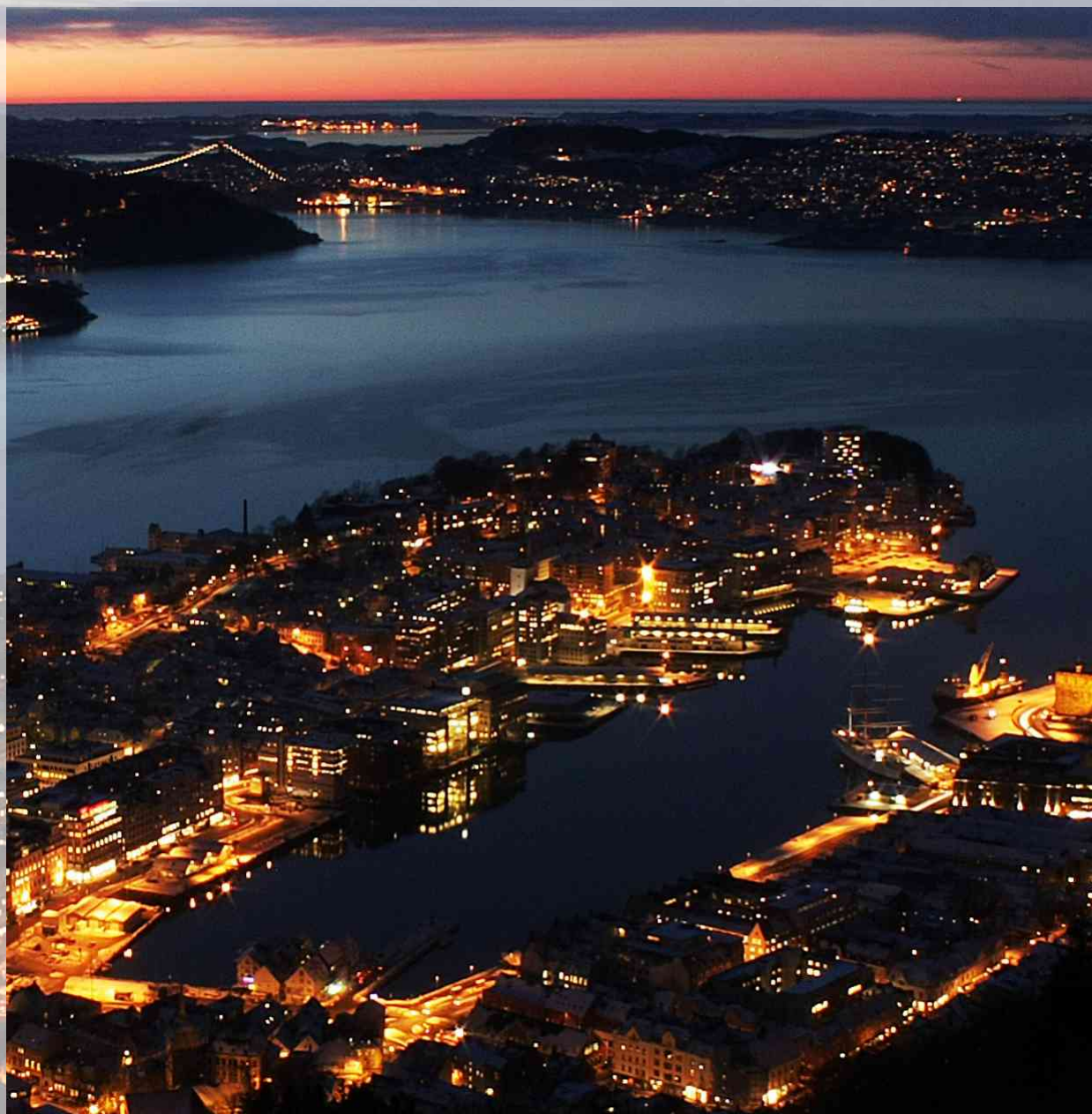


33rd Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics



19-23 August 2012 - Bergen (Norway)



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Welcome to Bergen 2012

We are delighted to invite you to the 33rd Annual Conference of the ISCB, for the first time in Norway. Clinical biostatistics is a field that is crucial to medical and health related research to ensure quality knowledge as basis for treatment and prevention, etiology and health care. The conference is meant to build a bridge between researchers in the medical and health related fields and developers of new relevant statistical methodology and software.

The Scientific Programme Committee has set up a broad range of interesting topics both in the invited and contributed session. The traditional Mini-symposium on Thursday 23 August, that can be attended separately, is devoted to Register-based Epidemiology, thus giving the conference a Nordic flavour.

The conference is also a unique opportunity to experience Norwegian nature and culture, be it before, during, or after the official programme. We hope you find the programme attractive and will take this opportunity to participate and visit Bergen, Norway in August 2012.

Mark your calendar now!

Geir Egil Eide,
Chair Local Organizing Committee

Odd O. Aalen
Chair Scientific Programme Committee

Important Dates

- First announcement/ Call for abstracts: 1 January 2012
- Deadline for abstracts: 15 March 2012
- Early bird registration: 15 May 2012
- Award applications: 15 May 2012
- Pre-conference courses: 19 August 2012
- Conference start: 20 August 2012
- Mini-symposia: 23 August 2012

International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)

The International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) was founded in 1978 to stimulate research into the principles and methodology used in the design and analysis of clinical research and to increase the relevance of statistical theory to the real world of clinical medicine.

