



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

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## Contents

- 1 IBS NBR President's corner 1
- 2 NBBC19 and future biometric conferences 2

### 1 IBS NBR President's corner

Dear members,

The 6th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference (NBBC17) took place between June 19 and 21, 2017 in a sunny Copenhagen. The conference included plenary, invited as well as contributed sessions. A detailed program of the conference can be downloaded here ([pdf](#)).

Krista Fischer, former president of the IBS NBR and member of the regional council, was kind enough to open the conference and to present the very first speaker, the current president of IBS, Elisabeth Thompson, who gave an overall description of IBS activities both historically and going forward.

Of many interesting speakers, I only mention the three keynote speakers Steve Marron, Mark van de Wiel and Thomas Scheike. And out of these I choose one to comment on namely Steve Marron from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He gave a very (in my view) inspiring talk about Object Oriented Data Analysis, a topic I did not anticipate to be familiar to me since I did not recognize the term. However, from what I learned, this area is about data that lie in non-standard spaces such as High-Dimension-Low-Sample-Size data, and/or other exotic data types, such as manifold and tree-structured data. The feature I liked the most about Marron's presentation is the mixture of theoretical results about smoothing methods for curve estimation and a variety of applications to data from

cancer research, genetics, image analysis, evolutionary biology, drug discovery and toxicology etc.

What participants will probably remember most about the NBBC17 is the warm friendly atmosphere and the interesting discussions between participants from all member countries plus a number of others. We are all looking forward to the next Nordic-Baltic Biometric conference which we discuss more below.

Ziad Taib

## 2 NBBC19 and future biometric conferences

The NBBC17 was an occasion for country representatives to meet and discuss current and future activities for the region. The regional council meeting took place on June 19, 2017 ([minutes](#)) whereas the next regional (NBBC) conference 2019 was the issue that was most discussed.

Two candidate cities/countries were discussed for hosting the next NBBC conference in 2019: Vilnius (Lithuania) and Riga (Latvia). The representatives from Latvia have shown strong interest in organizing the next conference, but the council agreed that Vilnius would be the best choice at this time. The main reason is that representatives from Lithuania have been active in the IBS NBR for several years, have experience working with the region and have also attended conferences in the past.

A local Lithuanian organization committee for NBBC19 has been set up lead by Audrone Jakaitiene from Vilnius University. This local organization committee are working on fixing dates for the conference, looking for sponsors and will set up a conference website with basic information. The scientific program committee is also in the process of being set up. Theis Lange from Copenhagen University has accepted to be the chair of the committee.

The possibility of organizing the global IBS conference in the Nordic-Baltic region at some time in the future (2022 or 2024) was also briefly discussed at the council meeting. The global conference is usually large with around 1000 participants, so organizing it is a rather big task to take on. The Latvian members have shown an interest in organizing this global conference, and discussions have been initiated around this.

In the meanwhile, we encourage you to submit abstracts to the next [International Biometric Conference](#) which will take place in Barcelona next July!



The International Biometric Society (IBS) invites abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations for the 2018 International Biometric Conference (IBC2018) being held in Barcelona, Spain from 8-13 July 2018.

[Abstracts may be submitted online](#) from **1 October 2017** to **10 January 2018**. Submissions from a broad range of topics and perspectives are encouraged. [See this announcement](#) for a complete list of methodological topics and application areas that will be covered during the conference.

All abstracts must be submitted online. Each abstract submission must include the title, list of authors and author affiliations and abstract, with each submission having a maximum length of 2,500 characters. The number of oral abstract submissions with the same presenting author is limited to one. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the IBC2018 International Program Committee, and presenting authors will be informed of the status of their abstract (oral presentation, poster presentation, rejection) by 12 March 2018.