

BERNHARD FLURY

Born in Berne, Switzerland, Bernhard Flury began his career studying psychology, mathematics and statistics at the University of Berne, earning a PhD in Statistics there in 1982. He spent two years from 1982 to 1984 as a postdoc in the Statistics Department at Purdue University and Stanford University. In his own words, he took a "random walk around the world" from 1984 to 1987 with positions at Indiana University, the University of Berne, Stanford University, and Victoria University of Wellington. In 1987, Flury joined the Mathematics Department at Indiana University. He was appointed to Full Professor in 1995. For the academic year of 1989-90, Bernhard was Professor at the Seminar fuer Statistik at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Upon returning to Indiana University in 1990, he started the Statistical Consulting Service where he spent three years as its Director. Bernhard also spent several summers as a Visiting Professor at the University of Trento, Italy and teaching a mathematical statistics course at the Scuola Matematica Intermiversitaria in Perugia, Italy.

In January 1999, Bernhard joined the Groupe de Statistique at the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland as Professor of Applied Statistics.

Bernhard had a wide array of research interests, primarily in the field of multivariate statistics. A consistent theme throughout most of his research was to develop theory and statistical methods from collaborative problems with scientists in other fields, mostly biologists. Bernhard did extensive work in the area of principal component analysis where he developed the common principal component models which are now well-known among morphometricians. His book "Common Principal Components and Related Multivariate



Models" gives a comprehensive review of principal components and the generalization to several groups. Bernhard worked on problems in many other areas such as discriminant analysis, finite mixtures, canonical correlation, principal points, and self-consistency. He published over 70 research papers as well as two other books.

Bernhard was a thoughtful and enthusiastic teacher who inspired many to pursue graduate work in statistics. As mentor and friend, he served as advisor to 11 PhD students. Many of his students were from Italy where Bernhard spent many summers teaching. He traveled extensively and collaborated with friends all over the world.

Born: Berne, Switzerland June 4, 1951
Died: Trento, Italy July 6, 1999
Years at IU: 1987-1999

See also the Bernhard Flury Memorial Lecture series