THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION

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IAPR Newsletter

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Inside this Issue

From the Editor's Desk

Spotlight on the Future: The IAPR Next Generation Series

Dear Readers,

In previous issues of this newsletter, we have written about IAPR Fellows and our "Getting to Know… IAPR Fellows" feature. This naturally leads my thoughts to another cornerstone of our publication: the IAPR Next Generation series.

Since its debut in the April 2013 issue, this series has aimed to provide a stage for doctoral candidates and recent PhDs to present their research vision, long-term aspirations, and the compelling questions that drive them. The format moves beyond the scope of a single paper; it is intentionally personal and forward-looking. It asks contributors not merely "What have you done?" but "What will you do?"—exploring how they envision their future research and the role of IAPR in both their footing and their future. This is more than just a collection of articles; it is a curated window into the intellectual vanguard of our community, a platform dedicated to early-career researchers who are already shaping the discourse with their novel ideas.

A "Next Gen" article is an introduction to the global IAPR community of a researcher with demonstrated potential, and the impact of this early introduction and visibility is generally enduring. We have had the privilege of featuring young researchers whose subsequent trajectories have been remarkable, evolving into chairs of major international conferences, editors of leading journals, recipients of national and international awards, and professors at world-renowned universities.

I believe this platform is a unique opportunity for early-career researchers to articulate their scientific identity to a broad audience, forging connections and collaborations that can last throughout their careers. A "Next Gen" article can also serve as a foundational touchstone to which authors refer back as their research programs mature.

With all this in mind, this letter serves a dual purpose: First, it is a celebration of this series and a testament to the future of IAPR, as continually revealed by its newest members. Second, and crucially, it is a call to action and an open invitation.

While we often invite winners of Best Student Paper Awards, we are also actively seeking participation from our community in identifying doctoral students in their final phase, or postdoctoral researchers who have recently embarked on their independent career, whose work is remarkable and promising. We ask you, the researchers who know them best, to nominate them as candidates for IAPR Next Generation authorship.

(continued. on page 2...)

(...From the Editor's Desk, continued. from page 1)

Nominations can be made by any member of our community—supervisors, colleagues, or mentors who recognize exceptional talent. By putting forward a candidate, you play a direct role in nurturing the future leadership of our field. Please send your recommendations to me directly by clicking on the email address beneath my signature below (the subject line will autofill).

Let us work together to showcase the exceptional talent that will define the next era of pattern recognition. In taking the time to support and sustain the Next Generation series, we reaffirm IAPR's commitment to being a society that is not only rooted in its rich history but is dynamically invested in its future.

~Heydi Méndez-Vázquez, EiC
hmendez@cenatav.co.cu

Calls For Papers

For the most up-to-date information on IAPR-supported conferences, workshops and summer/winter schools, visit www.iapr.org/conferences

Conferences, Dates, & Locations	2026	Calls and Deadlines (in order from earliest **paper deadline**; other deadlines vary in order)
ICPR 2026 August 17–22, 2026 Lyon, France	28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition	**Papers:** closed **Competition Proposals:** closed **Workshop Proposals:** closed **Tutorial Proposals:** Feb 28, 2026 **Doctoral Consortium:** May 2, 2026
MCPR 2026 Jun 24-27, 2026 Ciudad Juárez, Mexico	18th Mexican Conference on Pattern Recognition	Hurry! **Papers:** Jan 31, 2026
ICDAR 2026 August 30 to Sept. 4, 2026 Vienna, Austria	20th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition	**Journal Track Papera:** closed **Abstracts:** Feb 13, 2026 **Papers:** Feb 27, 2026
DeLTA 2026 July 16-17, 2026 Porto, Portugal	7th International Conference on Deep Learning Theory and Applications	**Papers:** Mar 3, 2026 **Position Papers:** Apr 16, 2026 **Workshop, Spec. Sess:** Mar 18, 2026 **Abstracts Track:** May 22, 2026 **Tutorials, Demos, Panels:** Jun 12, 2026
IJCB 2026 Sept 1–4, 2026 Rome, Italy	PENDING SPONSORSHIP IEEE/IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics	**Papers:** Apr 10, 2026 **Competitions, Spec. Sess.:** Jan 31, 2026 **Tutorial Proposals:** May 31, 2026
CVIP 2026 Dec 9-12, 2026 Calicut, India	PENDING ENDORSEMENT 11th International Conference on Computer Vision and Image Processing	**Papers:** Apr 15, 2026
ANNPR 2026 Oct 7–9, 2026 Milan, Italy	12th TC3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks in Pattern Recognition	**Papers:** May 14, 2026 **Special Session Proposals.:** Apr 1, 2026
S+SSPR 2026 August 24–26, 2026 Bern, Switzerland	Joint IAPR International Workshops on Statistical Techniques in Pattern Recognition and Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition	**Papers:** May 15, 2026

28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PATTERN RECOGNITION

ICPR 2026 International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON

CALL FOR TUTORIALS

Lyon, France, August 17-22, 2026
International Convention Center

The ICPR 2026 Organizing Committee invites proposals for tutorials in conjunction with the 28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition in Lyon, France, August 17-22, 2026. We seek tutorials on emerging research topics, core techniques, and application areas that are of interest within the ICPR community. An effective and informative tutorial should provide a broad introduction to the chosen research area as well as in-depth coverage of selected advanced topics.
Proposals that focus exclusively on the presenters' own work or commercial presentations are not acceptable.

Guidelines for Submitting Tutorial Proposals

A PDF file containing the information outlined below must be submitted by email to tutorials@icpr2026.org. The proposal should contain the following information:

— Proposed tutorial title
— Names, titles, affiliations, emails, and brief bio sketches of the people delivering the tutorial
— Name and email of the lead person for communication and responsibility
— Preference for half- or full-day event (the latter requires a brief justification)
— Tutorial description with list of topics to be covered, along with a brief outline and important details; any innovative pedagogy employed; any hands-on participation, etc.
— Expected target audience, in terms of both composition and estimated number of attendees
— List of citations and/or URLs to relevant publications and/or products of the tutorial presenters and other relevant related work
— A description of how this proposal relates to tutorials/short courses appearing at the last two ICPRs (and also other major related conferences since 2022)
— A description of and/or URLs to any planned materials or resources to be distributed to attendees

Proposal Assessment

Each proposal will be evaluated on the basis of scientific merit, proposed structure, overall relevance, and how it complements the main conference.

ICPR 2026 Tutorial Co-Chairs

Luc Brun France
Xiaoyi Jiang Germany
Zhaoxiang Zhang China

Important Dates

- Tutorial proposals due: **February 28, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2026
- ICPR Main Conference dates: Aug 17-20, 2026
- Tutorials and Workshops: August 21-22, 2026

ICPR 2026 will be responsible for:

— Providing a meeting venue with necessary technical equipment and catering services during the lunch and/or coffee breaks
— Providing staff to help with the on-site/on-line organization
— Advertising the event on the ICPR website
— Scheduling the event together with the organizers and including it in the conference program

Tutorial Organizers will be responsible for:

— Compiling and distributing notes to the participants
— Leading the event at ICPR 2026

Costs and Terms

Tutorials are free for all participants with full ICPR 2026 registration. If a person wishes to attend only the tutorials (without the full ICPR 2026 registration), then a tutorial-only registration will be available. Participation in tutorials is limited to the room capacity. ICPR 2026 participants who wish to attend a tutorial should register for it and will be admitted on a first come, first served basis.

ICPR 2026 reserves the right to cancel a tutorial if the responsibilities are not fulfilled by the proponent, or if too few attendees register for the event, or for any unforeseen reason.

Questions?
Contact the Tutorial Co-Chairs at tutorials@icpr2026.org

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28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PATTERN RECOGNITION

ICPR 2026 International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON

Competitions

Lyon, France, August 17-22, 2026
International Convention Center

The ICPR 2026 Organizing Committee is delighted to announce the selected competitions for 2026, and invites your submission responses. Links below provide competition-specific submission details.

Beyond Visible Spectrum: AI for Agriculture (AGVIS)

... offers a unique opportunity for researchers to advance computer vision techniques in agricultural crop disease monitoring. This challenge focuses on developing innovative deep learning algorithms using extensive multi/hyperspectral and satellite remote sensing datasets across two main tasks.

Low-Resolution License Plate Recognition (LRLPR)

... focuses on the recognition of low-resolution license plates, which remains a highly challenging and underexplored problem with strong forensic and societal relevance. Even state-of-the-art methods currently struggle to surpass 50-60% recognition accuracy. This competition encourages the development of advanced approaches, such as super-resolution, temporal modeling, and robust Optical Character Recognition (OCR) techniques, capable of operating effectively despite low-quality input conditions.

Privacy-Preserving Person Re-Identification from Top-View RGB-Depth Camera (TVRID)

... is a competition on top-view person re-identification with aligned RGB and Depth. The benchmark captures 88 identities with four overhead Intel RealSense D455 cameras observing each passage twice (IN/OUT) across four geometric contexts: flat ground, ascent, descent, and oblique roof view. Submissions are ranked lists evaluated with CMC@1/5/10 and mAP, and the primary leaderboard metric is overallMap (mean of per-track overall mAP).

Robust AI for Rare Events in Video Capsule Endoscopy Vision Competition (RARE-VCE)

... aims to advance video capsule endoscopy (VCE) for non-invasive visualization of the GI tract by encouraging the development of machine learning models designed specifically to address the class imbalance challenge inherent in VCE data. This competition focuses on robust classification of anatomical regions and rare pathological findings within continuous, noisy VCE video streams.

VISual Tracking in Adverse Conditions (VISTAC-2)

... builds on the success of VISTAC (ICPR 2024), which focused on nighttime infrared video tracking. This competition extends the scope to object tracking under adverse weather conditions. VISTAC-2 introduces the ExtremeTrack dataset, featuring 199 real-world videos (100 hazy and 99 rainy) with detailed annotations. The challenge aims to benchmark and promote the development of robust and resilient tracking algorithms capable of maintaining accuracy and temporal consistency in degraded environments, supporting progress in surveillance, intelligent transportation, and autonomous vision systems.

Registration Deadlines and Result Announcement Dates Vary.

Deadline for all competition entries is Mar 1, 2026

Click on links for more information.

CALLS FROM IAPR COMMITTEES

IAPR

Call for Nominations for the IAPR 2026 Technical Committee Awards

To recognize the **excellence** and **impact** of IAPR Technical Committees (TCs), IAPR grants two awards:
the **Outstanding TC Award** and the **Special Achievements Award**
both presented during ICPR 2026

The criteria for both awards are the same: excellence and impact of organized events, educational activities, and member/leader development and governance.

The award committee, comprising members of the Ad hoc Committee on Technical Committees and the Executive Committee, will evaluate the nominations and select the awardees.

Nominations must be received by April 30, 2026

Submit nomination via email, highlighting the TC's results and achievements in free format, using [IAPR-TCA] as the subject line.

Send nominations via email to:
IAPR 1st Vice President (fmartine[at]inaoep.mx) and Exec. IAPR Secretariat (exec-secretariat@iapr.org)
(link will autofill cc and subject line).

(more) Calls from IAPR Committees

From the IAPR Education Committee

Call for Applications for IAPR Research Scholarships

IAPR Research Scholarships seek to make possible mobility across institutions and international boundaries for Early Career Researchers working in fields within the scope of the IAPR's interests. The scholarship covers round trip travel & basic living expenses for a visit of less than 12 months. Applications may be submitted at any time before the visit starts.

Requirements: The candidate must be a full-time researcher with between one and eight years experience. The candidate must also be a member of an IAPR member society.