- President:** Harbajan Chadha-Borham (*Switzerland*)
- Vice-president:** Koos Zwinderman (*The Netherlands*)
- Secretary:** David W. Warne (*Switzerland*)
- Treasurer:** KyungMann Kim (*USA*)
- Webmaster:** Ingrid Sofie Harboe (*Denmark*)
- Ordinary members:**
 - Michal Abramovicz (*Canada*)
 - Lucinda Billingham (*UK*)
 - Krisztina Boder (*Hungary*)
 - Tomasz Burzykowski (*Belgium*)
 - Lutz Edler (*Germany*)
 - Catherine Legrand (*Belgium*)
 - Saskia Le Sessie (*The Netherlands*)
 - Giota Toulumi (*Greece*)
 - Zdeněk Valenta (*Czech Republic*)



Scientific Programme Committee

- Chair:** Odd O. Aalen (*Norway*)
- Members:** Per Kragh Andersen (*Denmark*)
 Jan Beyersmann (*Germany*)
 Ørnulf Borgan (*Norway*)
 Michael Campbell (*UK*)
 David Clayton (*UK*)
 Daniel Commenges (*France*)
 Vanessa Didelez (*UK*)
 Clelia Di Serio (*Italy*)
 Jan Terje Kvaløy (*Norway*)
 Sophia Rabe-Hesketh (*USA*)
 Marie Reilly (*Sweden*)
 Terry Therneau (*USA*)
 Stein Emil Vollset (*Norway*)

Local Organising Committee

- Chair:** Geir Egil Eide (*Centre for Clinical Research, Bergen*)
- Vice-chairman:** Stein Atle Lie (*Uni Health, Bergen*)
- Secretary:** Anne Marie Fenstad (*Arthroplasty Registry, Bergen*)
- Treasurer:** Jan Harald Aarseth (*MS Registry, Bergen*)
- Scientific coordinator:** Jan Terje Kvaløy (*University of Stavanger, Stavanger*)
- Course coordinator:** Tore Wentzel-Larsen (*RBUP/NKVTS, Oslo*)
- Symposium coordinator:** Roy Miodini Nilsen (*Centre for Clinical Research, Bergen*)
- Social program coordinator:** Ågot Irgens (*Dep. of Occupational Medicine, Bergen*)
- Sponsorship acquisition :** Stein Atle Lie (*Uni Health, Bergen*)
 Milada Cvancarova Småstuen (*Cancer Registry, Oslo*)
- Webmaster:** Jörg Aßmus (*Centre for Clinical Research, Bergen*)
- Associate member:** Ivar Heuch (*Dep. of Mathematics, University of Bergen*)

Mini-symposium Committee

- Members:** Stein Emil Vollset (*University of Bergen, Bergen*)
 Rolv A. Skjærven (*University of Bergen, Bergen*)
 Tone Bjørge (*University of Bergen, Bergen*)
 Marjolein Iversen (*Bergen University College, Bergen*)
 Roy Miodini Nilsen (*Centre for Clinical Research, Bergen*)

The Centre for Clinical Research, Arthroplasty Registry, MS Register and the Department of Occupational Medicine in Bergen are Units of the Western Norwegian Regional Health Authority.



Scientific Programme

The SPC invites members of ISCB as well as researchers interested in the aims of the ISCB to Bergen to present and communicate research results on principles and methodologies used in the design and analysis of clinical research which promote and advance statistical theory and practice in clinical medicine at an international level. The 33rd Annual Conference in Bergen will provide a forum for the international exchange of theory, methods and applications of biostatistics in medical research and practice among clinicians, statisticians and members of other disciplines, such as epidemiologists, clinical chemists and clinical pharmacologists, working or interested in, the field of clinical biostatistics.

Preliminary Programme Overview

	Sunday, 19 August	Monday, 20 August	Tuesday, 21 August	Wednesday, 22 August	Thursday, 23 August
08:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
09:00	Pre-conference Course 1,2,3	Welcome Plenary Session SPC's Invited Speaker	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)	Mini-Symposium Register* Vaccine**
10:00	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments
11:00	Pre-conference Course 1,2,3	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)	Key note lecture President's Invited Speaker Annual General Meeting	Refreshments Mini-Symposium Register* Vaccine**
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:00			Conference trips	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)	Closure of ISCB 33
14:00	Pre-conference Course 1,4,5	Invited Session Contributed Sessions (3)		Refreshments Contributed Sessions (4)	
15:00	Refreshments	Refreshments Contributed Sessions (4)			
16:00	Pre-conference Course 1,4,5				
17:00	Registration				
18:00					
19:00		19:00-20:30 Welcom Reception Poster session		20:00-22:00 Conference Dinner Poster session	
All day					

* Register-based epidemiology . ** Statistics in vaccine research



1. Identification of disease/phenotype related to rare genetic variants
2. Bayesian computing with INLA
3. Estimating treatment effects using longitudinal data
4. Analysis of interval-censored survival data
5. Latent class mixed models for longitudinal data and time-to-event data

1. Analysis of rare genetic variants in common diseases (Full-day)

Michael Nothnagel¹ and Bettina Kulle Andreassen²,

¹ Institute of Medical Informatics and Statistics, Christian-Albrechts University, Kiel, Germany

² Institute of Basic Medical Sciences (IMB), Department of Biostatistics, University of Oslo, Norway

Technical progress has replaced decades-long scarcity by a close to overwhelming mass of genetic data. This wealth of data offers unprecedented chances for elucidating the role of genetic factors in the etiology of common diseases, but it also causes novel issues in the analysis. Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the DNA have been a standard approach to detect common genetic factors, i.e. those with a population frequency of at least one percent. Due to some inherent limitations of GWAS and with the advent of next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) technologies, the focus has recently shifted to the analysis of rare variants with population frequencies less than one percent.

