THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION

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IAPR Newsletter

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International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON

From the Editor's Desk

A Letter from IAPR President Lale Akarun

I am very excited to be serving as the President of IAPR, and I thank the Governing Board members for their confidence. It is a great honor. I have been part of this community for the last 25 years. My first ICPR was Quebec City, 2002, and I have attended most ICPRs since then. In 2010, a good friend and colleague, Prof. Aytül Erçil, organized ICPR in Istanbul, and the welcome reception was on my university campus, Bogaziçi University. Bogaziçi means Bosphorus in Turkish, and the campus has the best views of the Bosphorus Strait, overlooking Asia from the European side.

My research has been on biometrics and human-computer interaction, and I have been involved in the activities of TC4 (Biometrics). After technical activity involvement and serving on IAPR Standing Committees, I was elected to the Executive Committee (ExCo) as the 2nd Vice President of IAPR at ICPR 2018 in Beijing, then served two more terms as 1st Vice President. Since then, I have been involved in various IAPR activities including Awards, EDI, and Technical Committees.

The photo (right) was taken at the open-air photobooth with a group of young women at ICPR 2026 in Lyon. You will read about the excellent organization and technical presentations in this Newsletter (see Table of Contents, left). Let me express my thanks to the organizers, not only for the top-tier technical content, but also for the excellent hospitality. Lyon really deserves its title

continued on page 2...

The views expressed in this newsletter represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily those of their host institutions or of the IAPR.

...A Letter from the IAPR President, continued

of gastronomic capital of France. We had excellent food for four days, starting with the reception on Sunday and continuing through the banquet on Wednesday, which ended with a birthday cake in celebration of the IAPR's 50th anniversary. We held our breath as the chefs struggled to fit the huge cake through the door. Fortunately, they were able to carry it into the room without any accidents, and we had a proper celebration with cake, flashing lights, music and dancing.

Wednesday was also Women's Day of the conference, starting with the Maria Petrou Prize lecture. This prestigious IAPR prize honoring the memory of Professor Maria Petrou is awarded to a successful women scientist/engineer at each ICPR. The award lecture was followed by a Women's lunch and a W4PR Panel. The panelists talked about roadblocks encountered by women in science careers and discussed steps that can be taken to reduce barriers. As the third woman president of IAPR, after Gabriella Sanniti di Baja and Ingela Nyström, I am grateful to these colleagues who have been perfect role models. I feel that I owe it to all women scientists to take meaningful action to minimize or eliminate gender-specific career roadblocks, and I plan to make this my personal priority.

The new ExCo had its first meeting on the last day of ICPR, with excellent colleagues who bring a lot of expertise and enthusiasm to the ExCo: Past President Bob Fisher, Secretary Ida-Maria Sintorn, Treasurer Arun Ross, 1st Vice President Jose Francisco Martinez-Trinidad, and 2nd Vice President Umapada Pal. I thank the outgoing Past President, Arjan Kuijper, and Secretary Josep Llados for all their hard work as well as their continuing support.

We talked about our priorities for the next term. First, we would like to grow our membership by expanding to parts of the world where we could welcome and support more new member societies such as Africa, the Middle East and South America, and by increasing the membership of existing societies. The second priority is to increase impact and the third is to increase inclusiveness.

ICPR is normally held every two years. In 2028, it will be in Sydney, Australia, and in 2030, in Daegu, Korea. We believe the organizers will work hard to achieve our goals and will increase the impact and technical quality of papers. Because advances in Pattern Recognition have accelerated sharply, two years is proving to be an inconveniently long time between ICPR events. Although our member and technical societies hold their own conferences and workshops in the off years, a common annual event would improve global PR research communications. To meet this need, a virtual ICPR will be organized for the first time in 2027. We hope that ICPRv will also help us increase inclusiveness: no visa problems, no travel costs, and a very low attendance fee for students. On top of that, the doctoral consortium will offer valuable advice and networking opportunities for students. Making ICPRv a success is an important goal, and your participation can help: Organize your workshops, recommend it to your students, send papers, and participate in ICPRv!

~Lale Akarun, IAPR President

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	2027	Calls and Deadlines (in order from earliest **paper deadline** (other deadlines vary in order))
ICPRS 2027 Mar 8-11, 2027 Talence (Bordeaux), France	16th International Conference on Pattern Recognition Systems	**Papers:** ~~Oct 25, 2026~~ extended to Nov 7, 2026
SCIA 2027 Jun 8-11, 2027 Gjovik, Norway	Scandinavian Conference on Image Analysis	**Papers:** Jan 26, 2027
IJCB 2027 Sep 13-17, 2027 Foz do Iguacu, Brazil	2027 IEEE/IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics	**Papers:** Apr 10, 2027
ICPRv 2027 Oct 4-6 & 14-15, 2027 Online	International Conference on Pattern Recognition Virtual	**Papers:** Mar 1, 2027
ICDAR 2027 Aug 18-22, 2027 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	21st International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition	**Papers:** Feb 28, 2027

ICPRv2027

October 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15, 2027 https://iapr.org/icpr-2027/

the inaugural INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PATTERN RECOGNITION (Virtual)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **International Conference on Pattern Recognition Virtual (ICPRv)** is the virtual extension of the flagship physical conference of the International Association for Pattern Recognition, the 29th edition of ICPR. Like its physical counterpart, this fully virtual conference encompasses a wide range of topics where Pattern Recognition methods are applied in fields including Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Image Processing, Speech and Natural Language Processing, and Sensor Pattern Processing.

The Inaugural ICPRv, to be held in 2027, offers an excellent platform for students, academics, and industry researchers to foster new ideas and collaborations. Unlike the face-to-face ICPR conferences, ICPRv will not have tracks and plenary sessions. Instead, all papers will be presented in two-hour thematic sessions of papers on the same topic. This will create sessions with a more focused and specialized workshop-like feel, with opportunities for discussion and interaction with the authors. Authors will identify their preferred thematic session topic when they submit their paper. Delegates can attend any and all of the live thematic sessions, which will also be recorded for the benefit of delegates wanting to attend simultaneous sessions or sessions at inconvenient times.