Click here to learn more or email the Executive IAPR Secretariat, Linda O'Gorman, exec-secretariat@iapr.org

From the IAPR Industrial Liaison Committee

Call for Students Seeking Internship Opportunities and for Companies with Internships Available to contribute to the Internship Listings on the IAPR Internship Brokerage Page

The IAPR-ILC wishes to promote opportunities for students to undertake internships at companies working in Pattern Recognition, AI, Computer Vision, Data Mining, Machine Learning, etc. We do this through a web-based internship listing service. Companies can list their internship opportunities, and students can browse the listings and contact the company.

For Students

If you are seeking an internship, please click on the underlined call title above (or here) to find a list of companies offering internships, with locations (some remote), requirements, etc.

For Companies with Internships Available

Please email your listings as follows:

To: webmaster@iapr.org

Subject: IAPR internships, listing

1. Details:
2. Host:
3. Location:
4. Post Type:
5. Specialty:
6. Funded:
7. Length:
8. Degree & Visa Requirements:
9. Internship start date:
10. Application closing date:
11. Details:
12. Contact:

Click on call title (link) above for examples

From the IAPR Executive Committee (ExCo)

Call for Proposals for Summer/Winter Schools

Summer/winter schools are training activities that expose students and junior students to the latest trends and techniques in a particular pattern recognition field.

To be eligible for a grant, the organizers must work through at least one of the IAPR's Technical Committees as they develop and present the proposal.

How to Submit: Proposals for IAPR-supported summer schools should be submitted by email, ***at least four months in advance of the start of the school***.

Send proposals to Executive IAPR Secretariat Linda O'Gorman (exec-secretariat@iapr.org). A PDF attachment containing all the required information is appreciated.

For detailed guidelines, see the Proposal Requirements described in the ExCo Initiative on Summer Schools.

(more) Calls from IAPR Committees

IAPR FELLOW

From the IAPR Fellow Committee

Call for Nominations

for the 2026 IAPR Fellow Awards ~ Deadline: Feb 28, 2026

It is time to nominate candidates for the award of IAPR Fellow, to be conferred at ICPR 2026 in Lyon, France

Anyone who has been a member of an IAPR Member Society for at least 5 years and has made a sufficient scientific contribution as well as significant contribution/service/involvement towards IAPR is eligible to be nominated.

Exception: Current members of the Executive Committee and of the Fellow Committee are not eligible nominees.

PLEASE NOTE: Important revisions have recently been made to the Fellow Nomination Instructions! Therefore, it is VERY IMPORTANT to review instructions before nominating.

A nominee must be a member in an IAPR Member Society (and therefore a member of IAPR) for at least 5 years.

To initiate a nomination, a nominator must complete and submit an IAPR Fellow Nomination Form. Any member of an IAPR Member Society can serve as a nominator, except for nominees themselves and current members of the Executive Committee and Fellow Committee. Each nomination must be endorsed by at least one submitted Endorsement Form, either from a member of an IAPR Member Society (different from the nominator) or from an IAPR Fellow.

All nominations and endorsements must be received by February 28, 2026

Nomination and Endorsement forms must be submitted electronically via webpages (linked left) and will be acknowledged by an email. Changes will be accepted up to the final deadline. To make changes, re-enter all information and submit a new, complete form. Only the last form received will be used in the evaluation process. Submission problems should be reported to the IAPR Webmaster, cc'ing the Fellow Committee Chair, Prof. Umapada Pal, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India. The following email links will autofill correct addresses and subject headings:

To: webmaster@iapr.org
Subject: Submission Problem – IAPR Fellowship 2026
CC: fc-chair@iapr.org (will autocc using link above)
Click for a list of members of the IAPR Fellow Committee

Full 2026 Nomination Instructions can be found here (PDF)

IAPR appreciates your efforts to support our fellowship program!

(more) Calls from IAPR Committees

From the IAPR King-Sun Fu, J. K. Aggarwal, and Maria Petrou Prize Committees

Open Calls for Nominations for the Prestigious 2026 King-Sun Fu, J.K. Aggarwal, and Maria Petrou Prizes to be conferred at the *28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition ICPR 2026 ~ Lyon, France ~ August 17-21, 2026*

King-Sun Fu Prize

The IAPR's highest honor, this Prize is given to honor the memory of Professor King-Sun Fu, who was instrumental in the founding of IAPR, served as its first president, and is widely recognized for his extensive contributions to the field of pattern recognition. The Prize is given to a living person in recognition of an outstanding technical contribution to the field of pattern recognition.

photo: ethw.org/King-Sun_Fu

J.K. Aggarwal Prize

This Prize is given in honor of Professor J. K. Aggarwal, widely recognized for his extensive contributions to the field of pattern recognition and for his participation in IAPR's activities. The Prize recipient is an early career scientist who has brought a substantial contribution to a field that is relevant to the IAPR community and whose research work has had a major impact on the field. Nominees must also be within ten years of completing their Ph.D. degree at the time of nomination. At the discretion of the award committee, eligibility may be adjusted to account for documented career interruptions.

photo:en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._K._Aggarwal

Maria Petrou Prize

This Prize honors the memory of Professor Maria Petrou, a scientist and engineer of the first rank, particularly in her role as a pioneer and role model for women researchers. Widely recognized for her extensive contributions to the fields of image processing and pattern recognition, she also made significant contributions to the growth of IAPR. The Prize is awarded to a living woman scientist/engineer who has made substantial contributions to the field of pattern recognition (or a closely related field) and whose past contributions, current research activity, and future potential may be regarded as a model to both aspiring and established researchers.

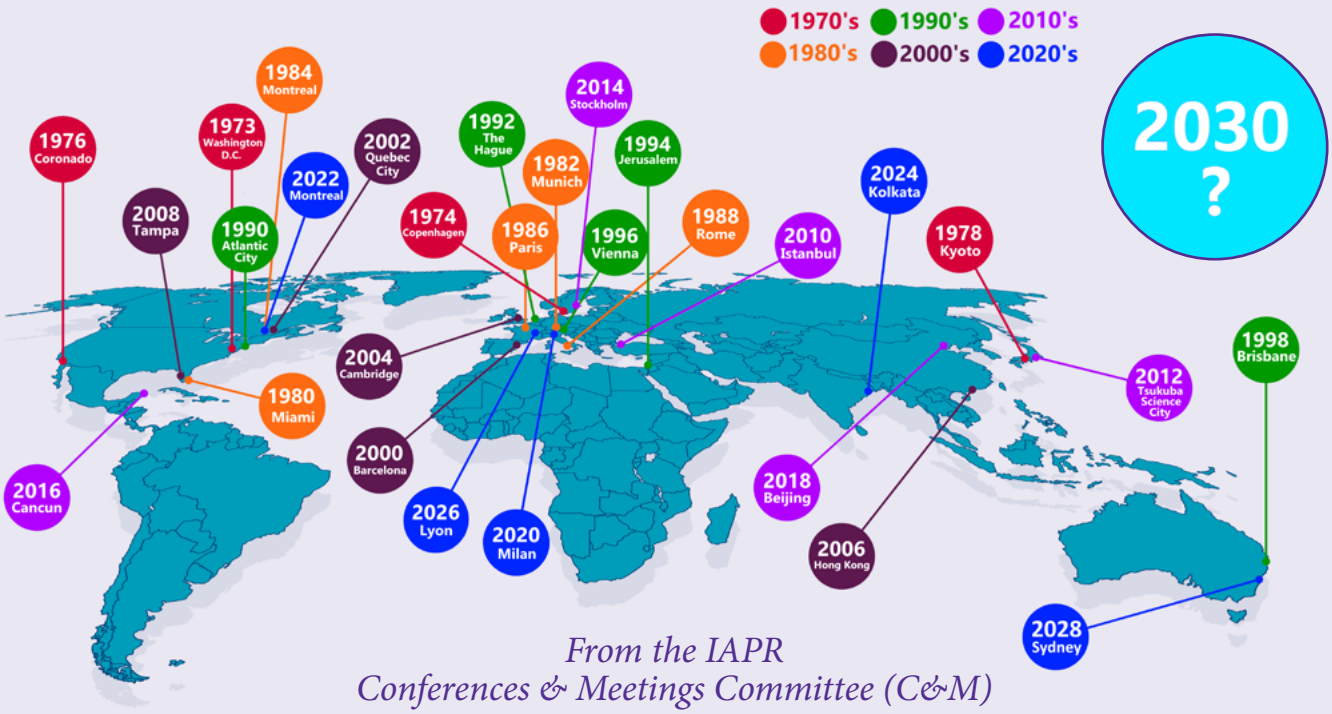
photo: iapr.org/members/newsletter/Newsletter13-01/index_files/Page652.htm

Please visit the nominations website now!
Click on specific prize link and scroll for nomination forms.
The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2026!

Each Prize recipient is expected to present an invited talk at ICPR 2026 and to provide a contribution to the special issue of *Pattern Recognition Letters*, which will include extended versions of all papers that received an IAPR award at ICPR 2026.

Prize recipients shall be selected by the respective Prize Committees, subject to approval by the IAPR Governing Board, and based upon nomination criteria set out in the full CfNs, which will be made available in the coming weeks. Members of the IAPR Executive Committee and respective Prize Committees are ineligible for these Prizes and may not serve as nominators or endorsers. Nomination and endorsement forms will also be made available in the coming weeks.

2026 King-Sun-Fu Prize 2026 J.K. Aggarwal Prize 2026 Maria Petrou Prize



From the IAPR
Conferences & Meetings Committee (C&M)

Call for Bids to Host

ICPR 2030

International Conference on Pattern Recognition

THE major scientific event organized under the aegis of the International Association for Pattern Recognition- brings together a truly international community of experts to discuss their work and experiences, form new collaborations, and promote research and development in Pattern Recognition.

The conference is hosted and coordinated by an institution with the support of an endorsing IAPR member organization (i.e., a national pattern recognition society).

Institutions interested in hosting **ICPR 2030** must proceed according to the rules outlined here, in the latest version of the proposal guidelines. A bid submission implies full agreement with the IAPR constitution and with the guidelines and procedures for hosting the conference. ***Please read the guidelines carefully.***

Deadlines and Decisions

Bids must be submitted to the Chair of the IAPR Conferences and Meetings Committee (C&M) **by April 15, 2026.** Check the website regularly for updates. The selection of the conference venue will be made by the IAPR Governing Board during its meeting at ICPR 2026 in Lyon, France

Send bids to

C&M Chair Anna Esposito (anna.esposito@unicampania.it)

From the ExCo...

IAPR Technical Committees: Their Importance and Administrative Support

By José Francisco Martínez Trinidad
First Vice President, IAPR

News Briefs From the IAPR ExCo

The 28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR 2026) will be held in Lyon, France, Aug. 17-21, 2026. Submitted papers are now under review. We encourage the IAPR community to attend the conference and satellite events.

Prize nominations. The ExCo encourages IAPR member societies and the community at large to nominate candidates for IAPR Fellows and the ICPR Awards, King Sun Fu, J. K. Aggarwal, and Maria Petrou Prize. Links above will take you to the nominations webpages. You can also read more about these awards and prizes in this newsletter on pages 6 & 7, respectively.

Call for Bids to Host ICPR 2030. The call for bids to host ICPR 2030 is open. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit proposals now (Deadline is April 15, 2026). For further details call for bids link above or on the link to guidelines here.

ICPR 2026 is looking for sponsors and industrial involvement. The conference is an excellent opportunity to establish ties between industry and academia and to attract talented young scientists. Find details on the sponsorship program here.

ICPR 2026 Call for Tutorial Proposals remains open until Feb. 28, 2026. We encourage you to submit proposals!

Five ICPR 2026 Competitions are now online. Response sumission deadlines are March 1, 2026.

