

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY – NORDIC-BALTIC REGION
(IBS-NBR)

Bulletin No. 2, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

We start by congratulating the newly elected regional committee from Estonia and the council and wish them the best of luck in the coming election period.

Also, we congratulate the IBS secretariat with the nice new web pages at <http://www.biometricsociety.org/>. Here you will find news and information from the society's activities all over the world. Especially you will have full access to the Society's journals, i.e. Biometrics and Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics (JABES).

Here is the content of the second bulletin of 2012:

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1. The XXIV International Biometric Conference in Kobe 2012.

As you all know the XXIV International Biometric Conference was arranged in Kobe, Japan from 26 to 31 August 2012. The Nordic-Baltic Region was represented there by me as the region's president and besides the scientific program there was also an organizational business meetings program that I will report from briefly here.

Monday there was a welcome reception for all the regional officers for informal contact.

Wednesday, Krista Fischer, Estonia our new president from 2013 and I had a meeting where we went through the tasks for the regional executive committee and how to transfer the region's archives and account to the incoming committee.

Thursday we both attended the meeting between all regional presidents, or their representatives, the international officers, and staff from the society's international business office. All regions presented themselves and I realized that our region is a very small one (approx. 50 members) compared with many others (Brazilian: 400 members, Austro-Swiss: 150, Korean: 60, Italian: 70, Argentinean: 100, Japanese: 200, Indian: 70, Dutch: 150, German: 900 (!), East-North-American: 1500), but may be not so adjusted for population size (?). Topics that were discussed were the reorganization of the society, transition of groups to regions, networks being left as is, awards, the new website, cross-regional collaborative opportunities, recruitment of new countries, capacity building, tutorials/courses, and communication. Minutes from the meeting is in preparation and will be published. Here is a photo from the meeting where I talk to the Australian and Indian representatives:



Scientifically the program was very interesting and our region was represented both with invited speakers, and contributed talks and posters, see the recent Biometric Bulletin for an overview or the website for details. Altogether there were over 500 participants from 40 countries, however including approximately 225 from Japan.



Memorabilia



Kobe International Conference Centre



Niels Keiding & Anastosios Tsiatis



Krista Fischer



Hans Julius Skaug



Jukka Corander



PK Andersen, L Parast & JM Gran



Origami: Japanese paper art



Geishas: Traditional Japanese artists



Conference banquet

2. Elections IBS-NBR for 2013-2014 (2016)

Here are the results of the elections:

Regional Executive Committee (Baltic countries):

President: Krista Fischer, Estonia (Krista.Fischer@ut.ee)

Secretary: Inge Ringmets, Estonia (Inge.Ringmets@ut.ee)

Treasurer: Heti Pisarev, Estonia (Heti.Pisarev@ut.ee)

Regional Council

The Regional Executive Committee together with the national representatives:

Denmark: Jørn Attermann
Iceland: Birgir Hrafnkellson
Lithuania: Rima Kregzdyte
Norway: Magne Thoresen
Sweden: Ditriech von Rosen
Latvia: No members at present

Additional members of the council are:

Past president: Geir Egil Eide, Norway (2013-14) and

the Nordic-Baltic representatives of the General Council of IBS:

<http://www.biometricsociety.org/about/leadership/>

3. The 4th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference

The 4th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference, NBBC13, will be held June 10-12th in Stockholm.

Plans are still being finalised and registration or abstracts are not yet being accepted but the conference web page

<http://nbbc13.org/>

will be continually updated.

Yudi Pawitan is chair of the scientific program committee and Paul Dickman chair of the local organising committee. Their contact details along with the complete list of committee members can be found on the conference web page.

The following researchers have accepted invitations to speak:

- Magne Aldrin, Department of Statistical Analysis, Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (SAMBA), Norwegian Computing Centre, Norway.
- Vanessa Didelez, School of Mathematics, University of Bristol, UK.
- Mike Kenward, Department of Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK.
- Andrew Morris, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, UK.

- Hannu Oja, Tampere School of Health Sciences, University of Tampere, Finland.
- Andrea Rotnitzky, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA.
- Thomas Scheike, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Nuala Sheehan, Departments of Health Sciences and Genetics, University of Leicester, UK.
- Sara Sjöstedt de Luna, Department of Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, Umeå University, Sweden.
- Aila Särkkä, Department of Mathematical Statistics, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

4. Forthcoming events of interest

20130124-25

- Workshop on Statistical Methods for (post)-Genomic Data, VU Amsterdam, Holland

<http://www.smpgd2013.nl/>

20130128-29

- Symposium on Causal Mediation Analysis, Ghent University, Belgium

<http://www.da.ugent.be/cvs/>

20130221-23

- ASA Conference on Statistical Practice, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/csp/2013/>

20130305-08

- International Conference on Applied Statistics for development in Africa, Cotonou, Benin

<http://sada2013.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en>

20130318-23

- Joint Statistical Meeting of the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik, Freiburg, Germany

<http://dagstat2013.uni-freiburg.de/>

20130422-25

- 7th Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of IBC, Tel-Aviv, Israel

<https://event.pwizard.com/ims/index.py?p=620>

20130531

- Course on Generalised Linear Mixed-effects Models: Concepts and Applications, Prague, Czech Republic

<https://sites.google.com/site/iscbcr/course-with-tomasz-burzykowski>

20130610-12

- 4th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference, Stockholm, Sweden

<http://nbbc13.org/>

And do not forget that the whole 2013 is the International Year of Statistics:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/> !!!!!!!!

Anne Marie, Ågot and Geir thanks all members for your interest and patience in the preceding 4 years and wish the new committee and council a prosperous new period from 2013 and onwards!

We encourage all IBS members in the Nordic and Baltic countries to submit news, comments or other relevant stuff for the bulletin to the new secretary: Inge Ringmets (Inge.Ringmets@ut.ee).

IBSNB-REC, January 2013