Along with traditional ICPR conference topics listed at the end of this CFP, we encourage papers on truly novel research problems. Examples include (but are not restricted to):

1. **Universal Neuro-Symbolic Knowledge Engines:** Foundation models still hallucinate and update knowledge poorly. New architectures should fuse LLMs with dynamic knowledge graphs to absorb rich documents, update world models without retraining, and enable provable reasoning over evolving scientific and enterprise data.
2. **Omnimodal Embodied World Models:** Current research still treats vision, audio, and text separately. The next step is to build omnimodal world models that integrate physics and asynchronous IoT signals, enabling robots to understand real-world causal rules and transfer smoothly from simulation to deployment.
3. **Continuous-Time Fluid Architectures:** Efficient AI still relies on discrete tokens and batching. The next frontier is continuous, asynchronous architectures that adapt compute to signal entropy, using little energy for simple data and deeper reasoning only for anomalies or complex patterns.
4. **Mechanistic Fairness and Provable Unlearning:** Current trustworthy AI methods remain largely post-hoc. The next step is to combine mechanistic interpretability and algorithmic fairness so models can isolate and remove specific biases or sensitive content, with provable guarantees of privacy and fairness for critical domains such as law and medicine.
5. **Adversarial Co-Evolutionary Data Ecosystems:** As generative AI advances, the generator–detector arms race is becoming unsustainable. A next step is closed-loop ecosystems where generators and forensic models co-evolve during training, embedding cryptographic provenance and robust invisible watermarks directly into generated outputs.
6. **Causal Discovery Foundation Models:** Causal discovery remains an emerging field. The next leap is foundation models that can design experiments, intervene in simulations, and infer causal equations from observational data, moving beyond prediction to uncover the physical or economic laws governing a system.
7. **Hyper-Personalized Cognitive Digital Twins:** Personalized systems remain separate from advanced LLM reasoning. The next step is privacy-preserving, edge-based cognitive twins that learn a user's physiological, emotional, and behavioral patterns, anticipate complex needs, and keep sensitive biometric and behavioral data strictly on-device.

continued on page 4...

ICPRv2027

October 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15, 2027 https://iapr.org/icpr-2027/

CALL FOR PAPERS, continued from previous page

Important dates and deadlines
(subject to change; see website)

- Paper registration deadline: March 1, 2027
- Paper submission deadline: March 8, 2027
- Reviews to authors: April 16, 2027
- Author rebuttal (optional): April 23, 2027
- Author notification: May 31, 2027
- Camera-ready submission: June 7, 2027
- Conference website open for delegate viewing: September 27, 2027
- Conference: October 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15, 2027 (Times will be announced later)

Submission and Review

ICPRv-2027 will follow a double-blind review process.

Paper Format and Length

Two types of papers are accepted: short (8 pages) and long (15 pages). Both types will be included in the proceedings published by Springer. The format is Springer's LNCS style layout. See "Instructions for Authors" for more conditions and the paper templates.

We look forward to your participation in ICPRv 2027

Contact: icpr27pc@iapr.org
General Chairs: Robert Fisher, Tin Kam Ho, Larry O'Gorman, Lale Akarun
Program Chairs: Adel M. Alimi, David Doermann, Albert Ali Salah, Terrence Sim, Vitomir Struc, Guoying Zhao

In addition to the novel research areas described on page 3, ICPRv continues to welcome traditional ICPR topics as listed below:

3D vision
Action, behavior, and event recognition
Affective computing
Audio and speech processing
Autonomous driving
Bioinformatics
Biological vision models
Biometrics and forensics
Clustering and statistical models
Computational imaging
Computer aided diagnostics
Computer analysis of human behavior (inc. face, body, pose, gestures, etc.)
Computer graphics
Computer vision for robotics and autonomous driving
Datasets and evaluation
Deep learning
Document analysis and understanding
Efficient and scalable AI
Embodied vision
Event-based cameras
Explainability and interpretability in pattern recognition
Few-shot and zero-shot learning
Generative models
Graph-based and Bayesian models
Human Computer Interaction
Image analysis and recognition
Image and video processing
Image and video synthesis and generation
Image detection and segmentation
Large Language Models (LLMs) and Vision Language Models (VLMs)
Low-level vision
Machine learning (inc. supervised, unsupervised, semi- and weakly-supervised, etc.)
Medical and biomedical imaging, cell microscopy
Motion and video analysis
Multimodal and multi-label learning
Natural language processing (NLP)
Neural networks
Object detection and recognition
Online, continual, and active learning
Optimization methods
Photogrammetry and remote sensing
Physics-based vision and shape-from-X
Representation learning
Scene analysis and understanding
Social signal processing
Text detection and recognition
Theory of computer vision and pattern recognition
Transfer learning
Transparency, fairness, accountability, privacy, ethics
Vision applications and systems
Vision, language, and reasoning

Calls from IAPR Committees

From the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee: A Call for Your Memories

Nearly 50 years ago (1978), the IAPR officially began life as a non-profit, world-wide, supportive organization for pattern recognition researchers. At ICPR 2028, we plan to celebrate this milestone for our community, recognize our successes, and begin the next 50 years with an even stronger sense of identity and purpose.

As part of the celebration in 2028, we plan to release a commemorative 50th Anniversary book. You can read about the book project here. We are eager to collect materials not only to preserve the history of IAPR, but to incorporate them into the book, where possible, and acknowledge the contributions of the many individuals who helped make the IAPR what it is today. ***Please make it a priority to share your memories from IAPR's long history with us now by emailing*** 50th@iapr.org. **Quality photos of identified people from ICPR events are needed!**

Please also consider donating to the book project.

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 the IAPR Second Vice President (2nd-vice-president@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.

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.

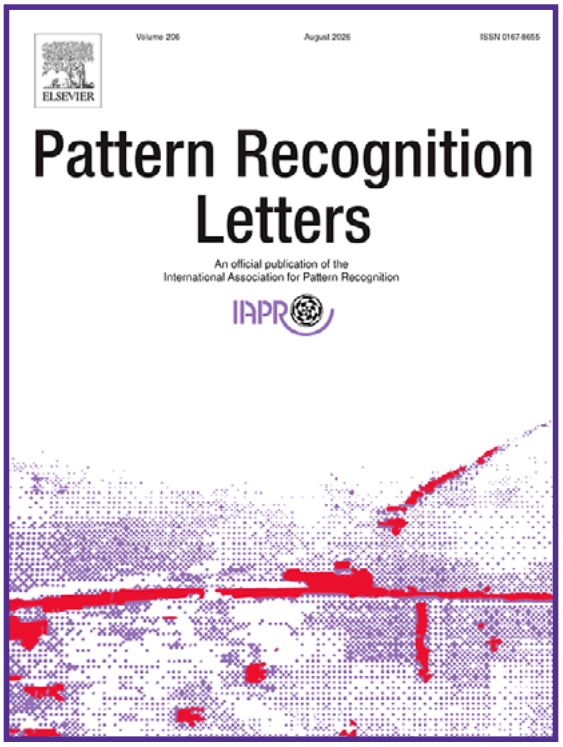
Proposals are submitted about one year in advance with respect to the requested submission slot (i.e., the period in which submissions will be uploaded). We divide each year into four quarters, starting in January, April, July, and October. We collect proposals during the first month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., **for the Jan-Mar 2028 Special Issue, proposals will be collected in Jan 2027**). Decisions are made in the second month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., Feb 2027), and prospective GEs are notified in the third month of the quarter of the year before (e.g., Mar 2027). 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 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

Pattern Recognition Letters, a reference journal for the IAPR, is extending its Editorial Board.



We encourage researchers with a strong background in pattern recognition methodologies and related applications to send us their CV.