The course will start with an introduction to basic ideas of genetic epidemiology, including relevant biological and genetic fundamentals. Concepts of and tools for GWAS will be covered in some detail in the second part, including a discussion of the pros and cons of this type of study. In a third part, we will focus on the analysis of rare variants, now routinely obtained from sequencing whole genomes or parts thereof. We will present different methods of variant collapsing and weighting in order to achieve reasonable power and ways of utilizing family pedigree information.

Recent examples will be used for the motivation and illustration of these topics.

2. Bayesian computing with INLA (Half-day)

Håvard Rue,

Department of Mathematical Sciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

In these lectures, I will discuss approximate Bayesian inference for a class of models named 'latent Gaussian models' (LGM). LGM's are perhaps the most commonly used class of models in statistical applications. It includes, among others, most of (generalized) linear models, (generalized) additive models, smoothing spline models, state space models, semiparametric regression, spatial and spatiotemporal models, log-Gaussian Cox processes and geostatistical and geospatial models.

The concept of LGM is intended for the modeling stage, but turns out to be extremely useful when doing inference as we can treat models listed above in a unified way and using the same algorithm and software tool. Our approach to (approximate) Bayesian inference, is to use integrated nested Laplace approximations (INLA). Using this new tool, we can directly compute very accurate approximations to the posterior marginals. The main benefit of these approximations is computational: where Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms need hours or days to run, our approximations provide more precise estimates in seconds or minutes. Another advantage with our approach is its generality, which makes it possible to perform Bayesian analysis in an automatic, streamlined way, and to compute model comparison criteria and various predictive measures so that models can be compared and the model under study can be challenged.

In these lectures I will introduce the required background and theory for understanding INLA, including details on Gaussian Markov random fields and fast computations of those using sparse matrix algorithms. I will end these lectures illustrating INLA on a range of examples in R (see www.r-inla.org).

Required background: Basic knowledge of Bayesian statistics. Optional: Your own laptop with INLA preinstalled (www.r-inla.org).



3. Estimating treatment effects using longitudinal data (Half-day)

Miguel Hernán,

Department of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA

The availability and use of observational data—electronic medical records, claims databases, registries, etc. is increasing in medical research. However, a valid estimation of the causal effects of treatment from observational data requires strong assumptions regarding confounding and other potential biases. Estimating the effects of time-varying treatments in the presence of time-varying confounding factors also requires the use of appropriate analytic methods. The goal of this short course is to describe techniques for the estimation of causal treatment effects in longitudinal observational data.

4. Analysis of interval-censored survival data (Half-day)

Philip Hougaard,

Lundbeck, Copenhagen, Denmark

Interval-censored survival data occur when the time to an event is assessed by means of blood samples, urine samples, X-ray or other screening methods that cannot tell the exact time of change for the disease, but only that the change has happened since the previous examination. This is in contrast to standard thinking that assumes that the change happens at the time of the first positive examination. Even though this screening setup is very common and methods to handle such data non-parametrically in the one-sample case have been suggested more than 25 years ago, it is still not a standard method. However, interval-censored methods are needed in order to consider onset and diagnosis as two different things, like when we consider screening in order to diagnose a disease earlier. The reason for the low use of interval-censored methods is that in the non-parametric case, analysis is technically more complicated than standard survival methods based on exact times. The same applies to proportional hazards models. The talk will give an introduction to this type of data, including a discussion of the issues. The statistical theory will not be dealt with in detail, but high-level differences to results for standard right-censored survival data will be presented. Both parametric, non-parametric and semi-parametric (proportional hazards) models will be covered. The talk will emphasize the applications, using examples from the literature as well as from my own experience regarding development of microalbuminuria among Type 2 diabetic patients.

5. Latent class mixed models for longitudinal data and time-to-event data (Half-day)

Hélène Jacqmin-Gadda^{1,2} and Cécile Proust-Lima^{1,2},

¹ *INSERM U897, Bordeaux, France*

² *Bordeaux Segalen University, Bordeaux, France*

Latent class mixed models consist in exploring latent profiles of trajectories in heterogeneous population. They combine the random-effect models theory to account for the individual correlation in the repeated measures, and the latent class models theory to discriminate homogeneous latent groups when modelling trajectories of a longitudinal outcome. Extended to jointly model a longitudinal outcome and a time-to-event, they also provide a computationally attractive alternative to the standard joint modelling approach that are the shared random-effect models.

The first part of this course will introduce the latent class mixed models, the estimation methods and the research questions they may address.

The second part of this course will be dedicated to the joint latent class models. In addition to the theory, the estimation and the predictive dynamic tools that can be derived from them, a specific interest will be on methods to evaluate their goodness-of-fit and their predictive ability.

Each concept will be illustrated through examples from cognitive aging studies as well as cancer studies. Finally, implementation and estimation of these models will be described within functions of the R package lcmm.



Keynote Lecture

Presidents Invited Speaker:

Deborah Ashby (UK): A benefit-risk analysis of using formal benefit-risk approaches for decision-making in drug regulation

Invited Sessions

Plenary Session:

Stephen Senn, LUX: Concurrent control in clinical trials: key condition or sacred cow?

