculty & students at the institutions now involved in environmetrics both in statistical science as well as in subject areas. Thus much time has been allocated to discussion & some specific issues have been developed for consideration by the breakout groups that are to be formed at the meeting according to individual interest.

Overall the meeting will showcase the work of subgroups of the CRG, involve a lot of discussion & hopefully lead to a plan for the CRG as well as to the formation of some new research partnerships.

FOOD & ACCOMMODATION: The cost of food & rooms is to be covered by the PIMS award & rooms have been allocated to all who have responded positively to our invitation to attend. [However, lunch on Tuesday is not included although dining facilities are available at the Resort.]

AGENDA

The presentations are mix of emerging or established subgroups/centers & some newer research directions. Although presentations have been scheduled, the meeting will be very informal & discussion is very strongly encouraged. *Moreover, any of you who would wish to make brief comments & need LCD slides for that purpose can send them to Charmaine Dean (dean@stat.sfu.ca) by noon Friday Jan 19.* The “charge” for the breakout groups given below suggests some topics for discussion on which we would appreciate reports at the end of the meeting.

Organizers:

Charmaine Dean (SFU: dean@cs.sfu.ca)
Sylvia Esterby (UBC- Okanogan: sylvia.esterby@ubc.ca)
Peter Guttorp (UW: peter@stat.washington.edu)
Jim Zidek (UBC-Vancouver: jim@stat.ubc.ca)

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

1PM Welcome

1:10 Overview: of the CRG: A distributed research & education center
Jim Zidek

1:30 NRCSE--what was it?
Chair: Jim Zidek
Peter Guttorp

1:50 Discussion

2:05 Climate impact on forests
Chair: Jim Zidek
Charmaine Dean

2:45 Discussion

3:00 Coffee break

3:30 Environment & decision makers
Chair: Sylvia Esterby
Ashley Steel & Tanja Srebotnjak

4:10 Discussion

4:25 Agroclimate risk
Chair: Sylvia Esterby
Jim Ramsay & Jim Zidek

5:05 Discussion

5:20 Break

5:30 Trends in extremes
Chair: Charmaine Dean
Peter Guttorp

5:50 Deterministic vs statistical models: the problem of scales
Chair: Charmaine Dean
Douw Steyn

6:10 Design of computer experiments
Chair: Charmaine Dean
Jason Leoppky

6:30 Creation of break out groups by topic areas

7:30 Dinner (including introductions)

9:30 Breakout group discussion: Educational programs

Wednesday, January 23, 2007

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30 Climate change & water

Chair: Peter Guttorp

Sylvia Esterby

8:50 Discussion

9:00 Health effects of climate change

Chair: Peter Guttorp

John Petkau

Mike Brauer

Bruce Carleton

9:50 Discussion

10:10 Coffee break

10:40 Breakout groups

11:40 Group reports

Chair: Peter Guttorp

12:20 Lunch

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

Each group should appoint a “recorder” who will summarize the conclusions reached as a result of the discussions. Groups should set their own agendas but some specific topics on which the organizers would like input are the following.

The future

- Is a long term distributed research & educational center worth creating?
 - What should it do?
 - How should it be set up and embrace the NRCSE?

Research

- Current important research topics & directions
 - Bases of expertise & excellence in the CRG institutions
- Opportunities for collaboration
 - Within academic institutions
 - Between academic institutions
 - Between academic & non academic institutions

Support & resources:

- Possible research funding sources
- Partnerships for research
- Data sources

Strategic linkages

- Sources of good consultancies
- Sources of research problems
- International & national institutions
 - Faculty exchanges
 - Student exchanges
 - Specialized training programs
- Coop & internship positions

Educational programs

- Community outreach
 - Schools
 - Colleges
 - Media
 - Graduate programs
 - Knowledge & skill development skills
 - Value of a diploma program vs an MSc
 - Opportunities for coop placement (see strategic linkages)
 - Infrastructures for & feasibility of
 - Student exchanges
 - The virtual classroom
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