Selection criteria for Associate Editors (AEs) will include:

1) Scientific experience in pattern recognition, as testified by profiles on Google and Scopus and by an H-index >=20
2) Demonstrated continuity in H-index growth
3) Past engagement with Pattern Recognition *or* Pattern Recognition Letters*, including published papers, reviews, and/or editing of special issues*
4) Note that candidates with many roles (directors, AEs, chairs, PIs, committee members, etc.) often miss deadlines and fall short of expected diligence and are therefore unlikely to be selected.

Other considerations that will be taken into account:

*5) **Location:** The editorial team should represent a wide variety of regions/countries.*
*6) **Diversity:** The editorial team should be balanced in genders, ethnicities, etc.*
*7) **Research Areas/Topics:** AEs should represent various fields for a balanced workload.*

We are seeking AEs with the knowledge and experience to make final recommendations for PR-related papers. A CV that focuses on PR-related research therefore suggests a stronger candidate than a publication list from a variety of unrelated fields.

From the ExCo...

Introducing the New IAPR Executive Committee

At ICPR 2026 in Lyon, the Governing Board appointed the new Executive Committee for the term 2026-2028. Their term began in August of 2026.

Second Vice President Umapada Pal
Indian Statistical Institute, India

First Vice President Jose Francisco Martinez-Trinidad
National Institute for Astrophysics, Optics, & Electronics, Mexico

President Lale Akarun
Bogaziçi University, Türkiye

Secretary Ida-Maria Sintorn
Uppsala University, Sweden

Treasurer Arun Ross
Michigan State University, USA

Past President Robert Fisher
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

News Briefs From the IAPR ExCo

Thank you, ICPR 2026 Lyon team! The IAPR Executive Committee extends its sincere gratitude to everyone behind this incredibly successful event.

Governing Board decisions. At ICPR 2026 in Lyon, the Governing Board appointed a new ExCo for the term 2026-2028 (above). To partially offset rising costs due to inflation over the past few years, the GB voted for an increase in Member Society fees. In addition, TC10 (Graphics Recognition) will merge with TC11 (Reading Systems) to form a new TC 11: Document Analysis and Recognition. After bid presentations for ICPR 2030, the GB voted for Daegu, South Korea. Congratulations to the winners! We look forward to ICPR 2030!

The IAPR history book project: The celebratory anniversary activities will continue and peak at the next in-person ICPR in Sydney, Australia. The ExCo is promoting the publication of a commemorative book that will reflect on the history of the IAPR and pattern recognition and explore emerging trends and future directions in the field. Read more about this exciting project here.

ICPRv - The call for papers for the first Virtual International Conference on Pattern Recognition is available here and at the ICPRv website. ICPRv 2027 will be held online, October 4-6 and 14-15, 2027. Papers will follow the same length, rigorous review process, and quality standards as in-person ICPRs, and Springer will publish proceedings. ICPRv 2027 will provide an inclusive and accessible opportunity for the global pattern recognition community to engage, present, and collaborate.

Summer and Winter Schools. The IAPR encourages Technical Committees to organize summer and winter schools, recognizing their value in connecting students and early career researchers with senior scientists. We provide support and resources. Further details are available here.

ICPR 2032. The ExCo encourages all members to start thinking and planning to submit a bid to organize ICPR 2032. The decision will be made at the Governing Board meeting at ICPR 2028 in Sydney, Australia.

Organizers of conferences and worskhops of IAPR. The ExCo has approved new guidelines for endorsing IAPR TC workshops hosted by large well-renowned conferences as well as workshops co-organized with other reputable workshops. To find events sponsored and endorsed by IAPR, please go to iapr.org/conferences/conference-schedule. By signing up with your name and email address here, you will also get announcements via email of IAPR events.

Theo Pavlidis. The IAPR ExCo is saddened to hear of the recent passing of Theodosius Pavlidis, King Sun Fu Prize recipient (2000), FIAPR (1994), and a founding member of the IAPR. A memorial is planned for the January issue of *IAPR Newsletter.* We invite your memories and comments at cab@sayitbetterscience.com.

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.*

W4PR: On the Path to Inclusion

Dear Readers,

I begin this column with the announcement that after about five years as Chair of the IAPR EDI Standing Committee, I am stepping down because I believe it is time to give space to fresher energies and ideas. While it is sad that progress on the path to equity and inclusion is currently suffering a worrisome slow-down in our everyday lives, if not tending toward inversion, I remain hopeful and dedicated to this cause. I strongly urge the scientific community to struggle against anti-EDI initiatives, and to serve as an example of support for inclusion, for others to follow in different contexts.

Along these lines, it is worth devoting the remainder of this column to the W4PR (Women for Pattern Recognition) panel and Women's Lunch that were held during ICPR 2026 in Lyon. Alexandra Branzan Albu, a W4PR Chair and extraordinary organizer, provides a complete and very useful report on the panel discussion, audience feedback, and useful outcomes in this issue of the *Newsletter* (linked here). Therefore, in this space I will reflect on three main challenges faced by EDI initiatives, all of which were addressed during the panel discussion, and the positive impact of dedicated discussions like the ICPR Women's Lunch and W4PR. Perhaps others will read about these events here or in Alexandra's report (or both!) and will apply the lessons to other contexts.

Challenge One: Difficult choices. Biologically, women must choose or find a balance between having a child/children and furthering a career. Delaying an academic or research career is not always possible in our communities without relegation to secondary positions. For some women this choice could be quite natural and not dramatic; for others it may eventually give rise to an unquenchable regret. Attempting both is extremely arduous, sometimes impossible, without support from the family and/or the research community. A quote heard during the panel summarizes the picture: "So I really love my work, but it has a cost. And being a woman means more pressure than being a man in this world."

This challenge reflects a message that has been central to many of my EDI columns over the years: A woman's (or minority group member's) career trajectory can look different from the conventional academic pathway, and institutions and professional communities should accommodate those differences rather than expecting everyone to progress according to the same timeline. Alexandra's report includes some positive news on that front. But effective institutional support needs to go beyond general flexibility. Leaders should discuss career aspirations with individuals, clarify expectations around research, teaching and service, and create environments in which people feel able to request and obtain opportunities. Community allyship, creating agency rather than dependency, can boost individual progress.

Challenge Two: **Strengthening the Pipeline.** Career choices are often influenced not only by universities or employers but by deep-rooted social expectations and family advice. Consequently, increasing women's and girls' participation in AI and pattern recognition requires interventions across the pipeline: encouraging girls' interest in computing, making women scientists visible, supporting students and early-career researchers, accommodating different career trajectories, and creating environments in which women can remain and progress.

Challenge Three: Gender Representative Burnout. When institutions strive to offer leadership opportunities to women, and the pool of women who are advanced enough in their fields to successfully take on leadership positions is small, that small pool of women will be inundated and over-extended with leadership responsibilities. It would seem that the only remedy to this situation is to meet the second challenge more effectively; however, the same types of support suggested in response to the first challenge can also help decrease burnout.