1. Evaluating hospital performance (Organizer: Michael J. Campbell)

- a. Alex Bottle, Imperial College London, UK
- b. Hayley Jones, University of Bristol, UK
- c. Michael J. Campbell, University of Sheffield, UK

2. Causal inference (Organizer: Stijn Vansteelandt)

- a. Andrea Rotnitzky, Harvard University, USA
- b. Tyler VanderWeele, Harvard University, USA
- c. Els Goetghebeur, University of Gent, Belgium

3. Genomics /systems biology (Organizer: Arnaldo Frigessi)

- a. Katja Ickstadt, University of Dortmund, Germany
- b. Linn Cecilie Bergersen, University of Oslo, Norway
- c. Doug Speed, Imperial College London, UK

4. Extensions to epidemiological designs: case cohort, case-control family designs, re-using case-control data (Organizer: Marie Reilly)

- a. Bryan Langholz, USC, Los Angeles, USA
- b. Paola Rebora, University of Milan, Bicocca, Italy
- c. Agus Salim, National University of Singapore

5. Functional data analysis (Organizer: Per Kragh Andersen)

- a. Jeff Goldsmith, Johns Hopkins University, USA
- b. Helle Sørensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- c. Laura Sangalli, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

6. Modelling infectious disease (Organizer: Birgitte de Blasio)

- a. Gianpaolo Scalia Tomba, Department of Mathematics, University of Rome, Italy
- b. Cecile Viboud, US National Institutes of Health at Fogarty International Center, USA
- c. Christophe Fraser, Imperial College, London



Contributed Paper Sessions/ Call for Abstracts

Contributed presentations (oral presentations as well as posters) are welcome in any area of biostatistics, epidemiology and related topics. The Scientific Programme Committee particularly encourages submissions of contributed presentations about the invited session topics, as well as the other topics listed below. Deadline for submitting abstracts is March 15. Papers based on the presentations at ISCB33 may be submitted for a special conference issue of *Statistics in Medicine*. Abstracts will be evaluated before inclusion in the programme. Please note that presenters of abstracts are not automatically registered for the conference and should register before the early bird deadline May 15 to be included in the programme.

Suggested topics

- Adaptive clinical trials
- Bioinformatics
- Causal inference
- Clinical trials
- Diagnostic methodology
- Dynamic treatment regimens
- Epidemiological designs
- Evaluating hospital performance
- Functional data analysis
- Genomics / systems biology
- Health economics and regulatory affairs
- Incomplete data
- Joint modeling of outcome and times-to event
- Latent variable models
- Longitudinal data
- Measurement error
- Meta-analyses
- Modelling in drug development
- Modelling infectious disease
- Model selection
- Observational studies
- Prediction
- Statistics for epidemiology
- Structural Equation Modelling
- Surrogate marker evaluation
- Survival and multistate models

The abstract should be submitted via the abstract submission system on the conference web site, it should be written in plain text and have a length of maximum 250 words.

The Scientific Programme Committee will review all submitted abstracts and notification of acceptance will be given by May 1, 2012. If the abstract has been accepted, an abstract number will be assigned, which should be given as a reference when making any inquiries pertaining to the abstract. Accepted abstracts will be published in the Abstract Book. All correspondence regarding the abstracts will be sent to the submitting author. The authors will be informed as to whether or not the paper has been accepted for an oral or poster presentation.

Postgraduate students who apply for Student Conference Award and Scientist award applicants should also send in a regular abstract.



Mini-symposium: Register-based epidemiology

Speakers

1. Rolv Skjærven (Norway)
2. Giske Ursin (Norway)
3. Kaare Christensen (Denmark)
4. Sven Cnattingius (Sweden)
5. Timo Hakulinen (Finland)
6. Nancy L. Pedersen (Sweden)
7. Allen J. Wilcox (USA)

The Minisymposium will also be offered as a preconference event for the annual meeting of the Norwegian Society for Epidemiology (NOFE).

Mini-symposium: Statistics in vaccine research

Novel Statistical Approaches Used in Post-marketing Safety Surveillance Systems – A Global Perspective

(Organizer: Allen Izu)

The key characteristics of several newly emerging electronic safety surveillance systems will be described, including standard surveillance aims, data, organizations involved, and statistical methods and tools employed. From a global perspective, the design and analysis challenges that arise when applying the various statistical approaches will be discussed with several examples from monitoring the safety of vaccines.



ISCB Student Conference Award

The Student Conference Award is available for registered postgraduate students to attend and present a paper at the 33rd ISCB Meeting in Bergen, Norway, during 19st-23rd August 2012. Three awards will be made. Selection will be made based on an abstract and a summary of a paper to be presented, which should illustrate application of statistical methodology to clinical or epidemiological research. Results of particular studies are of interest only if the analysis has methodological implications or shows a novel and interesting application of biostatistics. Applications should be sent to:

Professor Ulrich Mansmann
Institute of Medical Information Sciences, Biostatistics, and Epidemiology
Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich
Marchioninistrasse 15
D-81377 Munich
Germany
Tel: +49 89 7095 4491
FAX: +49 89 7095 7491
Email: Ulrich.mansmann@lmu.de

Full details on the application procedure are given on the website.
 The closing date for application is Tuesday, **15th March 2012**.

Conference Awards for Scientists

Conference Awards for Scientists are available for biostatisticians from ISCB target countries (in particular countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Third World countries) to attend and present a paper. Up to six such awards will be granted. Applications with purely theoretical content or those which are mere routine analyses of data sets are not encouraged by the ISCB.

An award consists of free accommodation, a short course, registration and conference dinner paid by ISCB. First-time attendants can also apply for the support of travel fees. Up to one travel fee support per year will be granted.

Full details of the scheme and application form are given on the website. Scientists should submit the application form, a one-page abstract, and the full poster or presentation to Zdeněk Valenta (address below). Abstracts not granted the award will be forwarded to SPC to participate in their review only on request.