IAPR Travel Stipends. The IAPR ExCo is pleased to announce a limited number of stipends for authors of accepted papers at ICPR 2026. The goal is to encourage broader participation by supporting authors with limited resources through a waiver of the conference registration fee. Application submissions will open immediately after paper acceptance notifications have been released. Further details and eligibility criteria will be published on the ICPR 2026 website.

Outstanding TC Award and Special Achievement Awards. To recognize excellence and impact within IAPR Technical Committees, the IAPR ExCo presents the Outstanding TC Award and Special Achievements Award, to be presented at ICPR 2026 in Lyon. The call for nominations is open now. More details and 2024 winners are available here.

Attention, Member Societies: The IAPR ExCo and the ICPR 2026 Organizing Team invite IAPR Member Societies to display a poster presenting their society at ICPR 2026. **This is an excellent opportunity to promote your Society to the broad and international audience attending the conference.** In addition, it enables IAPR representatives participating in the Governing Board meeting to share information, experiences, and best practices with other societies. contact the Executive IAPR Secretariat for further details at exec-secretariat@iapr.org.

News continues on page 10 ...

The International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR) is driven by the robust and diverse scientific activities of its Technical Committees (TCs), which serve as the association's primary engine for research and collaboration. Scanning the titles of these committees calls to mind the full breadth of the field. IAPR TCs maintain strong foundations in methodologies through research lines such as:

Statistical Pattern Recognition (TC1)
Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition (TC2)
Neural Networks and Computational Intelligence (TC3)
Graph-Based Representations (TC15)
Algebraic and Discrete Mathematical Techniques in Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (TC16)
Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology (TC18)
Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition (TC22)

Furthermore, our TCs address critical and emerging real-world applications, including:

Biometrics (TC4)
Computer Vision for Underwater Environmental Monitoring (TC5)
Computational Forensics (TC6)
Earth Observation (TC7)
Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection (TC8)
Pattern Recognition in Human Machine Interaction (TC9)
Reading Systems (TC11)
Multimedia and Visual Information Systems (TC12)
Computer Vision for Cultural Heritage Applications (TC19)
Pattern Recognition for Bioinformatics (TC20)

By organizing specialized workshops, curating datasets, and developing educational materials, these TCs ensure IAPR remains at the forefront of scientific innovation.

The Ad hoc Committee on Technical Committees, established in 2024, recognizes that the growing number and scope of these committees pose a significant administrative challenge for the IAPR Executive Committee (ExCo). While the IAPR Bylaws assign the duties of appointing Chairs and monitoring TC activities to the ExCo—typically managed by the 1st Vice-President—the sheer volume of activity requires more dedicated oversight than a single liaison can provide, as currently set out in the Bylaws. To address this, there is a pressing need for the Ad Hoc Committee on Technical Committees to become a Standing Committee. This proposed body would directly support the

... Essay continues on page 10 ...

ExCo News Briefs, Continued

Summer/Winter schools: We encourage Technical Committees to organize summer/winter schools. The IAPR ExCo will provide support and resources, recognizing their value in connecting students and early career researchers with senior scientists and its alignment with IAPR's mission. Further details are available here.

50th Anniversary(ies) of the IAPR. Celebratory activities are planned for ICPR 2026, culminating in the grand celebration at ICPR 2028, officially marking 50 years since our incorporation and first Governing Board meeting in 1978. We invite ideas and activities to celebrate the anniversary, memories, and photos via email to 50th@iapr.org. Be sure to check out IAPR history, and the 50th Anniversary website,

...From the ExCo, continued from page 9.

ExCo by taking on the detailed tasks defined in the Bylaws, such as evaluating TC performance and ensuring leadership continuity.

Moreover, this committee would be instrumental in proposing and executing new initiatives, such as facilitating inter-TC collaboration and standardizing Summer Schools, thereby freeing the ExCo to focus on broader strategic goals while ensuring every Technical Committee receives the focused support it needs to thrive. A request will soon be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to transform the Ad Hoc Committee of Technical Committees into a Standing Committee. You will hear more about it in the future.

~ José Francisco Martínez Trinidad

The ICPR 2026 Organizing Committee is delighted to announce the second edition of its Doctoral Consortium, an exclusive event for PhD students who are currently enrolled at the time of the conference or who have just defended their thesis within the past year.

As evidenced by the ICPR 2024 Doctoral Consortium, this event offers numerous benefits for PhD students:

— ***Feedback from experts:*** *Students attending the event will have the opportunity to present their research to experienced researchers and receive valuable feedback. This can help them refine ideas and improve the quality of their research.*

— ***Networking:*** *The consortium provides a platform for networking with other PhD students as well as established researchers in their field. Building connections can lead to collaborations, job opportunities, and mentorship.*

— ***Exposure to cutting-edge research:*** *ICPR is a prestigious conference in the field of pattern recognition. By attending the Doctoral Consortium, they will gain insights into the latest developments and trends in the field.*

— ***Career development:*** *Participating in the consortium demonstrates the commitment of PhD students to their research and professional development. It can also enhance their CV and academic profile, potentially leading to future academic or industry opportunities.*

— ***Personal growth****: Presenting research and engaging in discussions with peers and experts can boost confidence and presentation skills. It's also an opportunity to defend research propositions.*

Overall, attending the Doctoral Consortium at ICPR can be a valuable investment in your academic and professional growth, providing feedback, networking opportunities, and exposure to cutting-edge research in pattern recognition.

The goal is to provide PhD students with an opportunity to present their research ideas, share their current progress and future plans, and receive constructive criticism and insights. This consortium welcomes submissions from all thematic tracks of ICPR. PhD students who have submitted regular papers to ICPR (even if not accepted) are encouraged to participate and present their work. **Participation in the ICPR 2026 Doctoral Consortium will be limited to 25 students**.

The Doctoral Consortium is planned for Aug 17. For this event only live, in-person presentations will be accepted. To be eligible, students must be conducting research in one of the domains of ICPR and be within 6 months of graduating with their doctoral degree, taking into account the conference dates.

Details of the Submission Procedure and Review Process are now available on the ICPR 2026 website (Calls tab).

Deadline for Submissions is May 2, 2026

IAPR Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Note from your EiC, LE, and EDI Committee Chair: This feature of the IAPR Newsletter *is devoted to advertising activities and news from the IAPR Standing Committee on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The statement of IAPR Policy on EDI can be found here. Our goal in this regular feature is to call attention to EDI initiatives that may be of interest to our readers.* ***Maria De Marsico, Chair of EDI, invites all readers to share information about any related initiatives in their countries or national organizations. Information can be sent to demarsico@di.uniroma1.it. Please use the subject line: "Relevant Information for IAPR EDI Committee."***

The Dual Influence of Politics on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Science

Dear Reader,

In this column we have often discussed reasons for a lack of equity, diversity, and inclusion in both everyday life and, in particular, in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research. The main factors examined here have been gender and economic and social conditions. In this issue, we consider how these factors can be influenced by the political sphere.

Historically, the impact of dictatorship on scientific researchers has been disruptive in at least two important ways: Discrimination against individual scientists, and discriminatory changes in research policy due to a shift in political ideology. A well-known example is what happened in Germany in April 1933. Under the new "Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service," state employees who were "not of Aryan descent" could be dismissed on those grounds. Many were spurred to emigrate, despite their important work within the scientific community. In particular, this affected the physics community [1]. Michael Eckert, a historian at the Deutsches Museum, described the labeling of relativity and quantum mechanics as "Jewish" sciences and their corresponding rejection by "Aryan physics." Jewish scientists like Werner Heisenberg, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics (*for the creation of quantum mechanics* [2]) were negatively impacted by this imposed scientific exclusivity. Jewish scientists left Germany, as did researchers who were not willing to adhere to the dictatorship. Of course, this situation negatively affected so much more than individual scientists. The politicization of science was detrimental for the scientific progress of the country.

Another case that has been discussed in literature illustrates the negative effects of changes in research policy: the specific development of certain scientific areas during Soviet Union dictatorship (Stalin), which privileged military-oriented fields. An interesting reflection about the issue can be found in *Nature Reviews Genetics* [3-5]. Great achievements were obtained in military technologies, space exploration (remember the Sputnik program and Yuri Gagarin, who was the first man in space), and physics. In sharp contrast, other fields including biology (especially genetics), cybernetics, mathematical economics, and certain areas of physics, such as relativity and quantum theory (as in Nazi Germany), were denigrated and degraded, if not suppressed.

An early example of the complex interplay of political antagonism and science: Hypatia of Alexandria, astronomer, mathematician, philosopher and educator (died in 415 CE).

While these are among the most well-known examples due to the duration and global impacts of these two governments, studies have been published that discuss and analyze other examples. For instance, Gómez, et al [6] contains essays about the influence on science policies of 20th-century dictatorships in Spain, Italy and Argentina. In several cases, the only way to freely continue one's research was exile.

These examples are from a not-so-distant past. What is the situation at present? The signs we can see around are not encouraging at all. The very interesting post, "DEI Under Threat: The Battle for Inclusive Research" [7], published in *The Scholarly Kitchen*, a moderated and independent blog, argues that, due to the changing political scenario, we may be in a post-DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) society. DEI itself, science itself, and DEI-in-science are all severely threatened when political leadership, whether explicitly configured as a dictatorship or not, suppress free thought, targets intellectuals, and promotes ideological and scientific conformity. These decisions also cut international collaboration, which unavoidably leads to a decline in scientific quality, the loss of diverse and enriching perspectives (like those brought by women and minorities), and censorship. In addition, as in the past, funding for science under certain political systems may increasingly prioritize state-approved projects over free inquiry. In extreme cases, this may result in isolated, outdated knowledge and slowed innovation.

On the one hand, scholars know well that certain phenomena can be analyzed, evaluated, and judged with long-term perspective only. We cannot fully predict the long-term effects of today's political decisions. On the other hand, it is well documented that under dictatorship or under a strongly centralized political control, political ideology and the establishment of mainstream choices for specific research areas will not only negatively impact diversity in topics of research, but will also decrease diversity among scientists, simultaneously presenting obstacles to gender, ethnicity, and economic equity in science.

~Maria De Marsico
demarsico@di.uniroma1.it

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[5] Soyfer, V. (2003) Response to: Science and political dictatorship. *Nature Reviews Genetics 4(3)*, 241-241.

[6] Gómez, A., Canales, A. F., & Balmer, B. (2016). *Science policies and twentieth-century dictatorships: Spain, Italy and Argentina.* Routledge.

[7] Rapple, C. (2025). DEI under threat: The battle for inclusive research. Available at https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2025/03/03/dei-under-threat-the-battle-for-inclusive-research/ (Accessed January 2026)

Pattern Recognition Letters ~ Call For Special Issues

We invite researchers in Pattern Recognition and related fields to submit proposals for new Special Issues. Special Issues are a unique occasion to collect high-quality papers that pertain to topics not strictly related to the journal, and therefore to expand the scientific offer for our readers.

Selection Criteria

1. The VSI must be **well-focused on a current, relevant topic** of interest for the international scientific community, particularly **for researchers in Pattern Recognition**. Too-wide topics such as "Deep Networks for Image Understanding" or "Advances in Pattern Recognition for Image Understanding" will not be considered.
2. **The candidate GEs' scientific production must testify sufficient experience in the proposed topics** in order to better evaluate the overall quality of both papers and reviews.
3. If more GEs participate in the proposal, **a wide geographic distribution will be preferred** to assure a wider submission population; these proposals will be preferred.
4. **GEs must underline in their CVs their engagement with PRL**, as either authors or reviewers; proposals from such GEs will be preferred.
5. Rotation of GEs is preferred, in groups and/or individually.