In the end, the common understanding is that not only women but all disadvantaged groups should aim at creating communities able to provide reciprocal support and mentoring. This was underscored in the very engaging Women's Lunch before the panel, where attendees shared experiences and ideas on the topic of inclusion. To favor an even larger collaboration and communication, all interested researchers, either women or men, are invited to send thoughts and suggestions to the new IAPR President, Lale Akarun via this link.

Therefore, I encourage whoever has suggestions in support of inclusion for IAPR, and/or for sponsored events, to submit those suggestions, and I invite all of you to embody the EDI principles in your life and everyday work.

~ Maria De Marsico

The 28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PATTERN RECOGNITION

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

SPECIAL REPORT pp. 9-26

including: Event Report, Getting to Know (new) Fellows, Next Generation article, and more...

Goals

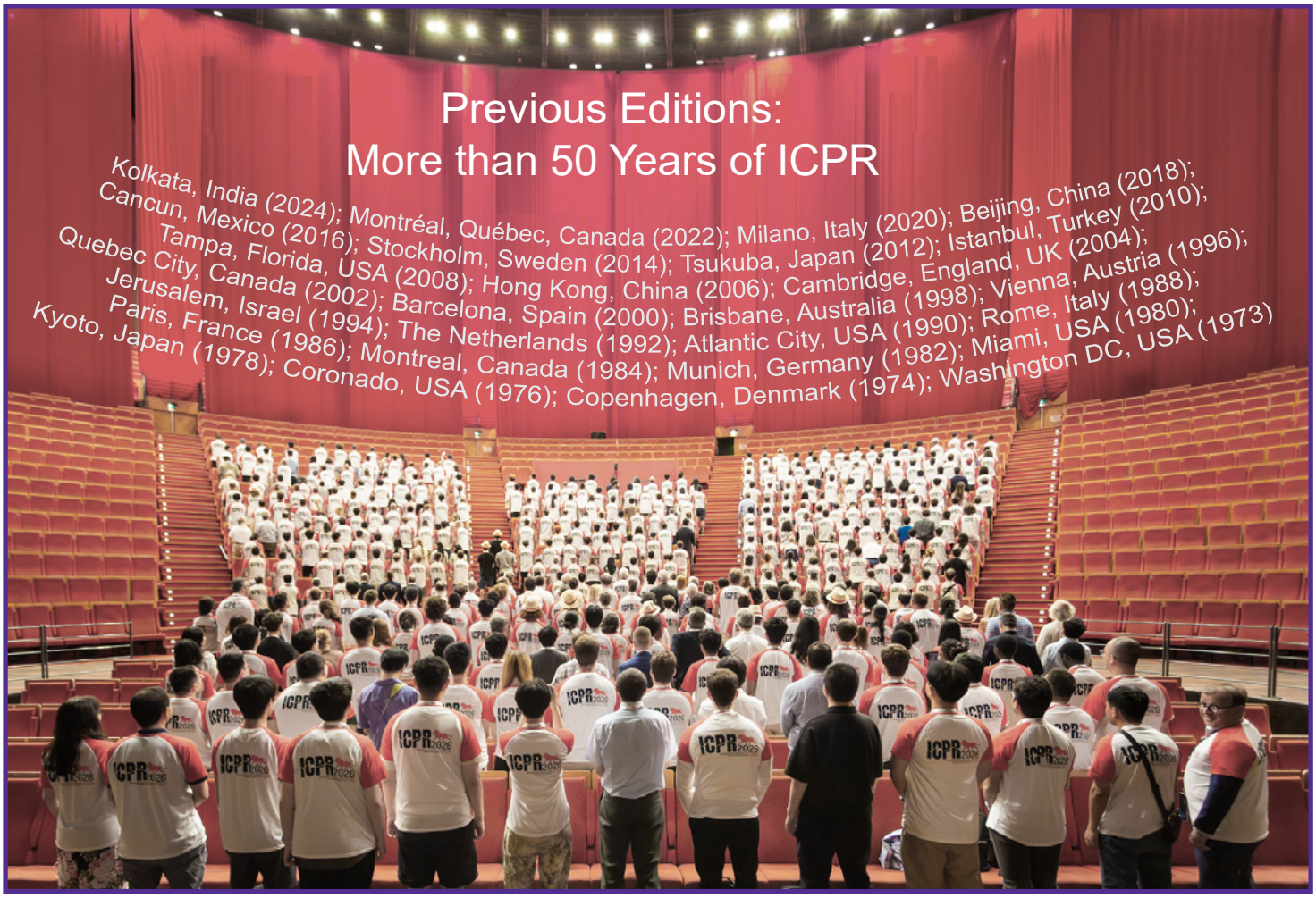
ICPR is the flagship conference of the International Association for Pattern Recognition and the premier conference in Pattern Recognition, covering Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Image Processing, Speech Processing, Sensor Pattern Processing, and many other related areas of research.

Organizers

General Chairs:
Jean-Marc Ogier, *University of La Rochelle, France*
Tin Kam Ho, *IBM Research, USA*
Cheng-Lin Liu, *Institute of Automation, CAS, China*
Dan Lopresti, *Lehigh University, USA*

Program Chairs:
Maria De Marsico, *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*
Frederic Jurie, *University of Caen, France*
Ingela Nyström, *Uppsala University, Sweden*
Arun Ross, *Michigan State University, USA*
Liang Wang, *National Lab of Pattern Recognition, China*

Click for Complete List of Organizers



ICPR 2026 Logistics & Data

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

Sponsored by IAPR with

Submissions
Papers Received: **1432**
Papers were reviewed in a single-blind process
Papers Accepted for Main Conference: **710 (49.58%)**
Accepted for Oral Presentation: **185** (13% of all submissions)
Accepted for Poster Presentation: **530** (37% of all submissions)
plus 5 Competition Papers

Approximately 70 countries represented

LCNS
Proceedings by Springer (multi-volume set)

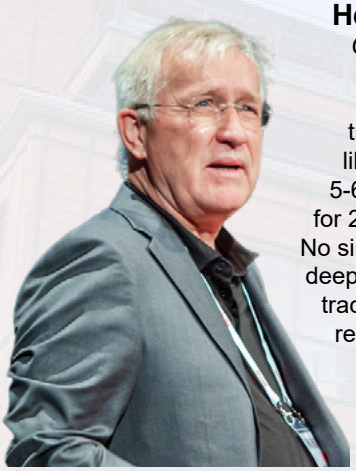
ICPR 2026 International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON — PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ... at a glance

Click on any box or specific link for more details in this Newsletter

- 4 Distinguished Keynote Speakers
- 3 IAPR Prize-Winner Keynote Lectures
- 23 Workshops
- 3 Social & Cultural Progams
- Women at ICPR (W4PR) Luncheon and Panel
- 10 Oral Sessions
- 4 Poster Sessions
- 7 Tutorials
- 5 Competitions
- Doctoral Consortium
- 3 Outstanding Scholarship Awards
- 15 IAPR Fellows & 8 Distinguished Service Awards
- 7 Best Scientific Paper Awards (BIRPA and by Track)
- 7 Best Student Paper Awards (Zamperoni Award and by Track)
- 3 Outstanding TC Awards & 5 Certificates of Appreciation