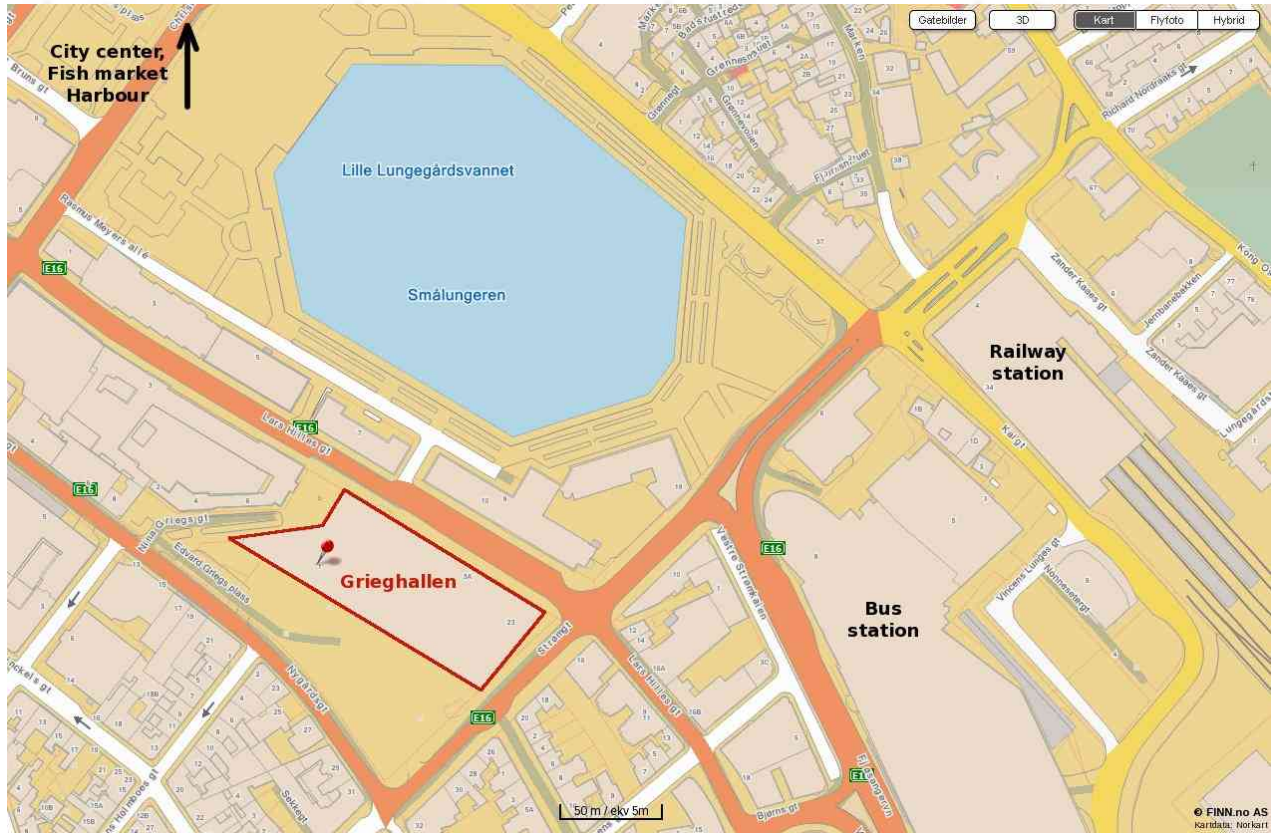
Zdeněk Valenta, ISCB Sub-committee on National Groups, Chair
Dept. of Medical Informatics, Chair
Institute of Computer Science AS CR
Pod Vodarenskou vezi 2
182 07 Prague
Czech Republic
Tel: +420 266 052 094
Fax: +420 286 581 453
E-mail: zdenek.valenta@fulbrightmail.org

Full details on the application procedure are given on the website.
 The closing date for application is Tuesday, **15th March 2012**.



Conference Venue

The conference will be held in Bergen, Norway in the well-known conference and concert hall [Grieghallen](#), Edvard Griegs Plass 1, 5015 Bergen, Norway. The Grieghallen is located easily accessible in the city centre within 10 minutes walking distance from both the railway and the central bus station. From most of the recommended hotels you will not have to walk more than 15-20 minutes.



How to get there from the airport

By Bus. There are [airport coaches](#) departing every 15 minutes to the city centre during most of the day, and corresponding to flight arrivals in the evening. The closest airport bus stop is the central bus station. Additionally, there are less expensive local buses, which do not go directly to the city centre, i.e. require bus changes. Those timetables are found at skyss.no.

By Taxi. The price for taxi from the Flesland airport to the conference venue should be about 350 NOK (~45€).

How to get there from the train or bus.

From both the train and the central bus station it is not more than a 10 minutes walk

Conference Contact

Kongress & Kultur AS
 Torgalmenningen 1A
 Postboks 947 Sentrum
 N-5808 Bergen
 Phone: + 47 55 55 36 55
 Fax: + 47 55 55 36 56
 e-mail: mail@kongress.no



Registration and Fees

CATEGORY	EARLY REGISTRATION (Before and on 15 May 2012)	LATE REGISTRATION (After 15 May 2012 and on-site)
ISCB members	4000 NOK (514€)	4400 NOK (565€)
ISCB non-members	4310 NOK (554€)	4710 NOK (605€)
Students ISCB members	2000 NOK (257€)	2400 NOK (308€)
Students ISCB non-members	2150 NOK (276€)	2550 NOK (328€)
Pre-conference 1-day course	3000 NOK (385€)	3400 NOK (437€)
Pre-conference 1-day course students	2300 NOK (296€)	2700 NOK (347€)
Pre-conference 1/2-day course	1500 NOK (193€)	1900 NOK (244€)
Pre-conference 1/2-day course students	1150 NOK (148€)	1550 NOK (199€)
Special day vaccine and mini symposium	1650 NOK (212€)	2050 NOK (263€)

The prices are in Norwegian kroner. The amount in euro will depend on the currency at the day of transaction.

