Course title: "Adaptive and Sequential Procedures for Clinical Trials"
Spring session: 06th – 08th April 2011
Invited professors: John Whitehead, Thomas Jaki (Lancaster University, UK)
Location: Faculty of Computer Science ("Al. I. Cuza" University), Iași

Course Evaluation
Prepared by Anca Vitcu

	Course content	Lectures	Documentation	Applications
No. Participants	29	29	29	29
Missing[*]	1	1	1	2
Average evaluation score[**]	4.7	4.7	4.4[***]	4.4[***]

[*] The colleague who was not able to attend the course received the full documentation (theory, applications, bibliography).
[**] 5 – Excellent, 4 – Very good, 3 – Good, 2 – Satisfactory, 1 – Poor
[***] the scores should be seen as a strong motivation for more exercises after the fascinating theoretical sessions (we've talked about this in group discussions the days after the course) – the scores reflect the need to know, to explore as much as possible the concepts and examples provided, to gain knowledge – at that moment nothing seemed enough to mitigate the hunger for practicing, for implementation of just learnt concepts and the new way of approaching them.

• 19 of 28 participants asserted that their **expectations** where **met** while 9 of them considered them **exceeded**;

• 27 of 28 participants estimated that the course had a **correct length** while one participant considered the course **too short**;

• All participants would recommend the course to be attended, appreciating the high quality of the advanced information provided.

The teaching methodology was very much appreciated. The high volume of the new information provided and work during the application sessions were very encouraging and exciting for the participants, raising a strong will to study and practice more, a strong will to look for comprehensive resources. The course was challenging and it was a hard work developed by professors and participants together, the dedication was complete, the discussions followed long after the official end of the each day program.

The course had the on-line option at the request of 10 participants (Hungary, Germany and Romania). The evaluations received from the on-line participants were almost similar with the ones of participants in the conference room. It was an inconvenient regarding the fact that the notes written on the blackboard was not so visible - the use of the smart board was not fully covering (a technical solution should be imposed).

The live transmission was also prepared on the RNG web page to be available for the colleagues who couldn't attend the course fulltime and the environment didn't allow them to enter in the virtual conference.

The expertise of the invited speakers as well as the course organization was highly valued.

Recommendations for the organization team:

The practical session should be discussed much more in advance to facilitate a better technical solution for the on-line participants. Being myself on-line I would appreciate to be more involved in practice. This is a technical problem which can be solved for further events and we would be able to solve it. The use of the blackboard should be better assessed for the on-line courses and the use of the smart board should be encouraged.

The study of the topics in advance would be an advantage for participants, a thing which we should consider for further events.

Final conclusion

Considering the opinion of both participants and invited speakers the 3-days course proved to be very fruitful developing strong "win-win" collaboration. It continued the sequence of success events started in October 2010 and was due mainly to the brilliant invited experts. The feedback received from participants included the recommendation to carry on the ISCB training sessions and also the team building activities developed at the end of the course.