ICPR 2026 International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON

INVITED KEYNOTES
with abstracts



Henrik I. Christensen

Contextual Robotics Institute, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA

Building a Perception Stack for Autonomous Driving

Our current car-centric transport systems are congested, polluting, expensive, and often fail on short trips and first/last mile access. Micro-mobility fills these gaps with smaller, cleaner, cheaper modes like bikes, e-bikes, and scooters that work especially well for trips of a few miles or less. Over the past 5-6 years, we have built a perception stack to enable micro-mobility. Building robust perception systems for 24/7 operation is hard. We outlined how multi-sensory methods can provide the needed robustness. No single method is adequate to build a system. We use a mixture of traditional recognition methods and deep learning techniques to achieve the required performance. We presented our strategy for localization, tracking of road-users, and robust interaction in dynamic settings using a number of hybrid pattern recognition methods.

Alicia Fornes

Autonomous University of Barcelona.(UAB)

Challenges in Handwriting Recognition: The case of Historical Texts, Music Scores and Ciphers

Although Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) has been addressed for decades, the recognition of images of manuscripts is challenging. Current deep-learning architectures are powerful but they need a huge amount of training data. Not surprisingly, deep learning methods are not satisfactory in the case of low resource scenarios (when data or labeled data is scarce). This is the case with historical manuscripts, music scores, ciphered manuscripts or documents with rare scripts. This talk discussed some of the current challenges and overviewed some methods designed for coping with the limitations of few labelled data, including few-shot learning, synthetic data generation and self-supervised learning.

Cuntai Guan

Nanyang Technological University

Building a Foundation Model for EEG-based Brain-Computer Interfaces

Cuntai Guan is President's Chair Professor in Computer Science and Engineering and Deputy Dean of the College of Computing and Data Science at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Director of the Centre for Brain-Computing Research, and Co-Director of S-Lab for Advanced Intelligence. His research spans brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), machine learning, artificial intelligence, and their applications in rehabilitation and mental health. He is internationally recognized for his pioneering contributions to EEG-based BCI research, particularly in motor imagery BCIs, BCI-enabled stroke rehabilitation, and deep learning methods for clinically relevant BCI systems (no abstract available).

Zhu Jun

Department of Computer Science at Tsinghua University

Towards Building General World Models

World models are important to build artificial general intelligence, with key functions of perception, prediction and action in a learnable world. This talk presented some progress on building general world models (GWMs). Similar to the shift from transformers as basic language models to GPTs as general pretrained language models, GWMs are pre-trained large-scale world models, with tens billions or more parameters. I discussed the available data, the scalable architecture, and the efficient algorithms to build GWMs, and showcased high-performance digital content generation as well as embodied intelligence.

KEYNOTES FROM AWARD WINNERS with abstracts

Jiri Matas (Czech Technical University) **Winner of the IAPR King-Sun Fu Prize for seminal contributions to evidence aggregation in geometric computer vision**

Benchmarking for Robust Recognition in the Era of Multimodal Large Language Models

For many recognition problems, state-of-the-art solutions build on foundational models that are trained on huge datasets. Performance of such methods on standard tests in areas like visual recognition, retrieval and multimodal vision-language tasks is impressive, steadily improving over time. However, benchmarking methods that have seen, in the extreme cases, nearly all of the internet is difficult for at least two reasons. First, ensuring zero overlap between evaluation and training data becomes challenging. Second, as the performance gets comparable to the level of errors in the "ground truth," improvements of the methods may in fact be just overfitting to particular benchmarks. In the talk, I presented our efforts to provide quality data for reliable benchmarking. In the case of instance image retrieval, a novel approach to data collection addressing the issues was presented. For visual recognition, I focused on the very widely used ImageNet, discussed its flaws and described our approach to fixing them. The new benchmarks support interesting conclusions about the behavior, strengths and weaknesses of deep nets, VLMs and LLMs.
Note: Jiri Matas also recently won the prestigious IEEE 2026 PAMI Mark Everingham Prize

Zhangyang "Atlas" Wang (University of Texas at Austin) **Winner of the IAPR J. K. Aggarwal Prize for contributions to the efficient training and deployment of generative models with applications to language and vision**

Where Does Learning Live in the Spectrum? From Principal Low-Rank Gradients to Off-Principal RL Post-Training

This talk followed one question through the life of a foundation model: Where in the singular spectrum of its weights does learning actually happen? During pretraining, the gradient famously collapses onto a slowly-moving, low-rank principal subspace. Our prior work—including GaLore and APOLLO—turned that single fact into training that matches full-model quality at a fraction of the optimizer memory; A follow-up then showed this low-rank structure is also predictably uneven across layers, set by the model's own curvature geometry. That story yet takes a sharp turn in RL post-training. Looking at reinforcement learning with verifiable rewards (RLVR) through the same spectral lens, our recent study finds almost the mirror image: The singular values barely move; the input–output singular subspaces rotate instead, and the updates deliberately avoid the principal directions—the exact part of the spectrum that low-rank, principal-targeted adapters like LoRA and PiSSA are built to capture. We pin this down with direct causal interventions—rebasing the spectrum, holding the singular values fixed, and scrambling the subspaces—which trace the effect to a curvature-constrained bias the model inherits from how it was pretrained. The same analysis dissolves a popular claim along the way: The widely-cited result that RL updates only a tiny fraction of weights turns out to be a numeric precision artifact, not real sparsity. Reading this geometry correctly points to a different kind of post-training algorithm: Hold the spectrum fixed and move the singular frames on the Stiefel manifold. The new Isospectral Optimizer (ISO) both improves and accelerates RL training and lets separately-trained RL models be merged with no data and no rollouts. Taken together, we argue that the spectral structure of learning is regime-dependent, and that the "common wisdoms" of ML efficiency inherited from pretraining could be the wrong starting point for RL post-training.

