

project is judged by a peer system, often involving non-Spanish referees. Approved budgets typically run about US\$3000 per person a year, plus justified small equipment and/or computing expenses.

3. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

CICYT also runs a project designed to bring qualified researchers to work in Spain for a limited period of time. Paperwork is initiated in Spain by the center issuing the invitation and requires a short summary of the research project and a vita of the candidate. Special arrangements exist when the visitor is on sabbatical leave.

Spain has bilateral agreements on scientific and technical collaboration with very many countries, including all those in the European community and most Latin American countries. The agreement with the United States was discontinued because of a lack of understanding on defense matters, but it is expected to be resumed next year. Those programs consist of bilateral research projects and provide funding for trips and per diem (typically twice a year in each direction) for about 3 years. Specific information may be obtained from the Subdirección General de Cooperación Internacional, Paseo del Prado 28, 28014 Madrid or from the Spanish embassies in the countries concerned.

Comment

N. Flourney

Congratulations to Professor Trumbo for this exposé of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Program in Statistics and Probability and his advice to the young statistical scientist who is considering whether or not to submit a grant application. Trumbo has effectively organized a miscellany of details that are important, often critical, to the managers of grant applications at funding agencies and to the reviewers, and thereby to the applicant. We have here a valuable resource document. It only covers one funding agency in one country and it is directed toward the special group of young researchers, but it is a beginning. For Trumbo calls our attention to the fact that his description of the status quo is not a defense of it. Yet the first step in organizing to change the status quo is to understand it, and Trumbo's article is useful to the entire statistical community in this regard. Many topics he covers invite peripheral discussion and analysis and I have selected only a few for further discourse.

Trumbo's paper provides cogent instruction for his selected audience of individual young researchers and it contains some information for others. However, I trust that it will also provoke. I sense an agitation,

involving our professional identity and the resources available for our work, rising among the broad community of statistical scientists that can only succeed with a cohesive thoughtful community effort. Trumbo contributes information concerning the status quo that can be used to our advantage, as I shall discuss later. I firmly believe that the health of our field depends on a farsighted, broadly defined, well articulated and disseminated vision of what is engaging us and its significance.

The first point that Trumbo makes is that the competition for funds is keen. He then deals with ways in which the young statistician can optimize her or his chances of successfully competing for an award. I reiterate: the National Science Foundation's (NSF) budget for research in statistics and probability is approximately 7 million dollars. Before my term as a rotating Program Director at NSF, I was Director of Clinical Statistics at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington with an annual operating budget on the order of \$700,000. I want to emphasize the point that the national budget for the basic sciences of statistics and probability is a mere 10 times greater than a single budget for statistical support services at a single research institution. It is unequivocal that existing funding levels are inadequate to preserve the vitality of the statistical research community at this time of expanding societal and industrial need for statistical knowledge, help and innovation. However, I believe that we bear the responsibility for improving our resources, that we have the opportunities to do so and that others will not do it for us.

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