Proposals are submitted about one year in advance with respect to the requested submission slot (i.e., the period in which submissions will be uploaded). We divide each year into four quarters, starting in January, April, July, and October. We collect proposals during the first month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., **for the Apr-Jun 2027 Special Issue, proposals will be collected in Apr 2026**). Decisions are made in the second month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., May 2026), and prospective GEs are notified in the third month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., Jun 2026). In this way, our decision can be made by comparing all proposals for the same quarter.

For candidate GEs' convenience, a proposal template with all requested information is available,

More details can be found in the documents available here:

After filling in the appropriate template, proposals can be submitted via Computer Science Journal Special Issues and Conference Proceedings Proposals If the site displays an error message, click on "Submit a Manuscript."

For further inquiries, please contact the EiC for Special Issues, Prof. Maria De Marsico at demarsico@di.uniroma1.it

IAPR 50 years 1978 - 2028

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PATTERN RECOGNITION RESEARCH

WITH THE PATTERN RECOGNITION LAB AT

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)

Editor's Note: In this NEW feature of the *IAPR Newsletter*, our goal is to recognize and celebrate our shared history with pattern recognition labs all over the world. In this inaugural essay, Andreas Maier takes us on a 50-year journey with the FAU Pattern Recognition Lab in Germany.

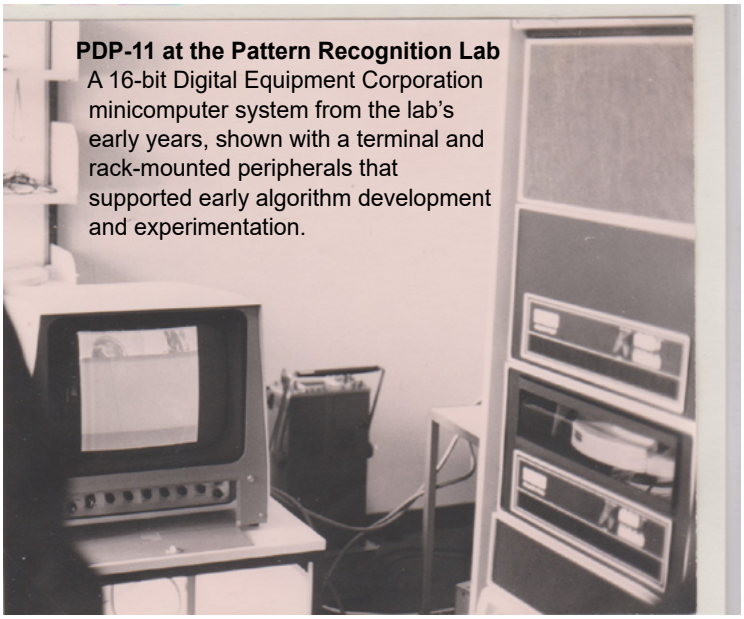
~ Heydi Méndez Vázquez

Fifty Years of Pattern Recognition in Erlangen
by Andreas Maier, Head of the FAU PRL

On October 2, 2025, the Pattern Recognition Lab at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) celebrated its 50th anniversary. The lab was founded in 1975, when Prof. Dr. of Engineering Heinrich Niemann took up the newly established Chair of Pattern Recognition, then formally known as Informatik 5 within the "Institut für Mathematische Maschinen und Datenverarbeitung" (IMMD 5) [Ed. translation: Institute for Mathematical Machines and Data Processing].

From the beginning, the goal was to establish pattern recognition as a rigorous, self-standing topic within computer science in Germany: to develop sound methods for representing, learning, and deciding from data, and to translate those ideas into working systems for images, speech, and documents. Half a century later, the lab's topics and tools have changed dramatically, but the guiding idea has remained the same: to combine mathematical clarity with practical relevance.

The first decade was defined by pioneering work under severe technological constraints. Computing power was precious, storage was limited, and many tasks that are routine today required careful engineering. A concrete symbol of this era is the lab's first PDP-11. The PDP-11, built by Digital Equipment Corporation, was a 16-bit minicomputer family widely used in universities in the 1970s and early 1980s. "Mini" did not mean small in a modern sense: Such systems were typically installed in rack cabinets, required specialized peripherals, and were operated through text-based terminals rather than graphical desktops. Compared with modern machines, the available computing resources were tiny, which made efficiency a research skill in its own right. Still, the PDP-11 enabled the key step that defines a research lab: turning ideas into executable experiments. Early algorithms for feature extraction, classification, and signal analysis could be implemented, tested, debugged, and refined in iterative cycles, laying the foundation for the lab's later growth.



PDP-11 at the Pattern Recognition Lab
A 16-bit Digital Equipment Corporation minicomputer system from the lab's early years, shown with a terminal and rack-mounted peripherals that supported early algorithm development and experimentation.

A glimpse into the formative years is provided by a team photograph from 1982 showing Prof. Heinrich Niemann with colleagues in front of the university buildings of that period. It captures a lab culture that combined close collaboration with international ambition. Under Niemann's leadership, Erlangen gained visibility through research spanning statistical and syntactic approaches to recognition, feature extraction, classification, and the modeling of uncertainty in real-world data. Education

FAU
Pattern Recognition Lab Team
(2025)

and community building were equally central. Through teaching and widely used textbooks, the lab helped structure how students and researchers learned the field, supporting the broader emergence of pattern recognition as a discipline with its own conferences, journals, and professional networks.

As computing capabilities and data availability expanded, the Pattern Recognition Lab widened its scope while maintaining a strong methodological core. Speech and audio processing, handwriting and document analysis, computer vision, and medical image computing became major pillars, supported by a consistent emphasis on reproducible experimentation and the transfer of ideas into practice. Under Prof. Joachim Hornegger, the lab further strengthened its profile in medical imaging and image reconstruction, linking inverse problems, geometry, optimization, and statistical estimation to clinically relevant questions and industrial translation. Across these topics, a characteristic style emerged in which algorithms are not only proposed, but also evaluated carefully and implemented robustly enough to support real applications.

Since 2015, the lab has been led by Prof. Andreas Maier. Recent years have brought a new wave of machine learning driven by deep neural networks, which the lab has embraced where they offer clear advantages, particularly in medical imaging. At the same time, strong emphasis has been placed on reliability, data efficiency, and interpretability. A distinctive research direction has been the integration of known operators and physical models into learning systems, aiming to combine the flexibility of data-driven approaches with the stability of domain knowledge. This perspective fits naturally with the lab's long tradition of bridging foundations and practice: New methods are welcomed, but they are expected to be understood, stress-tested, and connected to the realities of data acquisition and measurement.

The 50th anniversary was marked by a dedicated celebration event in Erlangen that brought together former and current members, collaborators, and friends of the lab to reflect on its history and discuss future directions. This occasion also forms the basis of a commemorative proceedings volume, to appear soon. It is currently in preparation and will be published by Springer, with the contributions and perspectives from the anniversary events.

The coincidence that FAU's Pattern Recognition Lab and the international pattern recognition community are reaching their 50-year milestones at nearly the same time is more than a calendar alignment. It highlights how sustained, curiosity-driven research across technological eras can build institutions that last. Looking back at early machines, early teams, and today's diverse group of researchers is therefore not merely nostalgic, but a reminder that present progress rests on long-term scientific craftsmanship, continuity in training, and a willingness to rethink methods as the field evolves.

~Andreas Maier

Technical Committee News

In this Issue

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TC 1

IAPR TC1 Statistical Pattern Recognition Techniques

iapr.org/tc1

Chair: Konstantinos Sechidis (Novartis, Switzerland)
Vice Chair: Maura Pintor (University of Cagliari, Italy)

Aims: To promote interaction and collaboration among researchers working directly in statistical pattern recognition and machine learning but also among those specialized in other fields using or developing statistical techniques. In this relation it is of particular interest to stimulate links with many mathematical statisticians, theoreticians and practitioners alike who work at present outside the pattern recognition and machine learning communities.

Call for Nominations: 2026 Pierre Devijver Award

The Technical Committee on Statistical Pattern Recognition (TC1) of the IAPR established the Pierre Devijver Award to commemorate Pierre, who was one of the founders of statistical pattern recognition. Since 2000, 12 exceptional researchers have recceived this pretigious award..

We invite nominations for the 2026 award. Candidates should be outstanding scientists who have made significant contributions to the field of statistical pattern recognition and closely related areas. The winner will deliver the Pierre Devijver Award Lecture at S+SSPR 2026 in Bern, Switzerland (see TC2 news below). **The deadline for nominations is Feb 28, 2026.**

Please send names of nominees by email to the TC1 Chair at kostas.sechidis[at]novartis.com, with a maximum of two nominations per nominator, using [IAPR-TC1-PDA] as the subject line. Note: The subject line will autofill if using the email link above.

Image credit: From a presentation delivered by Edwin Hancock, who was "strongly influenced" by Pierre Devijver. Source (slides 15 and 16)

TC 2

IAPR TC2 Structural & Syntactical Pattern Recognition

iapr.org/tc2

Chair: Luca Rossi (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong)
Vice Chairs: Luca Cosmo (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy)
Bai Xiao (Beihang University, Beijing, China)

Aims: To promote interaction and collaboration among researchers working on Structural and Syntactical Pattern Recognition (SSPR). Since 1996, the IAPR TC1 and TC2 jointly organize the biennial conference S+SSPR. The event is traditionally colocated with the International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), attracting participants working in a wide variety of fields that make use of statistical, structural or syntactic pattern recognition techniques.

S+SSPR 2026 UNI BERN

We are pleased to invite you to submit your work to S+SSPR 2026, the 21st Joint IAPR International Workshops on Statistical Techniques in Pattern Recognition (SPR) and Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition (SSPR), to be held August 24–26, 2026 in Bern, Switzerland. *(continued on next page)*

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TC 2

IAPR TC2
STRUCTURAL & SYNTACTICAL PATTERN RECOGNITION

iapr.org/tc2

CONTINUED

S+SSPR is a well-established forum bringing together researchers working on statistical, structural, and syntactic approaches to pattern recognition, as well as their applications. The workshop will take place shortly after ICPR 2026 and will be hosted by the University of Bern, Switzerland, and will feature keynote talks, including the 2026 Pierre Devijver Prize winner, as well as oral presentations and opportunities for discussion and networking.

Topics include, but are not limited to

Statistical Pattern Recognition (SPR)

Classification, prediction, Gaussian processes
Feature selection, ensemble methods, dimensionality reduction
Metric and representation learning
Semi- and weak-supervised learning
Active learning, novelty detection
Deep, generative, and adversarial models
Reinforcement learning, transfer learning, domain adaptation
Clustering and data modeling

Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition (SSPR)

Graph-based methods
Graph neural networks
Structural matching and complexity
Graphical models and structural kernels
Spectral methods
Spatio-temporal pattern analysis
Shape analysis and document understanding
Multimedia retrieval and intelligent sensing

Submission Details

Papers must be original and not under review elsewhere
Maximum length: 10 pages, LNCS format
Submission via EasyChair
All submissions will undergo peer review
Accepted papers will be published in Springer LNCS, conditional on presentation

Important Dates

Paper Submission: May 15, 2026
Notification: June 30, 2026
Camera-ready: July 15, 2026
Workshop Dates: Aug 24-26, 2026

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TC 9

IAPR TC9

PATTERN RECOGNITION IN HUMAN MACHINE INTERACTION

iapr.org/tc9

Chair: Patrick Thiam (Ulm University, Germany)
Vice Chairs: Friedhelm Schwenker (Ulm University, Germany)
Mariofanna Milanova (University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA)

Aims: TC09 promotes the use of pattern recognition methods in human-machine interaction (HMI), and intends to offer opportunities for interested researchers to gain a better understanding of the many diverse research topics in remote sensing that require contributions from the pattern recognition community.