Sanghamitra Bandopadhyay (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata) **Winner of the IAPR Maria Petrou Prize or pioneering contributions to pattern recognition, evolutionary computing and computational biology, and as a role model for young researchers**

From Biological Data to Discovery: Computational Methods for Life Sciences

The application of computational methods to biological data has transformed modern biological research, enabling researchers to identify complex patterns, uncover trends, infer relationships, and detect anomalies that may not be readily apparent through conventional approaches. This has accelerated the pace of biological discovery and provided deeper insights into the molecular and cellular processes underlying life, health, and disease. In this talk, I began with a brief overview of molecular biology, including the central dogma that describes the flow of genetic information from DNA to RNA and proteins. The diverse types of biological and healthcare data generated through modern technologies, including genomic, transcriptomic, single-cell, clinical, and drug-related data were then introduced. These large and heterogeneous datasets provide both unprecedented opportunities and significant computational challenges. The talk subsequently focused on selected computational methods developed in our group at the Indian Statistical Institute for biological data analysis and healthcare applications. These include classification-based approaches for predicting microRNA targets, clustering and computational analysis of single-cell RNA sequencing data, and multiobjective optimization approaches for drug design that seek to balance multiple competing objectives. An ongoing work on the analysis and prediction of adverse events arising from polypharmacy, an increasingly important problem in clinical practice, was also discussed. The talk concluded with an overview of emerging trends in the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning to healthcare and biomedical research. Key challenges, including data heterogeneity, interpretability, validation, bias, and privacy, were highlighted, along with some caveats that need to be considered as AI increasingly becomes part of healthcare and biological discovery.

WOMEN@ICPR PANEL

The Women@ICPR Panel, titled *Breaking Through Career Roadblocks,* took place on Wednesday, August 19, at ICPR 2026 in Lyon, France. It was the most recent gathering in a tradition that began in 2016. Since then, the Women@ICPR initiative (also known as W4PR) has made space at each ICPR conference for our community to reflect on the experiences of women in pattern recognition. I had the pleasure of facilitating the session, which brought together four colleagues at different stages of their careers: Sara Atito Ali Ahmed (Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing, University of Surrey, UK), Alicia Fornés (Computer Vision Center, Barcelona), Momina Moetesum (National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan), and Apostolos Antonacopoulos (University of Salford, UK), a past President of the IAPR who joined as an ally. The questions were inspired from a pre-panel survey of the community, and the conversation was full of insights and several ideas our community can act on.

The discussion began with caregiving, the roadblock mentioned more often than any other in our survey. Sara described the particular difficulty of being a new mother far from her own family, and the sense of guilt that accompanies it, the nagging feeling that doing more at work comes at the expense of family time, and family time comes at the expense of work. She also raised a practical point that our field does not discuss often enough: Conferences are where much of the networking, collaboration, and visibility of a research career takes place, and when they offer no childcare, or childcare that is expensive and limited, participation becomes far harder for parents of young children. She recalled being turned away from a conference lunchroom with a six-month-old and later arranging for a colleague to present a first-author paper because travelling with an infant was not feasible.

Momina spoke to a related barrier: the challenges that come with a non-standard career path. Having started her PhD later in life, she found herself too senior for early-career recognition yet not senior enough for other awards. This gap affects many of those who have taken caregiving breaks. She also noted the additional hurdles many of her colleagues face, including visa difficulties and expensive registration fees that make attending IAPR conferences difficult for researchers from some countries.

Alicia reflected on her long path to a permanent position and offered advice that resonated with the room: Proceed step by step, so the climb does not become overwhelming, but look at the big picture from time to time, because time is limited.

A recurring theme was the tension around representation. The panelists welcomed the greater participation of women on committees and panels, but they also highlighted its costs. Since women are still a minority in our field, the same individuals are invited repeatedly until they are stretched thin. As Apostolos observed, the long-term answer is not to keep returning to the same few people, but to develop many more, so that the pool of capable women colleagues is deep enough that no one carries that weight alone.

The panel also discussed the everyday experience of being underestimated, such as having one's own research explained back to oneself, often with no ill intent. Momina's response was to remind herself, deliberately and repeatedly, not to let that undermine her confidence, since a reviewer or committee is ultimately looking at the substance of the work. Sara recommended that women

WOMEN@ICPR PANEL continued

demonstrate their expertise when it is genuinely being overlooked but remain open to the possibility that a comment contains something worth hearing, rather than treating every such moment as one to defend against.

On allyship, Apostolos made specific, helpful observations. Leaders can help colleagues navigate the administrative processes (grant applications, ethics approvals, expense claims) that consume evenings and weekends; they can recognize that service work is often valued less at promotion than research; and they can actively make it acceptable for people to decline responsibilities that do not serve their career progress. Sara added an important qualification: Support should help people stand on their own rather than stand in for them. Well-meaning protection, she noted, can make a junior researcher appear dependent, so the aim should be to guide rather than to protect.

The discussion returned, more than once, to community. As I noted in inviting the community to the panel, systemic change is slow, but community is something we can build ourselves. Alicia credited the openness of the IAPR and document analysis community for making genuine collaboration possible, contrasting it with more competitive, aggressive environments. Collaboration, she pointed out, is difficult to sustain with someone who has just been dismissive of your work. Momina, who found her footing in the IAPR community from her early days, now mentors younger women returning after career breaks. Sara offered practical suggestions: Create small groups of mixed seniority in which people feel they belong, and establish a visible channel that advertises opportunities to contribute, along with the level of experience each requires, so that willing colleagues know where to offer their help.

The audience discussion was equally thoughtful, ranging from the persistent question of why computer science still attracts so few women (and whether newer framings such as AI and data science are beginning to shift that) to the challenge of sustaining these efforts alongside other important equity concerns. On the leaky pipeline issue, the panel's view was cautiously optimistic. Many talented women are now entering the field, and their leadership prospects are much better than a decade ago.

During the session, we learned that the "young scientist" stipulation for the J.K. Aggarwal Award has been modified to within ten years post-PhD, with flexibility for personal circumstances, and that the childcare demand will be communicated to the organizers of future ICPR conferences. These are modest changes, but they nevertheless represent positive steps by the IAPR toward dismantling gender-biased career roadblocks.

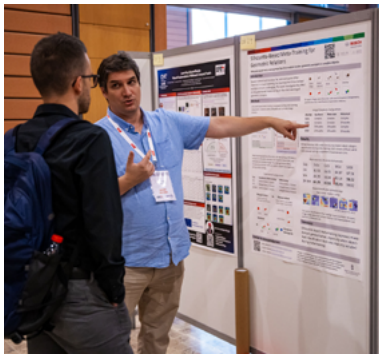
We closed on a measured note of optimism. The question, as Sara reframed it, is no longer simply whether women enter our field, but whether they progress, become visible, and lead. That is where much of our attention and community-building now needs to be directed.

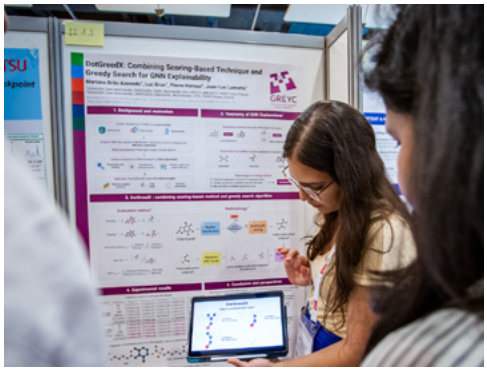
My thanks to our four panelists for their openness and inspiring stories, and to everyone who attended and contributed. This conversation does not end with the session. Please stay in touch*, and help us build the community that makes breaking through a little less solitary!