ISCB CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

- Admittance to the conference, including mini-symposia,
- Conference documents and final program,
- Abstract book,
- Poster session,
- Scientific exhibition,
- Coffee-breaks and lunches,
- Welcome reception.

PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

- Admittance to the pre-conference course
- Coffee-break and lunch on Sunday

Please note that the number of participants in each Pre-conference course is limited, so early registration is recommended.

SPECIAL DAY VACCINE and MINI SYMPOSIUM FEES

Only those not registered to the conference, who wish to attend the mini symposium or the special day vaccine.



Accommodation

Your choice of accommodation varies from guesthouse to hotel standard, the latter including breakfast and ensuite facilities, and rates varying from NOK 600 (approx.€75) to NOK 1300 (approx.€160) per night for a single room. You can make your room reservation online when you register for the conference.

All hotels are within a walking distance to the conference venue, Grieghallen.

You can make your room reservation when registering online.

All questions and queries are welcome to be addressed to Gabriele Zenisek: office@kongress.no

More information about accommodation is available at www.iscb2012.info

General Information

Some more or less updated information is found at visitbergen.com, Wikipedia or lonelyplanet.com. All prices are valid in December 2011. Note that they can change in 2012.

Getting there

By Air

Bergen Airport Flesland (BGO) handles the flights of SAS, KLM, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Widerøe as well as a number of other airlines ([list](#)). It is located 20 km south of the city centre. There is a good connection between the airport and the city centre by buses and taxis. The airport shuttle bus departs every 15 minutes, and the ride is 30 minutes. A one-way ticket is NOK 95 (~12€) and a return-ticket NOK 150,- (~20€). The return-ticket is valid for a month. The bus driver will announce the most important destinations in the city center. If you ask, your stop will be announced as well. Taxi fare from the airport to the city centre is approximately NOK 350,- (45€). Airport bus and taxis can be paid in the vehicle with a VISAcard.

By Land

Train. There is one train line connecting Bergen with Eastern Norway and Oslo. All trains are operated by the Norwegian State Rail NSB. At nsb.no you find time tables and can book domestic train tickets.

Bus. There are various express bus connections to the most places in southern Norway. Operators are [Nor-way bussekspress](#), [Skyss](#) and [Fjord1](#).

By Sea

After years with a vital ferry traffic till and from Bergen, unfortunately, these services are reduced to one international connection between Bergen and Hirtshals (Denmark) operated by [Fjordline](#).

Getting around in Bergen

In the city centre of Bergen most distances do not require more than a 20 minutes walk. Nevertheless there is a free bus line in the city centre. This bus is not in all cases faster than a walk but may be more comfortable especially in bad weather.

Otherwise there are good local bus connection from the city centre to most areas in the greater city area as well as a new light rail, where the first line was opened in june 2010 and which will expand during the following years. Maps and time tables for all connections are found at skyss.no. A 90-min-ticket in Bergen costs 25 NOK (~3€)



Practical Information

Certificate of Attendance

Certificates of attendance will be available at the registration desk for all participants.

Climate

Due to its coastal location, Bergen has a maritime climate, i.e. mild winters and rather cool summers as well as a quite high precipitation, mostly in the autumn and winter months ([more details](#)). Usually July and August are warmest months in Bergen and not among the most humid. Nevertheless, in Bergen you always have to be alert to meet some rain, even in summer.

Currency and Banking

The official currency in Norway is the Norwegian krone (norske kroner, 8 NOK ~ 1€). International credit cards are accepted in the most hotels and restaurants, not necessarily in all shops, but you can take out cash at all bank offices and the ATMs almost everywhere.

Electricity

Norway uses a 230 volt 50 Hz system. Sockets are the standard European type and two-prong round pin plugs, with a hole for a male grounding pin, are standard. To use electric appliances from your country you may need a special voltage converter with an adapter plug. ([wikipedia](#))

Health Services

Norway has a well-organized health care system. More detailed information about access and costs are found at the website of the [Agency for Public Management and eGovernment](#).

Language

The official language of the Congress is English without translations.

In the hotels, shops, busses or taxis most people are able to speak English.

Lunches and Refreshments

Lunches and refreshments (Monday-Wednesday) are included in the registration fee. Participants requiring a special diet are requested to mention this on their registration form.

Passport and Visa

All information about visa rules in Norway are found at the pages of the [Norwegian immigration authorities](#) including a list of the [countries without a visa requirements](#).

Time Zone

Norway is in Central European time zone one hour ahead of GMT. At the time of the congress this will be GMT +2 due to Summer Daylight Saving Time.



Exhibition, Sponsoring and Advertisement

The Conference is an excellent opportunity for organizations and companies to meet their target audience. We offer a possibility to do so through sponsorships and exhibitions. For more than three decades, the ISCB conference has become an important forum and a meeting place for young and experienced medical researchers, statisticians, and epidemiologists within the field of clinical biostatistics. The conference focuses both on methods and practical applications of biostatistics in medical and health related research. Its aim is also to stimulate the use and development of new methods to further increase the value of research for clinical practice.

The Local Organizing Committee is offering sponsorship opportunities to market and showcase your products, services and achievements to an international audience to several hundred medical researchers, statisticians and epidemiologists. Your sponsorship will support a broad participation to the Conference.