TC9 Announces 2026 NVIDIA Deep Learning Workshop Series

Following a successful Fall 2025 season—highlighted by our recent in-person workshop at the 10th Smart City Applications International Conference (SCA25) at Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco (above image)—TC9 is proud to continue its collaboration with NVIDIA. We remain committed to providing **free, high-quality AI training** to the international community through both **in-person and online** sessions.

Our 2026 curriculum features industry-leading topics designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

2026 NVIDIA Deep Learning Workshop Topics

Generative AI with Diffusion Models

Building Agentic AI with Multimodal Models

Fundamentals of Deep Learning

Professional Certification: Upon successful completion of a workshop, participants receive an **official NVIDIA Certificate**. These credentials provide significant professional value, serving as a globally recognized industry validation of your technical expertise in Artificial Intelligence.

More information is available at:
NVIDIA Deep Learning Institute
Inquiries: mgmilanova@ualr.edu

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TC 12

IAPR TC12 MULTIMEDIA AND VISUAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

iapr.org/tc12

Chair: Hugo Jair Escalante (INAOE & CINVESTAV, Mexico)
Vice Chairs: Sergio Esclara (University of Barcelona, Spain)
Henning Müller (HES-SO, Sierre, Switzerland)
Albert Ali Salah (Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands)

Aims: IAPR TC12 promotes interaction among researchers working in modeling, design, and development of systems for the analysis, processing, description, and retrieval of multimedia and visual information as well as the applications of these systems in challenging domains.

6th Workshop on Real-World Surveillance: Applications and Challenges

This workshop solicits papers reporting experimental results on any application of computer vision in real-world surveillance, challenges faced, and mitigation strategies on topics like, but not limited to: object detection, tracking, anomaly detection, scene understanding, super-resolution, and multimodal surveillance. The workshop pays special attention to legal and ethical issues of computer vision applications in real-world scenarios.

Image: vap.aau.dk/rws/

The 6th RWS Workshop welcomes papers describing methodology and experimental results on legal matters (like GDPR, AI Act, and US Executive Order on AI) or ethical concerns (like detecting bias towards gender, race, or other characteristics and mitigating strategies). This workshop introduces a new challenge on Robust Thermal-Image Object Detection to advance multi-object detection performance under long-term thermal drift. This is an all-day event.

Mar 6, 2026 at the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision 2026 (WACV 2026)


Credit: AdobeStock_950821047 by Moritz Kertzscher

CLEF 2026

will be hosted by Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, (Germany) from September 21-24, 2026.

CLEF 2026 will consist of independent peer-reviewed workshops on a broad range of challenges in the fields of multilingual and multimodal information access evaluation, and a set of benchmarking activities carried in various labs designed to test different aspects of mono and cross-language information retrieval systems.

Registration for Labs **closes on Thursday, April 23, 2026.**

ImageCLEF is an ongoing evaluation event that started in 2003, promoting the evaluation of technologies for annotating, indexing, retrieving, and generating multimodal data, and aiming to provide access to large collections of data across a variety of scenarios, domains and contexts. The ImageCLEF Lab features five different tasks:

1. **ImageCLEF Medical:** The task approaches a wide array of problems in the medical field, like concept detection, caption prediction, explainability, security in AI generated images, tumor typing correction, medical report discrepancy summarization or visual question answering and synthetic medical image generation.
2. **ToPicto:** Text to pictogram translation and pictogram sequence prediction.
3. **MultimodalReasoning:** Multilingual, interdisciplinary visual question answering.
4. **AI4AGRI:** Prediction of agricultural potential before planting and crop type identification.
5. **ImageCLEF-Deepfake:** Detection and generation of deepfakes in visual and audio data.

Image Source: imageclef.org/2025

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TC 18

IAPR TC18 Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology

iapr.org/tc18

Chair: Lidija Comic (University of Novi Sad, Serbia)
Vice Chair: Benjamin Perret (Universite Gustave Eiffel, France)

Aims: The mission of TC18 is to promote interactions and collaborations among researchers working on Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology. TC18 aims to facilitate discussions and identify emerging trends in research areas involving discrete geometry and combinatorial topology, image segmentation and discrete shape analysis, digitized objects, geometrical transforms, image and shape filtering, metrics and machine learning, visualization, and feature extraction.

DGMM 2025

The 4th International Conference on Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology took place November 3-6, 2025, in Groningen, the Netherlands (for a full report, see Meeting Reports in this issue of the *IAPR Newsletter*.

DGMM is the main conference of TC18, and is a joint event between the Discrete Geometry for Computer Imagery (DGCI) conference, whose first edition was held in 1991 in Strasbourg, and the International Symposium on Mathematical Morphology (ISMM), which started in Barcelona in 1993. The first DGMM took place in Uppsala (2021), and new editions are planned to be held every 18 months.

New at DGMM 2025 were three "State of The Art Reports" (STARs), mainly aimed at graduate students as a complement to tutorial sessions. STARs topics at DGMM 2025 were:

Playing with Kruscal: Algorithms for Flat and Hierarchical Watershed Cuts

Morphological Neural Networks: A Review

The Gap Between the Theory of Morphological Representations and Machine Learning Discovery

More details on DGMM 2025 are in the report in this issue of the *IAPR Newsletter.*

The next DGMM conference will take place in Grenoble, France, in April 2027. Stay tuned to the TC18 website for more details.

IWCIA 2025 The 23rd International Workshop on Combinatorial Image Analysis

Organized by the Department of Image Processing and Computer Graphics at the University of Szeged in Hungary, IWCIA took place September 24-26, 2025.

The workshop's scientific program consisted of 15 contributed papers covering various areas of combinatorial image processing and analysis, including simplicial complexes, thinning, shape descriptors, object detection and classification, automata of picture languages, and partial orders. The papers were authored by researchers from nine different countries.

Two keynote talks complemented the regular sessions:

Peter Gritzmann (Technische Universität München, Germany) presented recent results in *Diagrams, Clustering, and Coresets—and the Representation of Polycrystals*.

Lajos Hajdu (University of Debrecen, Hungary) delivered a lecture entitled *Applications of Algebra and Number Theory in Digital Image Processing*.

The conference post-proceedings appeared in Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS)* series, Volume 15985.

IWCIA 2025 was supported by Tuxera and the Institute of Informatics at the University of Szeged.

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TC 19

IAPR TC19 Computer Vision for Cultural Heritage Applications

iapr.org/tc19

Chair: Gennaro Vessio (University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy)
Vice Chair: Guillaume Caron (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, France (2025-26))

Aims: The goal for TC19 is to bring together the combined expertise and resources of technologists, heritage administrators, heritage professionals and communication experts concerned with the effective and sustainable application of computer vision technology to Cultural Heritage research and presentation at museums, monuments, and historic sites, as well as the promotion of integration of research efforts in still incompletely coordinated sub-fields like Field Recording and Data Capture; Data Organization, Provenance and Standards; Visualization and Virtual Reconstructions; and Planning for Sustainability of Heritage Projects.

TC19 is pleased to announce the **2nd Workshop on E-Heritage and Robotics**, in conjunction with the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) in Vienna, Austria, June 1st or 5th, 2026,


Image: iapr.org/tc19

The main organizers are Guillaume Caron and Gennaro Vessio, vice-chair and chair of TC19, and the Program Committee is chaired by El Mustapha Mouaddib (Universite de Picardie Jules Verne, Modeling Information and Systems lab, France).

The workshop will feature the **invited talks** of **Maren Bennewitz** (University of Bonn, Humanoid Robots Lab and Lamarr Institute for Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Germany) and **Takeshi Oishi** (The University of Tokyo, Institute of Industrial Science, 3D Vision lab, Japan). The call for contributions will appear soon on the workshop website.

History: The 1st workshop on "E-Heritage and Robotics" was held in conjunction with the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) in 2021. These "E-Heritage" workshops have been the flagship biennial event organized by the IAPR TC19 for more than fifteen years: four times with the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV, in 2009, 2017, 2019 and 2023) and four times with the Asian Conference on Computer Vision (ACCV, in 2010-2016).

TC 22

IAPR TC22 Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition

iapr.org/tc22

Chair: Federico Bolelli
(University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)
Vice Chair: Bertrand Kerautret
(LIRIS, Université Lumière Lyon 2, France)

Aims: Reproducibility is a cornerstone of robust and impactful science. TC22 was created to promote and support reproducible practices within the pattern recognition community. Our goals include fostering tools, platforms, and standards that make it easier for researchers to share code, data, and results in a transparent and verifiable way.

Technical Committee 22 on Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition

is pleased to report widespread interest in the ICPR 2026 Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition Badge!

Approximately half the total paper submissions for ICPR 2026 requested consideration for the Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition (RRPR) Badge! This level of participation reflects strong interest in the community for the topic of reproducibility and the dedication of Pattern Recognition researchers to cumulative and reliable research. More information on the RRPR Badge is available here.

A 6th edition of the RRPR Workshop has been proposed for ICPR 2026!

Interested researchers are encouraged to follow the ICPR 2026 workshops web page for upcoming announcements.

Meeting Reports

Conferences, Workshops, & Summer/Winter Schools

Goals

The ACPR 2025 provided a unique opportunity for researchers and participants from the Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision communities to share their ideas and engage with cutting-edge research while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere of Gold Coast, an iconic destination in Australia.

Organizers

General Chairs:
Alan Wee-Chung Liew *Griffith University, Australia*
Cheng-Lin Liu, *Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China*
Dacheng Tao, *Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

Organizing Chair: Ali Reza Alaei, *Southern Cross University, Australia*

Program Co-Chairs:
Brian Lovell, *University of Queensland, Australia*
Ran He, *Chinese Academy of Science, China*
Christian Wallraven, *Korea University, South Korea*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

ACPR 2025 Logistics & Data

Southern Cross University and Mantra on View Hotel, Gold Coast, Australia, Nov 10-13, 2025

Host Sponser: Southern Cross University
Award Sponsor: Springer
Endorsed by IAPR

Submissions Received: **118**
At least 2 reviewers per paper, single-blind review, with final decisions made by Program Chairs
Oral Presentations: **35 (30%)**
Poster Presentations: **25**

17 Countries Represented
Highest number of oral presentations: Japan, China, India and Taiwan

ACPR 2025 Program Highlights

3 Keynotes

Alison Noble
Oxford University, England
Healthcare AI Imaging Algorithms and Systems in the New Era of Humans and AI Working Together

Shijian Lu
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Sustainable AI via Image Generation and Cross-Domain Transfer

Chin-Teng Lin
University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Brain Computer Interface in Augmented Reality and Metaverse

4 Tutorials

A Path Towards Time Series Intelligence: Recent Advances and Future Trends
Ming Jin
Griffith University, Australia

Building Spatiotemporal Models for Dengue Early Warning: From Data to Deployment
Vinh Bui
Southern Cross University, Australia

AI for Koala Conservation
Douglas Kerlin, Wee Lum Tan, and Wangzhi Xing
Griffith University, Australia

Time Series and Its Application in Flood Forecasting
Banujan Kuhaneswaran, Golam Sorwar, Ali Reza Alaei and Feife Tong
Southern Cross University, Australia

Proceedings Info & Links

Springer in LNCS in (Two Volumes)
Click on covers (right) for more information.

ACPR 2025 Photo taken at end of Day 1 (Tutorials)

ACPR 2025 Program, cont.

Social and Cultural Programs

Participants enjoyed the amphibious Aquaduck Gold Coast City and River Tour and a Gala Dinner at Q1, Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast.