~ Alexandra Branzan Albu

** Use the link at the end of the EDI Column (page 8) to share your related ideas and suggestions with IAPR President Lale Akarun*

ICPR 2026 received 1432 paper submissions corresponding to approximately 4400 authors from approximately 70 countries. The acceptance rate was in line with previous editions. In this regard, it is important to emphasise that, since its inception, this conference has aimed to provide a training arena for younger researchers, offering them the opportunity to network with each other and with established scientists in the field. As expected, a majority of papers were submitted under the first track. The tracks with the highest number of accepted papers were Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Pattern Recognition (273 papers) and Computer and Robot Vision (191 papers). Ninety-four (94) papers were accepted for Image, Speech, Signal and Video Processing, 41 for Biometrics and Human Computer Interaction, 32 for Document Analysis and Recognition, and 79 for Biomedical Image Analysis and Bioinformatics. The conference can be considered as a crossing venue of the various research lines where different communities can interact and exchange ideas.





	Yooz Best Student Paper Awards by Track	IMDS Best Scientific Paper Awards by Track
Track 1 Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Pattern Recognition	**Colin Simmons** *Scalable Two-Sample Real-Time Evaluation Across Modalities for Generative Models* Colin Simmons and Haifeng Wang	***Eva Optimizer: Escaping Low-Curvature Traps in Deep Learning*** Carlo Metta, Antonio Di Cecco, Andrea Papini, Marco Fantozzi, Silvia Giulia Galfré, Michelangelo Vegliò, Luigi Amedeo Bianchi, Maurizio Parton, and Francesco Morandin
Track 2 Computer and Robot Vision	**Yuhang Song** *Dynamic Context Adapters: Efficiently Infusing History into Vision-and-Language Models* Yuhang Song, Bor-Jiun Lin, Jiaxu Liu, Te-Chuan Chiu, Anh Nguyen, and Chun-Yi Lee	***Few-shot Adaptive Open-set Object Detection with Personalized Scene Generation*** Yuzuru Nakamura, Yasunori Ishii, and Takayoshi Yamashita
Track 3 Image, Speech, Signal and Video Processing	**Jinkwon Hwang** *Blocking Visual Leakage: Visually-Agnostic Text Decomposition for Composed Video Retrieval* Jinkwon Hwang, Minuk Ma, Trung Xuan Pham, and Junyeong Kim	***Sign-to-Speech Prosody Transfer via Sign Reconstruction-based GAN*** Toranosuke Manabe, Yuto Shibata, Shinnosuke Takamichi, and Yoshimitsu Aoki
Track 4 Biometrics and Human Computer Interaction	**Md Ahmed Al Muzaddid** *Person Re-Identification via Generalized Class Prototypes* Md Ahmed Al Muzaddid and William Beksi	***GCD: Geometry–Constrained Contact-Aware |Diffusion for Text–Driven 3D Hand–Object Motion Synthesis*** Kossi Josué Adossehoun and Hazem Wannous

Track 5 Document Analysis and Recognition	**Kecia Moura** *A Prototypical Signature Approach for Writer-Independent Offline Signature Verification* Kecia Moura, Robert Sabourin, and Rafael Cruz	***Benchmarking Document Parsers on Mathematical Formula Extraction from PDFs*** Pius Horn and Janis Keuper
Track 6 Biomedical Image Analysis and Bioinformatics	**Raja Aasim Bin Saleem** *HistDiT: A Structure-Aware Latent Conditional Diffusion Model for High-Fidelity Virtual Staining in Histopathology* Raja Aasim Bin Saleem, Amr Ahmed, Ardhendu Behera, Hafeez Ullah Amin, Iman Yi Liao, Mahmoud Abdelazim Khattab, Pan Jia Wern, and Haslina Makmur	***Unsupervised Latent Context Representation of Electroencephalography for Label-Efficient Sleep Apnea Screening*** Yoonkyeong Kang, Chanmi Park, Yeonji Kim, and Wonjun Ko

AWARDS continued

The IAPR Best Industry Related Paper Award (BIRPA) was given to three papers:

CAFe-GS: Compactness-Aware Frequency-Guided Densification for 3D Gaussian Splatting
Léo-Paul Huar, Gustavo Sandri, Neus Sabater, Christine Guillemot, and Pierre Hellier

HistDiT: A Structure-Aware Latent Conditional Diffusion Model for High-Fidelity Virtual Staining in Histopathology
Raja Aasim Bin Saleem, Amr Ahmed, Ardhendu Behera, Hafeez Ullah Amin, Iman Yi Liao, Mahmoud Abdelazim Khattab, Pan Jia Wern, and Haslina Makmur

Few-shot Adaptive Open-set Object Detection with Personalized Scene Generation
Yuzuru Nakamura, Yasunori Ishii, and Takayoshi Yamashita

IAPR Piero Zamperoni Best Student Paper Award

Antonio Di Cecco
Eva Optimizer: Escaping Low-Curvature Traps in Deep Learning
Antonio Di Cecco, Carlo Metta, Andrea Papini, Maro Fantozzi, Silvia Giulia Galfré, Michelangelo Vegliò, Luigi Maedeo Bianchi, Maurizio Parton, and Francesco Morandin

IAPR Outstanding Technical Committee Award

TC 4 Biometrics
Shiqi Yu (Chair) and Vitomir Štruc (Vice Chair)
For sustained excellence in educational activities and for geographic diversity and inclusivity

IAPR Technical Committee Special Achievement Awards

TC 1 Statistical Pattern Recognition Techniques
TC 2 Structural and Syntactical Pattern Recognition
Chairs: Konstantinos Sechidis (TC1), Luca Rossie (TC2)
Vice-Chairs: Maura Pintor (TC1), Luca Cosmo & Xiao Bai (TC2)
For exemplary S+SSPR workshop organization

TC 19 Computer Vision for Cultural Heritage Applications
Gennaro Vessio (Chair) and Guillaume Caron (Vice Chair)
For strategic leadership in establishing PRESTIGE 2026

IAPR Certificates of Appreciation

Arjan Kuijper
For outstanding service to the IAPR, including IAPR President, 8 years on the Executive Committee, 5 years as IAPR Newsletter *Editor-in-Chief, and other work on several IAPR Standing Committees*

Igor Gurevich
For over twenty years of service to the IAPR, including 26 years on the Governing Board, more than 20 years leadership of Technical Committee 16, and more than 6 years on IAPR Standing Committees

Apostolos Antonacopoulo
For over twenty years of service to the IAPR, including IAPR President, 12 years on the Executive Committee, and more than 8 years in leadership roles on IAPR Standing Committees

Brian Lovell
For over twenty years of service to the IAPR, including IAPR President, 16 years on the Governing Board, 20 years on several IAPR Standing Committees, and Chairing roles in 4 ICPRs

Kim L. Boyer
For over twenty years of service to the IAPR, including IAPR President, 10 years on the Executive Committee, 14 years on the Governing Board, 12 years on several IAPR Standing Committees, and Program Committee Chair for 3 ICPRs