GOLD PARTNER - NOK 20.000,- (approx. €2560)

Gold Partners will have their logos prominently displayed (as per level of partnership) in all official communications including the website and final programme. In addition, they will receive:

- prominent signage recognition at the Conference,
- hyperlink from the ISCB 2012 website directly to their website,
- one full-page colour advertisement in the final programme,
- first-priority placement in exhibition hall (6m²).
- company brochure in the conference folder

SILVER PARTNER - NOK 10.000,- (approx. €1280)

Silver Partners will have their logos prominently displayed (as per level of partnership) in all official communications including the website and final program. In addition, they will receive:

- prominent signage recognition at the Assembly,
- hyperlink from the ISCB 2012 website directly to their website,
- one half page colour advertisement in the final programme,
- company brochure in the conference folder

BRONZE PARTNER - NOK 5.000,- (approx. €640.)

Bronze Partners will have their logos prominently displayed (as per level of partnership) in all official communications including the website and final program. In addition, they will receive:

- prominent signage recognition at the Assembly,
- hyperlink from the ISCB 2012 website directly to their website.

We hope your organization will value the benefit of either attending or having its name being associated with this event, or both.

In addition to the Sponsorship opportunities being provided, the ISCB 2011 Organizing Committee will offer a limited number of Exhibit spaces from which your company can demonstrate its products and services to conference delegates.

For practical information and purchase, please contact:

Kongress & Kultur, Tel: +47 55 55 36 55, Fax: +47 55 55 36 56, mail@kongress.no

For additional information, or to discuss opportunities further, please contact Stein Atle Lie or Milada Småstuen

Stein Atle Lie
 Uni Health, Bergen, Norway
stein.lie@uni.no

Milada Småstuen
 Cancer Registry, Oslo, Norway
milada.smastuen@krefregisteret.no



Social Events



Reception

Monday
19 August 2012
Håkonshallen, Bergen



Conference dinner

Wednesday
22 August 2012
Grieghallen



Conference Trips



Short trip 1: City walk in Bergen

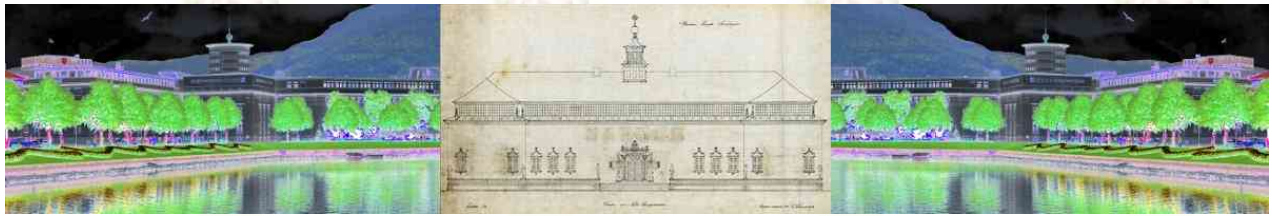
We invite you for a classical round trip, first by bus then on foot, through picturesque streets and pass well-known and famous sites including a walk through the famous Bryggen quarter.



Short trip 2: Troidhaugen – the home of Edvard Grieg

The most famous Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg was born and has been living in Bergen. His home is comprising an exhibition centre with shop and café, concert hall, composers' cabin and Grieg's villa in an idyllic surrounding.





Short trip 3: Bergen – City of Arts

Bergen is rich in culture and the fine arts, ranging from giants such as Picasso and Munch to exciting local artists with their own ateliers.



Short trip 4: Bergen – Gateway to the Fjords

The Norwegian fjords are a spectacular, breathtaking experience, and Bergen is indeed the gateway to them! This trip will allow you to discover at least little part of these world famous attractions.



Short trip 5: On the roof of Bergen

Join our walk over the roof of Bergen, enjoying spectacular views over the the fjords as well as the mountains around Bergen.

Pre and Post Conference Trips



Norway in a nutshell



Rosendal



Hardanger



Hurdal

These trips are not included in the conference trip programme but we can recommend these attractions since you are once in Norway.



Geography

Bergen municipality occupies the majority of the Bergen peninsula in mid-western Hordaland. It is sheltered from the North Sea by the islands Askøy, Holsnøy (the municipality of Meland) and Sotra (the municipalities of Fjell and Sund).

The municipality covers an area of 465 km². The population is 256,580 making the population density 551 people per km². The population of the main urban area is 220,418. The municipality also contains eight minor urban settlements with a total population of 17,213 with Indre Arna, situated in the borough Arna, being the largest with a population of 6,151 as of 1 January 2007.



Bergen's city centre is situated among a group of mountains known collectively as de syv fjell (the seven mountains), including the mountains Ulriken, Fløyen, Løvstakken and Damsgårdsfjellet, as well as three of the following: Lyderhorn, Sandviksfjellet, Blåmanen, Rundemanen, and Askøyfjellet. The first to name them "the seven mountains" might have been Ludvig Holberg, inspired by the seven hills of Rome. These seven mountains are, however, only a few of the mountains located within the borders of the Bergen municipality. Gullfjellet is the highest mountain in Bergen, at 987 metres above sea level. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bergen#Geography>)

History

The city of Bergen, is traditionally thought to have been founded by king Olav Kyrre, son of Harald Hardrade in 1070 A D, four years after the Viking Age ended. Bergen is considered to have replaced Trondheim as Norway's capital in 1217, lasting until Oslo became the de jure capital in 1299.

Towards the end of the 13th century, Bergen became one of the Hanseatic League's most important bureau cities.