The ACPR 2025 Best Paper Award was presented to Shoko Miyauchi, Hayata Emoto, and Ken'ichi Morooka for their paper entitled *Efficient Isomorphic Mesh Generation from Point Clouds via Group-wise Implicit Function Networks*

The Best Paper Award (Runner up) was presented to Haonan Wang, Haifeng Xia, and Siyu Xia for their paper entitled *ICPCC: Importance-aware Crops Point Cloud Compression*

The ACPR 2025 Best Student Paper Award was presented to Hao Sun, Yanbo Wang, Junxian Duan, and Ran He for the paper entitled *VeriChain: Reinforced Document Image Forgery Verification via Self-Revealing Reasoning Chain*.

The Best Student Paper (Runner-up) was presented to Rafael Sterzinger, Tingyu Lin, and Robert Sablatnig for the paper entitled *Few-Shot Connectivity-Aware Text Line Segmentation in Historical Documents*

Participants at Mantra on View Hotel, Gold Coast, before the Aquaduck Tour and Gala Dinner. *First row from left:* Dr. Fahimeh Alaei, Prof. Umapada Pal, Dr. Ali Reza Alaei, Prof. Cheng-Lin Liu, Prof. Alan Liew, and Prof. Caifeng Shan

Join In! ACPR 25 Research Commentary

ACPR 2025 papers collectively show a maturing field, moving from benchmark-driven perception toward robust, multimodal, deployable, and human-centered AI systems.

A core problem discussed at ACPR 2025 was: How can machines robustly perceive, interpret, and reason about complex visual, multimodal, and sequential data in real-world environments? Leading approaches and dominant technical directions across the conference included:

Deep representation learning, especially transformer-based and diffusion-based models, for vision, text, and multimodal reasoning.

Multimodal fusion, combining RGB, depth, thermal, point clouds, and textual signals to improve robustness and interpretability.

Data-efficient learning, including few-shot, zero-shot, self-supervised, and normality-based approaches to address limited or imbalanced datasets.

Task-specific inductive bias, such as superpixels, structured priors, graph-based models, and domain-aware architectures.

Scalable deployment, with increasing attention to real-world constraints such as computational efficiency, edge deployment, and explainability.

Join In! ACPR 25 Research Commentary, continued

Several promising directions clearly emerged from ACPR 2025:

Hybrid AI systems combining learning-based models with symbolic reasoning, physics-based constraints, and domain rules.

Explainable and accountable AI, especially for healthcare, disaster management, infrastructure monitoring, and public safety.

Vision–language–action models, moving beyond perception to decision-making and planning.

AI for sustainability, including environmental monitoring, flood prediction, waste detection in riverine systems, and infrastructure resilience.

Edge and real-time AI, enabling deployment on drones, sensors, and low-power devices.

Ethical and responsible AI, with increasing focus on fairness, bias mitigation, and societal impact.

Thus, the proceedings of ACPR 2025 collectively addressed a central research challenge in contemporary pattern recognition and artificial intelligence: how to enable machines to reliably perceive, interpret, and reason over complex visual and multimodal data in real-world, data-limited, and safety-critical environments. This challenge spans applications such as document intelligence, biometric analysis, 3D vision, multimodal perception, generative modeling, and applied detection systems.

Across the conference, a strong convergence was evident around deep representation learning, particularly transformer-based and diffusion-based models, complemented by multimodal data fusion strategies that integrate visual, textual, depth, thermal, and sequential information. There was broad agreement that single-modality, data-intensive approaches are insufficient for deployment in realistic settings. Instead, research increasingly emphasizes data-efficient learning (e.g., few-shot, zero-shot, and self-supervised methods), the incorporation of domain-specific inductive biases, and improved robustness and interpretability.

A clear consensus has emerged that future AI systems must go beyond benchmark performance to address trust, reliability, and deployment constraints. However, there remains no single agreed solution regarding the balance between large foundation models and lightweight, task-specific systems, nor on standardized methods for evaluating robustness and uncertainty in real-world scenarios. Progress in this area will require richer multimodal datasets, improved evaluation frameworks, and closer integration between algorithmic research and practical deployment considerations.

ACPR 2025 highlighted exciting directions for the future, including hybrid learning-and-reasoning systems, explainable and responsible AI, vision-language-action models, and AI applications for sustainability, disaster resilience, infrastructure monitoring, and public safety. The 8th Asian Conference on Pattern Recogntion reflected a field transitioning from theoretical advances toward scalable, trustworthy, and human-centered AI systems with tangible societal impact.

~ Ali Reza Alaei

DGMM 2025

4th International Conference on Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology

November 3 - 6, 2025 — **Groningen, The Netherlands**

Goals

The DGMM series offers the opportunity for researchers, students, and practitioners to share and discuss novel high-quality research results within the fields of discrete geometry and mathematical morphology and their applications to image processing and image analysis.

Organizers

Chairs: Michael Wilkinson, *University of Groningen, The Netherlands*
Jiri Kosinka, *University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

STARs Chairs: David Coeurjolly, *CNRS (LIRIS Laboratory), France*
Bernhard Burgeth, *Saarland University, Germany*
Yukiko Kenmochi, *CNRS (GREYC Laboratory), France*

Tutorial Coordinator: Samy Blusseau, *Mines ParisTech, France*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

DGMM 2025 Logistics & Data

Groningen, The Netherlands, "Oude Raadhuis" Conference Centre, Nov 3 - 6

Previous Editions
3rd DGMM (2024) Florence, Italy
2nd DGMM (2022) Strasbourg, France
1st DGMM (2021) Uppsala, Sweden

Hosted by University of Groningen, The Netherlands
Sponsored by IAPR, Atlas AI, and Springer

18 Countries Represented

Submissions Received: **52**
Using a single-blind peer review process, each submission was evaluated by at least 3 reviewers, with a rebuttal phase.
Oral Presentations: **26 (50%)**
Poster Presentations: **11** plus 5 "work-in-progress posters" not included in the proceedings.

DGMM 2025 Program Highlights

Keynotes

Dr. Georgios Ouzounis (VP Artificial Intelligence Atlas AI, Palo Alto, USA)
Reinventing the Differential Attribute Profiles

Beatriz Marcotegui Iturmendi (Professor, École des Mines de Paris, France)
3D Point Cloud Semantic Segmentation

Joost Batenburg (Chair of Imaging & Visualization, Leiden University, The Netherlands)
Towards 3D Interior Vision

Tutorials

Learning Multivariate Morphological Operators
Organized by Santiago Velasco-Forero and Marcos Eduardo Valle

Morphological Hierarchies for Topological Analysis
Organized by Yukiko Kenmochi, Jean Cousty, and Nicolas Passat

Scientific Mediation with Discrete Mathematics
Organized by Isabelle Sivignon

DGMM 2025 Best Student Paper Award

(sponsored by Springer)

Fast and Exact Visibility on Digitized Shapes and Application to Saliency-aware Normal Estimation
by Romain Negro and Jacques-Olivier Lachaud

Proceedings Info/Link

Springer in LNCS

Social and Cultural Program

Participants enjoyed a Canal Boat Trip around Groningen

Join In! DGMM 25 Research Commentary

A key question at DGMM 2025 was how to best integrate or combine methods from morphological image processing with deep learning and other machine learning methods, ideally leading to better performance, potentially better explainability and robustness, and a reduction of the required training data size. This is very much an open area of research, with many different approaches being explored.

One approach discussed at this meeting was the use of morphological neural networks, in which dilations or erosions replace convolutions. These can either be “standalone” networks or hybrids. Training such networks needs careful consideration due to the highly non-linear and non-differentiable nature of these filters. On the more theoretical side, there was work on the universal representation of scattering networks. Another approach looked at training schemes for morphological perceptrons. Though many of these concepts have been around in research for a long time, there is clearly a gathering momentum in this area of research.

~ *Michael Wilkinson*

4th IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision and Machine Intelligence CVMI 2025

12-13 October 2025 — Rourkela, Odisha, India

Goals

This premier event brought together academicians, researchers, and industry leaders to share groundbreaking advancements in AI, Computer Vision, Machine Intelligence, and related fields.

Organizers

General Chairs:
P. K. Biswas, *IIT Kharagpur, India*
Jayanta Mukhopadhyay, *IIT Kharagpur, India*
KC Santosh, *University of South Dakota, USA*
Peter Peer, *University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Conference Chairs:
Manish Okade, *NIT Rourkela, India*
Satish Kumar Singh, *IIIT Allahabad, India*
Subrahmanyam Murala, *TCD Ireland*

General Co-Chairs:
Dipti Patra, *NIT Rourkela, India*
Poonam Singh, *NIT Rourkela, India*
Ram Bilas Pachori, *IIT Indore*
R. Balasubramanian, *IIT Roorkee*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

CVMI 2025 Logistics & Data

Rourkela, India, National Institute of Technology, October. 12-13, 2025

Sponsored by IEEE, Rourkela Subsection
Co-Sponored by IEEE Kolkata Section and IEEE Uttar Section.
Partially financially sponsored by ANRF, India
Endorsed by IAPR

Previous Editions
3rd CVMI (2024) IIIT Allahabad, India
2nd CVMI (2023) IIITM, Gwalior, India
1st CVMI (2022) IIIT Allahabad, India

1 Country Represented
India

Submissions Received: **443**
650 Reviewers participated.
Each paper received at least three double-blind, independent reviews under the supervision of the Technical Program Commitee and Meta-Reviewers.
131 Papers were accepted **(30%)**
Registered Oral Presentations: **58**

Inauguration: Lamp-Lighting Ceremony

CVMI 2025 Program Highlights

Inaugural Session at CVMI 2025: Guest Felicitation

Keynotes

P. K. Biswas (IIT Kharagpur, India)
Introduction to AI, Machine and Deep Learning

Jayanta Mukhopadhyay (IIT Kharagpur India)
Understanding Behaviour of Neural Network Models

Soumyajit Dey (IIT Kharagpur India) *Certifying Learning Enabled Cyber Physical Systems—A Deployment Perspective*

Poonam Yadav (Scientist 'D', DST, Government of India)
Cyber-Physical Systems: Building the Foundations of Next Gen Technologies

Proceedings

will be published in IEEE Xplore

Social Program

Participants enjoyed a bus trip to the Conference Banquet at the Indo-German Club, Rourkela, India

Awards

ANRF CVMI Overall Best Paper Award
A Physics-Informed Hybrid Solver for Sparse Seismic Inversion: Wedgelet–TGV with ADMM–ALM–AFISTA Algorithm, by Supriyo Chakraborty, Nikhil Pandey, Sanjay Bhargav Dharavath, and Aurobinda Routray

IAPR Best Student Paper Award
HUFT-Net: Multi-Modal Approaches for Automated Diagnosis of Respiratory Diseases Using Respiratory Sounds, by Bhavya Harini Rudra, Panigrahi Srikanth, Khyathi Sri Nagaveni Kadali, and Chaitanya Bharathi

Best Paper in AI Applications (Track 1)
GLoHi-Cap: Gated Multimodal Fusion with Spatial Object Localization for Hindi Image Captioning, by Himanshu Sharma, Devanand Padha, and Yashwant Singh

Best Paper in Image & Video Processing (Track 2)
Neural Radiance Fields, Gaussian Splatting and Its applications in Underwater Archaeology, by Jasjappan Singh, and Pramod Maurya

Best Paper in AI Applications & Image Processing (Track 3)
Furnit.Ar: AI-powered Augmented Reality Interior Designing Application, by Shantanu Dhar, Shlok Pete, Roushan Jha, Vinaya Sawant, Sharvari Patil, and Neha Agarwal

Best Paper in Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (Track 4)
Decentralized Fuzzy Logic Formation Control for Multi-rotor Swarm with Virtual Leader, by Jiljo K. Moncy

Day 1 of CVMI 2025

Join In! CVMI 2025 Research Commentary

A central research question repeatedly raised during presentations, keynote lectures, and technical discussions at IEEE-CVMI 2025 was: *How should the pattern recognition and computer vision community redefine progress beyond benchmark accuracy to ensure robustness, interpretability, and real-world trustworthiness?* This question is extremely important, as vision systems increasingly influence critical domains such as healthcare diagnostics, autonomous systems, and scientific sensing.

