DAVY PAINDAVEINE TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

2007 GOTTFRIED NOETHER AWARD

The Noether Awards were established in 1999 As a tribute to Professor Gottfried Emanuel Noether, to recognize distinguished researchers in the field of nonparametric statistics.

Two Noether Awards are given each year. The Noether Senior Scholar Award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the methodology and/or theory and teaching of nonparametric statistics that have had substantial, sustained impact on the subject, its practical applications and its pedagogy. Recent laureates are Erich Lehmann, Pranab Kumar Sen, Emmanuel Parzen, Thomas Hettmansperger, Bradley Efron,…

The Noether Young Scholar Award is given each year to an accomplished young researcher (less than 35 of age) who has significant research accomplishments in nonparametric statistics. This much coveted distinction is seldom given to non American-based researchers. Belgium actually is the only country that managed to receive it twice: Gerda Claeskens (KUL and Texas A&M) in 2004, and Davy Paindaveine (ULB), who is to receive the 2007 award. This most remarkable fact, that would have been unthinkable only fifteen years ago, is a sure sign of the high quality of teaching and research in the field of statistics in our country, and of the very healthy state of our Society.

Davy Paindaveine's young carreer is an all-Belgian success story. He graduated in Mathematics in 1998 at ULB, where he received the 1997 Sterpenich Prize (best undergraduate student in Sciences). His scientific interests at that time were in Mathematical Analysis. From 1998 through 2002, he is full time teaching assistant at the Mathematics Department, discovers mathematical statistics, receives with the "félicitations du jury" a DEA in that field (entirely new for a "pure mathematician"), and defends his thesis---while practicing sports at a high level (he is an A-class badminton player). On September 15, 2002 he is appointed as Chargé de Cours at the Institut de Statistique et de Recherche Opérationnelle (ISRO), still at ULB.

Since then, and despite a rather heavy teaching load, the pace has not slowed down. His dissertation obtains the 2003 Marie-Jeanne Laurent-Duhamel Award of the Société française de Statistique given every second year to the best thesis defended in a French-speaking university. Despite his young age, he is elected a member of ISI. In 2005, he receives the Prix du Concours Annuel of the Académie Royale de Belgique. He becomes co-Director of the European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics (ECARES) and vice-President of the Ecole Doctorale thématique en Statistique et Sciences Actuarielles. He is visiting professor at Paris 6, and is elected a member of the Council of the Société française de Statistique. Four years after his defense, his list of publications includes about twenty papers, among which four long articles in the *Annals of Statistics*.

The research activities of Davy Paindaveine are mainly in the area of Multivariate Analysis. Combining Le Cam asymptotics and clever invariance arguments, he succeeds in extending traditional everyday practice (for multiple output regression, multivariate analysis of variance, homogeneity of scatter or shape, VARMA time series models, etc.) that generally requires strong moment conditions or even stronger Gaussian assumptions to the case of completely arbitrary elliptical distributions. This involves adequate multivariate concepts of ranks and signs. In many cases, the resulting methods are uniformly more powerful than their traditional Gaussian counterparts. A good sample of his work can be found in two papers that appeared in the December 2006 issue of the *Annals of Statistics*.

As his former advisor and regular coauthor, I am very happy and proud of Davy's remarkable achievement. Although the merit of course all goes to him, his well-deserved success also brings our entire society a reflected and quite legitimate feeling of pride.

Marc Hallin