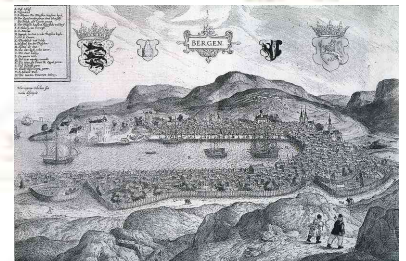
The main reason for Bergen's importance was the trade with dried cod from the northern Norwegian coast, which started around 1100. By the late 14th century, Bergen had established itself as the centre of the trade in Norway. The Hanseatic merchants lived in their own separate quarter of town, where Middle Saxon was used, enjoying exclusive rights to trade with the northern fishermen that each summer sailed to Bergen. Today, Bergen's old quayside, Bryggen is on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Site.

The city has throughout its history been plagued with numerous great city fires. During the last in 1955 parts of Bryggen burned down.

In 1349, the Black Death was inadvertently brought to Norway by the crew of an English ship arriving in Bergen. In the 15th century, the city was several times attacked by the Victual Brothers, and in 1429 they succeeded in burning the royal castle and much of the city. In 1536, the King of the country was able to force the Hanseatic merchants to become Norwegian citizens, or else to return home, heralding a decline in the German influence. In 1665, the city's harbour was the site of the Battle of Vågen, between English ships on the one side and Dutch ships supported by the city's garrison on the other.

Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, Bergen remained one of the largest cities in Scandinavia, and was Norway's biggest city until the 1830s, when the capital city of Oslo became the largest. Bergen retained its monopoly of trade with Northern Norway until 1789.

During World War II, Bergen was occupied on the first day of the German



invasion on 9 April 1940, after a brief fight between German ships and the Norwegian coastal artillery. On 20 April 1944, during the German occupation, the Dutch cargo ship Voorbode anchored off the Bergenhus Fortress, loaded with over 120 tons of explosives, blew up, killing at least 150 people and damaging historic buildings. The city was subject to some Allied bombing raids, aiming at German naval installations in the harbour. Some of these caused Norwegian civilian casualties numbering about 100.

Bergen was separated from Hordaland as a county of its own in 1831. It was established as a municipality on 1 January 1838. The rural municipality of Bergen landdistrikt was merged with Bergen on 1 January 1877. The rural municipality of Årstad was merged with Bergen on 1 July 1915. The rural municipalities of Arna, Fana, Laksevåg, and Åsane were merged with Bergen on 1 January 1972. The city lost its status as a separate county on the same date. Bergen is now a municipality in Norway, in the county of Hordaland. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bergen#History>)

Culture

Bergen is an important cultural centre in its region and in Norway, maybe best known for hosting the annual Bergen International Festival (Festspillene i Bergen). The city is home to the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, which was founded in 1765 and is one of the world's oldest orchestral institutions. The orchestra performs regularly at the 1,500 seat Grieg Hall. The city is also home of the Bergen Woodwind Quintet, which is made up primarily of principal winds of the Bergen Philharmonic. Bergen was a European Capital of Culture in 2000. Other main cultural events include Borealis, Nattjazz, Lost Weekend Festivalen and Bergenfest (formerly Ole Blues).



There are numerous amateur bands in Bergen and the surrounding communities performing regularly throughout the city. They generally fall within two distinct categories: brass bands, following the British band tradition, and Janitsjar or wind bands, which include both woodwind and brass instruments. Both of these types of bands tend to be quite competitive, and the Grieg Hall in Bergen is home to the annual Norwegian Brass Band Championships, which takes place in late winter.

A third category, perhaps unique to Bergen, are the Buekorps, a prominent feature in the Constitution Day celebrations in the city. Buekorps parade in the streets with wooden sticks shaped as guns or crossbows, sabres and even halberds, to a military snare sounded by several drummers. The performers are usually boys between 7 and 21 years of age, but older veterans can be seen. In recent times there are buekorps for girls and for both girls and boys as well. Buekorps are regarded with warmth by some, whilst others dislike them due to their militarised appearance or the dominant sound of the drumming.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s several pop, rock and black metal artists from Bergen became famous, at home as well as abroad. Many of these were connected to the small record label Tellé Records. In the domestic press this became known as the Bergen Wave.

Bergen has a small but thriving scene for contemporary art, most notably centred around BIT Teatergarasjen, Bergen Kunsthall, United Sardines Factory (USF) and Bergen Center for Electronic Arts (BEK). (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bergen#Culture_and_sports)



The Bergen Museum is a university museum in Bergen, Norway. Founded in 1825 with the intent of building large collections in the fields of culture and natural history, it became the grounds for most of the academic activity in the city, a tradition which has prevailed since the museum became part of the University of Bergen. Bergen Museum is divided into two departments, the Natural History Collections and the Cultural History Collections. It is also the caretaker of the botanical garden surrounding the natural history building, and the city's arboretum.

"Kunstmuseene i Bergen" is a unification of a number of different art galleries and museums in Bergen (Bergen Kunstmuseum, Vestlandske Kunsthindustrimuseum, Edvard Grieg Museum Troidhaugen, Siljustøl Museum, Museet Lysøen)





Map of Hordaland





UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Norsk forening for epidemiologi



**The Research Council
of Norway**



Bergen Tourist Board



Kongress & Kultur



Velkommen til Bergen!



¡Bienvenido a Bergen!
베르겐 (Bergen)에 오신 것을 환영합니다
歡迎光臨卑爾根
Willkommen in Bergen!
Vítejte v Bergen!
Üdvözöljük a Bergen!
Benvenuti a Bergen!
Bienvenue à Bergen!
Welcome to Bergen!
Добро пожаловать в Берген!
Welkom bij Bergen!
Tervetuloa Bergen!
ベルゲンへようこそ
Bine ați venit la Bergen!
Dobrodošli na Bergen!
Witamy w Bergen!
Добродошли у Бергену!
Ласкаво просимо до Берген!
Vem-vindo a Bergen!