The dominant consensus was that next-generation pattern recognition systems must integrate structure, priors, and multimodality rather than rely solely on end-to-end data-driven learning. Multiple contributions demonstrated that hybrid paradigms, combining deep learning with physics-informed models, optimization constraints, or symbolic reasoning lead to better generalization and stability under distribution shifts. In parallel, multimodal fusion approaches (e.g., vision with audio, text, or sensor data) were widely viewed as essential for capturing richer semantic patterns.

However, no consensus yet exists on how to formally evaluate robustness, explainability, or deployment readiness. Participants noted the lack of standardized metrics and benchmarks that reflect real-world uncertainty, bias, and failure modes. Advancing this agenda will require curated datasets, stress-testing protocols, and shared evaluation practices, areas where IAPR can play a unifying role.

~ Manish Okade

Day 2 of CVMI 2025

From 25 to 27 September 2025

5th International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Pattern Recognition

ISPR 2025

Hammamet, Tunisia,

Goals

Continuing and building upon the strong scientific legacy of the ISPR conference series, ISPR 2025 provided a distinguished international forum for researchers, academics, and practitioners to share innovative ideas, cutting-edge methodologies, and recent advances in artificial intelligence and pattern recognition. Organized under the auspices of the MIRACL Laboratory, Sfax University (Tunisia), and held in collaboration with prominent international academic partners, this 2025 edition further strengthened the position of ISPR as a leading influential scientific venue with growing international recognition.

Organizers

General Chairs:
Tolga Ensari, *Arkansas Tech University, USA*
Bassem Bouaziz, *University of Sfax, Tunisia*
Abdel-Badeeh Salem, *Ain Shams University, Egypt*
Akram Bennour, *Larbi Tebessi University, Algeria*

Technical Program Chairs:
Tolga Ensari, *Arkansas Tech University, USA*
Akram Bennour, *Larbi Tebessi University, Algeria*
Bassem Bouaziz, *University of Sfax, Tunisia*
Imad Rida, *University of Technology of Compiègne, France*
Walid Mahdi, *University of Sfax, Tunisia*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

ISPR 2025 Logistics & Data

Hammamet, Tunisia, Nahrawess Hotel Conference Center, Sept. 25-27, 2025

Previous Editions
4th ISPR (2024) Istanbul, Turkey
3rd ISPR (2023) Hammamet, Tunisia
2nd ISPR (2022) Hammamet, Tunisia
1st ISPR (2020) (virtual due to COVID19)

Submissions Received: **180**

More papers were received, but 180 passed the initial screening and were forwarded for peer review. Each paper was rigorously evaluated by at least 3 expert reviewers in a double-blind review process. 65 papers were accepted, 59 of which were presented at the conference.

Accepted for Oral Presentation: **65 (36%)**

Hosted by
MIRACL Laboratory,
Sfax University, Tunisia
Endorsed by IAPR

15 Countries Represented

ISPR 2025 Program Highlights

Keynotes

KC Santosh (University of South Dakota, USA)
Green Computing—AI Models, Big Data, and Carbon Footprint

Imad Reda (Univ. of Technol. of Compiègne, France)
Dictionary Learning for Signal Classification

Tolga Ensari (Arkansas Tech University, USA)
Probabilistic Computing and Quantum Machine Learning

Brahim Hnich (University of Monastir, Tunisia)
AI and Ethics in Scientific Research

Workshop

GERMANIOT Project Networking and Plenary Session

Organized by Ali Behravan and Bassem Bouaziz

Awards

First IAPR Best Paper Award
Regularized Continual Learning for Generative Crowd Counting, by Jianyong Wang, Wenzhe Zhai, and Mingliang Gao

Second IAPR Best Paper Award
Prompting Recovery: Filling Missing Diabetes Data with Large Language Models, by Lucia Cascone, Simone D'Assisi, Michele Nappi, and Orlando Tomeo

Third IAPR Best Paper Award
Promoting Shape Bias in CNNs: Frequency-Based and Contrastive Regularization for Corruption Robustness, by Robin Ranabhat, Longwei Wang, Amit K Patel, and KC Santosh

Social Program

Hammamet Old City Visit

Proceedings will be published in Springer CCIS (publication in progress)

Join In! ISPR 2025 Research Commentary

A key question raised during the ISPR 2025 keynote by KC Santosh (University of South Dakota, USA) was: *How can modern pattern recognition systems be designed to remain highly accurate while also being sustainable, transparent, and environmentally responsible?* With the rapid growth of large-scale deep learning models, their increasing energy consumption and carbon footprint are becoming major concerns for the research community.

There was strong consensus that sustainability must become a core design principle of intelligent systems. Leading solutions discussed included the use of active learning (human-in-the-loop) to minimize unnecessary data labeling and retraining, Liquid Neural Networks for compact and adaptive modeling, and few-shot/zero-anomaly learning to reduce data and computational requirements. These approaches demonstrate that it is possible to maintain competitive performance while significantly lowering energy consumption.

Promising future directions include the development of energy-aware neural architectures, AI-specialized hardware, and explainable, low-carbon pattern recognition systems for healthcare and security applications. Several researchers expressed interest in forming international collaborations focused on sustainable and trustworthy AI, including Prof. KC Santosh (University of South Dakota, USA) and collaborators working on green AI and human-centric machine learning.

~ Akram Bennour

Goals

The aim of GREC is to provide an excellent opportunity for researchers and practitioners at all levels of experience to meet colleagues and to share new ideas and knowledge about graphics recognition methods. GREC workshops enjoy strong participation from researchers in both industry and academia.

Organizers

General Co-Chairs: KC Santosh, *University of South Dakota, USA*
Xizhao Wang, *ShenZhen University, China*

Program Chairs: Lianwen Jin, *South China University of Technology, China*
Jean-Christophe Burie, *La Rochelle University, France*

Click for Program Committee

GREC 2025 Logistics & Data

Westin Wuhan Wuchang, Wuhan, Hubei, China, September 16-21, 2025

Hosted by IAPR TC 10
Endorsed by IAPR

Previous Editions

15th GREC (2023) San Jose, USA
14th GREC (2021) Lausanne, Switzerland
13th GREC (2019) Syndey, Australia
12th GREC (2017) Kyoto, Japan
11th GREC (2015) Nancy, France

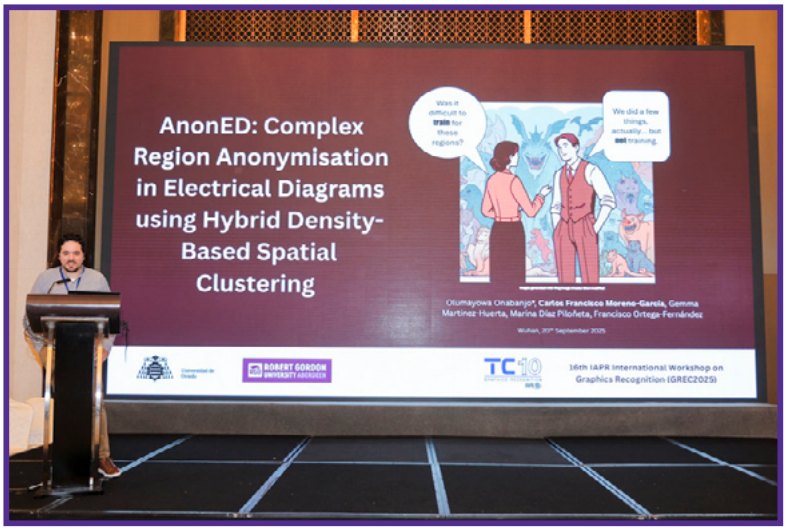
Submissions Received: **9**
3 reviewers per paper, single-blind procedure

Oral Presentations: **6 (67%)**

5 Countries Represented

Czech Republic (2), Spain (1), Scotland (1) Italy (1), and Tunisia (1)

GREC 2025 Program



Held in conjuction with ICDAR 2025, GREC 2025 was an afternoon workshop with a full schedule of paper presentations and discussions. Hence, there were no keynotes or awards.

Proceedings Info & Links

Springer
LNCS Series,
Volume 16226
Click here or cover image (left)

Join In! GREC 2025 Research Commentary

At this year's IAPR GREC Workshop, one discussion that captured attention revolved around a subtle but pressing challenge in industrial digitization, i.e., how to anonymize sensitive information in complex engineering diagrams without slowing research down. The paper *AnonED: Complex Region Anonymisation in Electrical Diagrams using Hybrid Density-Based Spatial Clustering* explores this question, focusing on how to automatically identify and mask regions like title blocks, authentication stamps, and personnel identifiers that often contain confidential data. The goal is to enable the safe sharing of electrical diagrams for AI research while preserving privacy. The core research question asks whether a training-free, scalable approach can accurately detect and anonymize such Regions of Interest (ROIs) across varied, multi-layout diagrams, removing the dependence on expensive, manually labeled datasets.

Current approaches to this problem have significant trade-offs. Manual segmentation is precise but too time-consuming for large repositories; feature-based techniques perform well only on structured layouts; and deep learning models, while fast and generalizable, demand extensive annotated data and retraining for new formats. AnonED introduces a new alternative, a hybrid method that combines OCR text data, multi-level density-based spatial clustering, and feature extraction to predict and anonymize ROIs automatically. It achieved a 94% F1 score on simple layouts and 75% on complex ones, outperforming common deep learning models such as YOLO, Mask-RCNN, and Vision Transformer baselines in several tests. Although there isn't yet a clear consensus in the field, this study demonstrates that lightweight, unsupervised, clustering-based approaches can deliver competitive results while being far easier to adapt across domains and datasets.

Looking ahead, discussions at GREC highlighted several exciting directions for future work, including integrating fine-tuned Large Language Models to improve text classification accuracy in technical documents, enhancing OCR performance using text super-resolution, and adapting anonymisation systems like AnonED to multilingual and cross-domain industrial diagrams. The research team, Olumayowa Onabanjo, Gemma Martínez-Huerta, Marina Díaz Piloñeta, and Francisco Ortega-Fernández from the University of Oviedo (Spain), and Carlos Moreno-García from Robert Gordon University (UK has made their code and dataset publicly available here, inviting collaboration toward more robust and privacy-preserving document analysis in the engineering and industrial design community.

~ KC Santosh

MMFORWILD 2024

The 3rd Workshop on MultiMedia FORensics in the WILD

Goals

Held in conjunction with ICPR 2024, MMForWILD 2024 offered a forum for proposing multimedia forensic solutions meeting the operational needs of forensics and intelligence operators.

Organizers

Workshop Chairs:
Sebastiano Battiato, University of Catania, Italy
Giulia Boato, University of Trento, Italy
Alessandro Ortis, University of Catania, Italy
Nasir Memon, New York University, USA

Click for Program Committee

MMforWILD 2024 Logistics & Data

Kolkata, India, Biswa Bangla Convention Center, December 1, 2024

Previous Editions
2nd MMforWILD (2022) Montreal, Quebec, Canada
1st MMforWILD (2021) Milan, Italy

Endorsed by IAPR

Submissions Received: **7**
3 reviewers per paper, double-blind procedure.

Oral Presentations: **6 (86%)**

5 Countries Represented
France (2), Abu Dhabi (1), Italy (2), USA (1), and Australia (1)

Program Highlights

Keynote

Luca Guarnera Univ.of Catana (Italy)
Deepfake Technology: Insights into Creation and Detection

Proceedings Info & Link

Springer LNCS series, Volume 15619. Click here.

