

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY - NORDIC REGION (IBSNR)

Bulletin No. 2, 2009

Dear Colleague,

This bulletin is targeted at all members of IBSNR who have paid their membership fees for 2009 and participants at the 2nd Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference who are not members.

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1. Regional biometric conferences

The 2nd Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference (NBBC09) took place in Tartu, Estonia 10-12 June 2009 and was attended by 101 participants. The program contained presentations by 3 excellent keynote speakers, 15 invited speakers and discussants, and 38 contributed speakers. In addition there was a poster session with 16 posters. Please consult the web-page for details and photos:

<http://www.ms.ut.ee/NBBC09/> .

Most recent IBSNR conferences:

2005: Oslo, Norway
2007: Foulum, Denmark
2009: Tartu, Estonia

Future IBSNR conferences will be:

2011: Turku, Finland (LOC: Jukka Corander; SPC: Krista Fischer)
2013: Sweden
2015: Norway

2. Some other forthcoming events of interest

6th International Meeting on Statistical Methods in Biopharmacy, Paris, France:

<http://www.biopharma2009-sfds.fr/>

17th Norwegian Conference in Epidemiology, Tromsø, Norway (the conference takes place on the coastal steamer between Tromsø and Trondheim):

http://www2.uit.no/www/ansatte/organisasjon/hjem/artikkel?p_document_id=126302&p_dimension_id=88111

23rd Nordic Conference on Mathematical Statistics (NORDSTAT), Voss, Norway:

<http://www.nordstat2010.org/>

25th International Biometric Conference, Florianópolis, Brazil:

<http://www.rbras.org.br/~ibcfloripa2010/>

3. Fusion of the Nordic Region and the Baltic Group of IBS

A meeting was held in Tartu between the Board of IBSNR and representatives from the Baltic Group. As a conclusion it was decided to extend the Nordic Region including the Baltic countries, creating a Nordic-Baltic Region. Actions will be taken to find out how this should be done formally as soon as possible.

4. New homepage IBSNR

A homepage is under construction! Check it out at:

<http://www.ibsnr.org/>

5. Representatives of the Nordic Region to the IBS Council

The Nordic Region is supposed to have two representatives in the Council of the IBS. Tom Britton from Sweden serves for the period 2008-2011. The board is happy to announce that Esa Läärä, Finland as answered positive on our request and has been nominated as the second representative serving for the period 2010-2013. Due to planned changes in the organization of the IBS this period can however be changed.

6. The 2nd NBBC, Tartu 2009: Presidential address

Dear colleagues and honoured hosts,

being new as president of the Nordic Region of the International Biometric Society (IBS) I am delighted to be a guest in the historic and beautiful city of Tartu with its long academic traditions, for this 2nd Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference. As most, but maybe not all, of you know, the International Biometric Society is a worldwide scientific society devoted to “the development and application of statistical and mathematical theory and methods in the biosciences, including agriculture, biomedical science and public health, etiology, environmental science, forestry, and allied disciplines”. Its activities are neatly summarized by its slogan quoted from Sir R. A. Fisher of 1948: “Biometry is the active pursuit of biological knowledge by quantitative methods”. Every 2nd year the society arranges the international conference at locations cycling between the continents. Last year it was held in Dublin and included a celebration of William Gosset’s 100 year anniversary for his paper introducing what has later been termed ‘student’s t-test’, and next year the 25th International Biometric Conference will be held in Brazil. The first conference was held 62 years ago in Massachusetts, USA although the term “biometrics” goes back to the beginning of the 20th century.

The society is organized in local regions and national groups as for example the Nordic Region and the Baltic Group. A region can be established if there are more than 50 members in a geographical defined area, and a group requires 10-50 members.

The society publishes two journals, the Biometrics journal and the Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics, as well as a membership bulletin called the Biometric Bulletin.

The Nordic Region has traditionally arranged a regional conference every year in between the international conferences, circulating the responsibility between Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. However this year it is the 2nd time that the Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference replaces the Nordic regional meeting. Thus, hopefully, a new tradition has been established and the Baltic countries are included in the cycle. The next conference will be held in Finland in 2011.

The board of the Nordic Region is also cycled between the countries and was fully taken over by Norway from Finland only this last year. As a board we are faced by new challenges as for instance that the internet and electronic publishing have made the journals and other communications and scientific networks easily accessible without being a member of the society. It is my belief, however, that keeping personal contacts intact by arranging physical meetings like this, is still of great value and as you are here I presume you share this belief. Thus, I encourage those of you who are not members of the Biometric Society to support this activity by becoming members or renewing your memberships.

Now, I have to say, the new board of the Nordic Region has been the result of a Markoff process. Personally I used to be a member many years ago but working in a different applied field caused my membership to fade out. However, I will take the opportunity to thank the previous board from Finland and the past president Esa Läärä for keeping the process and the region going in an excellent way in the previous four years period. The new board has a couple of tasks they've decided to give priority. Besides establishing an organizing committee and a program committee for the 3rd Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference we have also the aims to establish a separate website for the region and to update the by-laws of the region to today's practice. The financial situation is good and we will discuss how to use it in supporting and promoting biometric methodology in the region.

For this year's conference the new board must admit it has not been very much involved. It has, however, been kept informed, and from the sideline we have been very impressed by the effort that has been put in, both by the local organizing committee chaired by Krista Fischer, and by the program committee chaired by Jukka Corander. The pre-conference course has been excellent, the facilities seem superior, and the program is very promising and exciting.

Thus, I will finish by thanking our hosts; the University of Tartu, Department of Public Health and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and every person involved in the planning, for the job so far, and wish you all a successful and rewarding conference. The conference is now open. Thank you!

Geir Egil Eide

IBSNR board, 15 September 2009