

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

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## 1 IBS NBR President's corner

Fellow members of IBS NBR,

As this is the first Regional Bulletin issued by the new Regional Executive Committee and the first presidential address by myself, I would like to start by a big THANK YOU to our predecessors Krista Fischer, Silva Kasela and Mait Raag for the excellent work during the last 4 year's period. We inherited a region in very good shape from various points of view and we can only hope to be able to live up to the standards set by them. In particular, I would like to acknowledge a very smooth handover process via email and during a one whole day meeting in Stockholm on October, 13, 2016. Much of the ongoing activities of the IBS NBR are the products of their effort during the last period.

Looking forward, we are excited about the upcoming regional conference, NBBC17 in Copenhagen, between the 19th and the 21th of June 2017. The Scientific Program committee led by Professor Jaakko Nevalainen and the Local Organizing

Committee including Torben Martinussen, Thomas Scheike, Karl Bang Christensen and Andreas Kryger Jensen have put together a really interesting program. We hope to see you all there.

It goes without saying that an organization like IBS NBR is what its members make of it. Today, we are 62 members, which is really good, but we believe that IBS as a whole, and our region in particular, have a substantial growth potential, at least in some of the member countries. There is an increasingly high level of demand for people with our kind of “trade”, Biometrics in the large sense, and that should, sooner or later, be translated to higher membership numbers. To this end, we plan to try to increase the attractiveness of the membership with your help. We would be very interested to hear any ideas or suggestions from you on things you would like to see happening or things you can contribute yourself to make IBS NBR a more attractive organization to join. All kinds of ideas regarding educational or scientific activities as well as ways of networking are more than welcome. And above all, please help spreading the word on the existence- and benefits of IBS NBR.

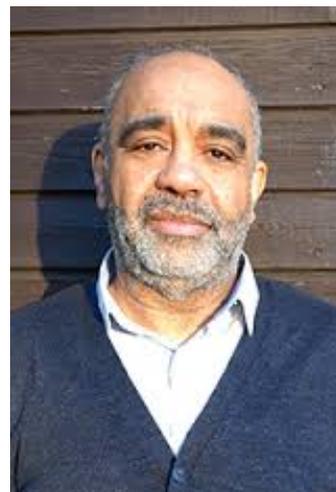
Finally, as you know, the mailing list [ibs-nbr@googlegroups.com](mailto:ibs-nbr@googlegroups.com) is for you as members to use for exchanging ideas, thoughts etc. Please make good use of it.

Ziad Taib

## 2 The new IBS NBR committee

- **President:** Ziad Taib
- **Secretary:** Marita Olsson
- **Treasurer:** Alexandra Jauhiainen

**Ziad Taib** is a Statistical Science Director at AstraZeneca, R&D and an adjunct Professor of Biostatistics, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. He joined AstraZeneca in the year 2000 after over 10 years in the Academia. Since then, he has occupied several project- and line management positions. He is currently the global product statistician in the Respiratory and Inflammation therapeutic areas. His earlier research was centered on stochastic modelling in biology and medicine. Among his current areas of interest are: statistical methods related to the use of biomarkers as well as stochastic modelling in early phase clinical trials.



**Marita Olsson** joined AstraZeneca in 2011 and is now Principle Statistician in Early Clinical Development. Before joining AstraZeneca she was associate professor at Mathematical Sciences at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. A substantial part of her academic career was as coordinator and director of the international MSc programme in bioinformatics at Chalmers, and later on she was head of the consultancy unit at the math department. Marita has a broad interest in applied biostatistics, exemplified by localisation of disease genes in autoimmune diseases and register based studies of diabetes. A new area of interest is use of historical control data in clinical trials.



**Alexandra Jauhiainen** works as a principal statistician within the Early Clinical Biometrics group at AstraZeneca in Gothenburg, Sweden. She holds a PhD in mathematical statistics from Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, and has worked as a post-doc both at the University of Michigan and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Her research interests include sparse methods, surrogate endpoints, and statistical modelling of clinical endpoints and biomarkers.



### 3 Overview of memberships

As of today (May 23) we are in total 62 members, 8 of which are students.

Country	Number
Denmark	10
Estonia	6
Finland	16
Iceland	2
Latvia	3
Lithuania	4
Norway	6
Sweden	14
UK	1

### 4 Accrual accounts 2016

Below are the accrual accounts for 2016 (and compared with 2015). All sums are given in EUR.

<b>CASH FLOW</b>	<b>Jan 1 - Dec 31 2016</b>	<b>Jan 1 - Dec 31 2015</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees		
Senior	120	100
Regular	2 580	2 500
Reduced	112	34.80
Journal subscriptions		
Biometrics	160	102.2
JABES	40	29.2
Deposit interest	1.55	9.67
NBBC15 surplus	2 495	0
Total income	5 508.55	2 775.87
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Unpaid invoices (by the end of the reporting period)	-194	-150
Transferral of membership fees to IBS	-2 730.61	-2 664.27
IBS NBR executive committee at NBBC15	0	-2 490.42
Support for NBBC15 DC delegates	0	-971.25
IBS NBR regional councils meeting (change of councils) at Stockholm	-1 333.93	0
Bank transfer fees	-34.76	-26.68
Total expenditure	-4 293.3	-6 302.62
<b>Total net gain (loss)</b>	1 215.25	-3 526.75
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>2016-12-31</b>	<b>2015-12-31</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Transferral from previous year	15 310.24	18 836.99
Total reserves	16 525.49	15 310.24

## 5 Upcoming events

### 5.1 NBBC17

The Nordic-Baltic Region of the International Biometric Society welcomes you to NBBC17, June 19-21, 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference is aimed at novel developments and applications of statistical and mathematical methods in the field of bioscience and offers excellent opportunities for learning about recent advances in biometry, exchanging research experiences and getting to know colleagues from your neighbouring countries.

The conference is hosted by the Section of Biostatistics, Institute of Public Health, University of Copenhagen and will take place in the center of Copenhagen.

Programme overview:

- Sunday 18 June: Pre-conference course
- Monday 19 June: Conference day 1 and opening reception
- Tuesday 20 June: Conference day 2 and conference dinner
- Wednesday 21 June: Conference day 3

The conference will include invited sessions (plenary), contributed sessions (parallel), and poster sessions.

The registration is now open and you can find more information as well as the program under the following link: [NBBC17](#)

### 5.2 Olle Nerman Symposium

On 1-2, September 2017 there will be a two-day symposium in honour of Olle Nerman with the title: From Branching Processes to Clinical Trials. The symposium will take place at the Mathematical Sciences department at Chalmers University of Technology/University of Gothenburg in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The title ties together Olle Nerman's work in Mathematical Statistics during more than three decades. Mathematical Statistics is a wide branch of mathematical sciences including both probability and statistics and not the least many applications in various other scientific disciplines. The research of Olle Nerman is a perfect illustration of this. In particular, he has been instrumental in establishing and promoting biostatistics in its various forms stretching from general population models, with applications to cell kinetics, to clinical trials and bioinformatics. His

early theoretical work, which led to a fundamental understanding of the structure of general branching processes, is increasingly referred to in new publications.

The symposium in his honour will reflect this diversity through presentations by key international invited guests and other invitees in the form of former students and collaborators.

You can find more information and the program under the following link:

[Olle Nerman Symposium](#)