Join In! MMforWILD 2024 Research Commentary

The rapid growth of world-wide multimedia collections opens new challenges with respect to crime prevention and investigation. The protection of images, video, and audio data from illegal use (e.g. misinformation), as well as its exploitation in forensics and intelligence, have become serious challenges as the sheer volume of data renders a full manual inspection impossible. Tools are needed to support the protection, management, processing, interpretation, and visualization of multimedia data in the different steps of the investigation process. Many exciting solutions for related problems have been developed in the multimedia research community (including knowledge extraction, categorization, indexing, browsing and visualization), forming an excellent basis for forensics and intelligence. The problem with many solutions developed so far is that they work well in controlled settings like those typical of laboratory experiments, but often fail to provide reliable answers in real-life conditions such as those encountered by forensic analysts and investigators in their daily activities.

MMForWILD 2024 offered a forum for proposing multimedia forensic solutions meeting the operational needs of forensics and intelligence operators. The workshop was targeted both at researchers working on innovative multimedia technology and experts developing tools in the field. The goal of the workshop was to attract papers investigating the use of multimedia forensics outside the controlled environment of research laboratories. It intended to offer a venue for theory- and data-driven techniques addressing the trustworthiness of media data and the ability of verifying their integrity to prevent harmful misuses, seeking solutions at the edge of signal processing, deep learning, and multimedia analysis.

~ Alessandro Ortis

2nd IAPR/IEEE LATAM Summer School on Advanced Biometric Techniques

Hybrid Event

Cancun, MX - Nov 3-7, 2025

The 2nd IAPR LATAM Summer School on Advanced Biometric Techniques (SSABT 2025) was held on November 3-7, 2025, at the Centro de Vinculación y Desarrollo Regional (CVDR) of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional in Cancun, Mexico, as a hybrid event organized by BRECS.NET, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Universidad Católica del Maule, and the research project ANID FONDECYT Regular No. 1251236.

SSABT 2025 aimed to provide up-to-date skills to participating students, professionals, academics, and researchers from the Latin American region in technical, regulatory, and ethical aspects of advanced biometric systems, offering a unique opportunity to connect with senior scientists and promote researchers' collaboration networks. This Latin America SSABT edition, endorsed by the IAPR Technical Committee on Biometrics (TC4) and the IEEE Biometrics Council, becomes the third series of international high-level training on biometrics, joining the existing ones in Sassari (Italy) and Shenzhen (China).

We appreciate and thank the local organizers from the Instituto Politécnico Nacional - ESIME Culhuacán of Mexico, the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR) for its endorsement, and the IEEE Biometrics Council for its recognition, making this event possible.

The SSABT Program comprised five distinguished keynote lectures, eight keynote lectures, and a Doctoral Symposium session.

Distinguished Keynotes and Keynote Lecturers and their topics are shown in the box to the right.

The Doctoral Symposium (DS) was a well-structured, dedicated platform during the last day of the program. At the DS, students presented their doctoral/master investigations as digital poster presentations, providing a unique opportunity for students to interact with experienced researchers and other students and discuss their own research. All posters were included in a "Book of Abstracts" to promote knowledge sharing.

The enthusiastic participation of the students in the DS facilitated a positive and engaging learning environment. Moreover, the students' presentations demonstrated a deep understanding of their research areas, the ability to answer questions, and good overall presentation skills.

IAPR and IEEE supported scholarships for graduate/ postgraduate students, which significantly defrayed the costs of attending the summer school, specifically travel and accommodation expenses. Scholarships were granted based on: academic and scientific merit, financial need, statement of purpose, and diversity. Additionally, the school offered BRECS. NET scholarships for online students and researchers.

Scholarship contributions from IAPR and IEEE significantly increased accessibility to summer school, especially for students from different Latin American countries, and enriched the learning experience for all attendees. The scholarships also contributed to the Doctoral Symposium's success by encouraging students to present their research.

Participants rated the school highly for "likelihood to attend a future edition" (9.54/10) and "likelihood to recommend this event to a friend or colleague" (92/100). In future events, we intend to:

Incorporate more hands-on projects and real-world case studies.

Promote more gender diversity to build on women's participation.

Explore opportunities for collaboration with industry partners to provide practical insights and potential career opportunities.

Explore additional funding opportunities, including sponsorship, to ensure the scholarship programs can continue and include more in-person lecturers.

Create a repository of online resources, such as lecture recordings, presentation slides, and supplementary materials, to enhance learning and accessibility.

The 3rd edition of the Summer School on Advanced Biometric Techniques (SSABT 2026) will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from December 9 –12, 2025, and will be organized by the Universidad de Buenos Aires. We plan to apply for continued support of the IAPR and the IEEE Biometrics Council to provide scholarship funding.

~ *Ruber Hernández García*
SSABT Director

The School Program Lectures and Presenters

Distinguished Keynotes

Thirty Years of Face Recognition Research
Massimo Tistarelli, Università degli Studi di Sassari (Italy)

Using Foundation Models in Biometrics
Arun Ross, Michigan State University (USA)

Automatic Gait Analysis: From Who You Are to How You Move
Manuel J. Marin, Universidad de Córdoba (Spain)

Improving Driving Security Using Mood, Drowsiness, and Distraction Estimation
Héctor M. Pérez Meana, Inst. Politécnico Nacional (Mexico)

The Trend of Gait Recognition: The Rise of Large Vision Models
Shiqi Yu, Southern Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

Keynote Lectures

Reimagining Biometrics: From Foundation Models to Explainable Decisions
Naser Damer, Fraunhofer IGD & TU Darmstadt (Germany)

Synthetic Data in Biometric Recognition
Evaldas Borcovas, Neurotechnology (Lithuania)

Efficient Soft Biometrics and Gait Identification
Francisco M. Castro, Universidad de Málaga (Spain)

Biometrics and Cybersecurity: Moving Beyond Passwords for Digital Protection
José Portillo, Instituto Politécnico Nacional (Mexico)

Presentation Attack Detection: New Insight into ID Card Synthetic Generation
Juan Tapia, Hochschule Darmstadt (Germany)

Towards Large-scale Palm Vein Recognition: Approaches Based on Synthetic Data
Ruber Hernández García, Univ. Católica del Maule (Chile)

When AI Lies: Deepfake Generation and Detection in Biometric Systems
Gibran Benítez, Univ. of Electro-Communications (Japan)

Ask, Compare, Fix: A Q&A Approach to Secure Code with Prototype-Based Meta-Learning
Aldo Hernández Suárez, Inst. Politécnico Nacional (Mexico)

IAPR/IEEE LATAM Summer School on Advanced Biometric Techniques (SSABT 2025)

Report from Juan Sebastian Perez, Scholarship Recipient

First of all, I would like to thank the IAPR and IEEE Biometric Council for the scholarship. Attending this summer school was a valuable experience, full of academic and professional growth.

Since I first became involved in topics related to artificial intelligence and biometrics, I realized there was a long road ahead, ranging from the different types of biometrics to the vast number of tools, methods, and, most importantly, real-world applications that can be used to address practical problems in each of these areas. Therefore, when I heard about the opportunity to attend this summer school, my expectations were high regarding the topics we would explore.

And those expectations were fully met with valuable information on facial recognition, synthetic data, biometrics and cybersecurity, gait identification, palm vein and iris recognition, perspectives from industry, and the current and future trends in AI models. All of these topics made the LATAM SSABT a remarkable experience. It offered a broad overview, a step up that allowed us, as engineers, students, educators, and researchers, to stand on the shoulders of giants, to see what lies on the horizon, to recognize the milestones we have achieved, and to envision the challenges and opportunities the future holds.

Had I attended virtually, I would have said that this was my experience of the event. However, having the chance to participate in person made it far more enriching. Only a few days have passed, yet I already miss the chance to listen to one of the speakers and then discuss their ideas with colleagues. Sharing experiences with researchers, hearing their opinions on the topics discussed, and learning from different perspectives are what made this experience truly unforgettable.

Lastly, I would like to highlight what made this edition of SSABT unique: It was the LATAM SSABT. Each country has its own priorities and resources, but as Latin American nations, we share many of the same challenges. Being able to exchange knowledge and explore possible solutions within similar contexts made this summer school a unique and deeply enriching experience, both academically and culturally.

Once again, I sincerely thank the IAPR and the IEEE Biometric Council for the scholarship, Professor Ruber Hernández for making this event possible, and all the colleagues with whom I had the pleasure of sharing this experience. I hope to see you all again in future editions.

~ Juan Sebastian Perez

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FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO PATTERN RECOGNITION FOLKS

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Clickable!

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IAPR Conference Proceedings webpage *OR* Springer IAPR webpage

For a list of the current IAPR member societies, see *iapr.org/aboutus/organizations.php*

Meeting and Education Planner

Month	Days	Meetings, Workshops & Schools	Previous edition & link to Report	Venue	Paper/ Application Deadline
= Sponsored by IAPR		**2026**			
Mar	2-4	ICPRAM 2026 15th International Conference on Pattern Recognition Applications and Methods	2025	Marbella **Spain**	closed
	2-4	ROBOVIS 2026 6th International Conference on Robotics, Computer Vision and Intelligent Systems	2025	Marbella **Spain**	closed
	9-11	VISAPP 2026 21st International Conference on Computer Vision Theory and Applications	2025	Marbella **Spain**	closed
Jun	24-27	MCPR 2026 18th Mexican Conference on Pattern Recognition	2025	Ciudad Juárez **Mexico**	Jan 31 2026
Jul	16-17	DeLTA 2026 7th International Conference on Deep Learning Theory and Applications	2024	Porto **Portugal**	Mar 3 2026
Aug	17-22	ICPR 2026 28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition	2024	Lyon **France**	closed
	24-26	S+SSPR 2026 Joint IAPR International Workshops on Statistical Techniques in Pattern Recognition and Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition	2024	Bern **Switzerland**	May 15 2026
Aug-Sept	30-4	ICDAR 2026 20th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition	2024	Vienna **Austria**	Feb 27 2026
Sept	1-4	IJCB 2026 IEEE/IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics PENDING SPONSORSHIP	2025	Rome **Italy**	Apr 10 2026
Oct	7-9	ANNPR 2026 12th TC3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks in Pattern Recognition	2024	Milan **Italy**	May 14 2026
Dec	9-12	CVIP 2026 11th International Conference on Computer Vision and Image Processing PENDING ENDORSEMENT	2024	Calicut **India**	Apr 15 2026

This cartoon inspired a literature search for "cats and machine learning," which returned:

Smit, M., Corner-Thomas, R., Draganova, I., Andrews, C., & Thomas, D. (2024). How lazy are pet cats really? Using machine learning and accelerometry to get a glimpse into the behaviour of privately owned cats in different households. *Sensors (Basel), 24(8)* doi: 10.3390/s24082623

~CB

At some point, we'll have to focus on training, rather than just batting at the cursor...

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IAPR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29	Mar 30 *Invited Next Gen, 50 Years Essays Due*	Mar 31	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3 *Invited Getting to Know IAPR Fellow Essay Due*	Apr 4
Apr 5	Apr 6 *New ads, plus...* ***All Meeting Reports!*** ***ALL Meeting Reports!*** ***ALL MEETING REPORTS***	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10 *Standing Committee Columns/News; Technical Committee News; Changes to existing ads*	Apr 11
Apr 12	Apr 13 *From the ExCo Essay and News Points*	Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 16	Apr 17 *Conference Calls for Papers, Proposals, & Applications*	Apr 18
Apr 19 through Apr 25: ***Final Copy Draft and Review Week (New materials can no longer be accepted)***						
Apr 26	Apr 27 *Publication Day (Planned)*	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 31

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IAPR Newsletter

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Please email comments or ideas to EiC or LE! Thank you!