AWARDS continued

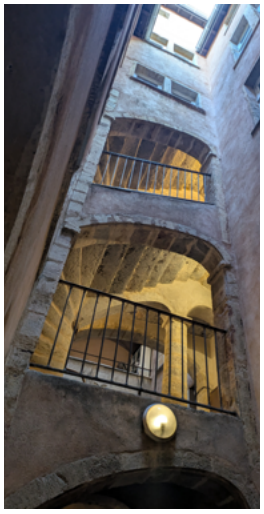
8 IAPR Distinguished Service Awards were announced at ICPR 2026. Citations were published in the July 2026 *IAPR Newsletter*, and more detailed summaries of their contributions are linked to their names below. (*- posthumous award)

The 2026 (inaugural) winners of this award are:

King-Sun Fu*, Herbert Freeman*, Jean-Claude Simon*, Michael Duff*, Josef Kittler, Walter Kropatsch, Susan Duff, and Gabriella Sanniti di Baja

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
Vieux Lyon

Images from a guided tour of Vieux Lyon, France's largest Rennaisance District. The tour included information on Lyon's famous history as the Culinary Capital of France, which dates back to the 18th and 19th century "*meres lyonnaises*" (Lyon mothers), women who left "aristocratic kitchens" to open well-loved restaurants in Lyon. The tour also took visitors through some of the *traboule* of Lyon—charming shortcuts through residential buildings—with rewarding views of famous hidden courtyards.



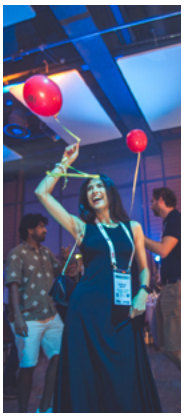
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
Fourvière and the Gala Dinner

Images from a guided tour of Fourvière. This hill district along the Saône river includes the Basilica of Notre Dame of Fourvière and spectacular views of the city of Lyon.

The ICPR Gala Dinner was held at the International Convention Center and featured French food, a huge cake to celebrate IAPR's upcoming 50th Anniversary, a few words from each of the former IAPR Presidents in attendance, the symbolic "passing of batons" from the old Executive Committee to the new, and the granting of IAPR Fellowship Awards, among other celebratory moments. All this was followed by a spectacular dance party!

ICPR 2026 International Conference on Pattern Recognition LYON

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
...more from the Gala Dinner



WORKSHOPS

23 Workshops were held in conjunction with ICPR on August 21 & 22.
IAPR Sponsorship = purple bars. IAPR Endorsement = pink bars.
Workshop websites (some temporary) are linked to acronyms.

Click on the dot next to the Workshop acronym to read a full report in this issue of the *IAPR NEWSLETTER*

BRAIN*	Behavioral Robotics and AI for iNdustrial and social systems (*archived site 4/17/26)
PRRS	Workshop on Pattern Recognition in Remote Sensing
MVI2	Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection
AIHA	Fourth International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare Applications
PRESTIGE	Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision for e-Heritage and Digital Humanities Workshop
PRHA	4th International Workshop on Pattern Recognition in Healthcare Analytics and Bioinformatics
V3SC 2026-3	3rd Int. Workshop on Video Surveillance Systems in Smart Cities: Aerial Monitoring and Synthetic Data
PIDM4HCPS	Perception, Interaction and Decision-Making for Human Cyber-Physical Systems
BIOMAP	BIO-inspired Methods for Pattern Recognition
FMVA	Foundation Models for Vision Applications
PAVER	PAVER: Workshop on Physics-Aware Video gEneration and Restoration
ETTAC	2nd International Workshop on Eye Tracking Techniques, Applications and Challenges
MCMI	2nd International Workshop on Multi- and Cross-Modal Information for Enhanced Pattern Recognition
XAIE4	4th Workshop on Explainable and Ethical AI
TrustDoc	Trustworthy Document Understanding: Privacy, Unlearning, Robustness, and Explainability
CVBMC	Computer Vision for Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation
MPRSS	Multimodal pattern recognition for social signal processing in human computer interaction
AUSTech 2.0	Advances in Underwater Surveillance: Technologies, Challenges, and Future Directions
TIPS	Workshop on Textual Information Processing & Synthesis in the Wild
RRPR	Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition
MANPU	International Workshop on coMics ANalysis, Processing and Understanding
GREEN-PR	Sustainable PR & PR for Environment
IMTAX	Image Mining. Theory and Applications

TUTORIALS

Graph-based Models for Video Data Analysis from Various Sensors
Thierry Bouwmans, Anastasia Zakharova, and Meghna Kapoor (University of La Rochelle, France); Abhimanyu Sahu (Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, India), and Ananda S. Chowdhury (Jadavpur University, India)

Advancing Comprehensive Reasoning in Multimodal Large Language Models
Yiwei Wang (University of California Merced, USA), Yujun Cai (University of Queensland, Australia), Junsong Yuan (State University of New York at Buffalo, USA), and Jun Liu (Lancaster University, England)

Reliable Industrial AI
Liangliang Cao (Google Gemini & Apple Intelligence) and Chang Wen Chen (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong)

Robot Learning with Embodied Vision: From Perception to Action
Wei Zhang, Cong Zhang, and Ran Song (Shandong University, China), Paul L. Rosin (Cardiff University, UK), and Jiwen Lu, (Tsinghua University, China)

An Introduction to the Formal Verification of Neural Networks
Julien Girard-Satabin, Sasha Cuau, and Guilhem Ardouin (University of Paris-Saclay, France)

Counterfactual Explanations of AI Systems: Fundamentals, Methods, & User Studies for XAI
André Artelt and Ulrike Kuhl (Bielefeld University, Germany)

Agentic Document Intelligence: From Prototype to Production with Trustworthy AI Agents
Sanket Biswas and Andres Aravena (Ennova Research) and Lukasz Borchmann (SnowFlake)

COMPETITIONS

boxes link to competition results, if posted

Beyond Visible Spectrum: AI for Agriculture

Low-Resolution License Plate Recognition (LRLPR)

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

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

VISual Tracking in Adverse Conditions (VISTAC-2)

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

All ICPR attendees were invited to drop in to hear 30 outstanding PhD researchers showcase their ongoing thesis work in this session, held Monday afternoon. Highlights of the event included Lightning Pitches (rapid presentations on cutting-edge projects) and an Interactive Poster and Networking Session where participants explored innovative methodologies and connected with senior academic and industry researchers.

Session Chair: Mansour Mayaki (University of Lyon, France)

Getting to Know (the new) IAPR Fellows

IAPR FELLOW

Xiao Bai

China

For pioneering contributions to structural pattern recognition and 3D vision, and for dedicated service to the IAPR through its Technical Committees

Sebastiano Battiato

Italy

For pioneering contributions to imaging and multimedia forensics, and for service to the IAPR through its Italian member society and IAPR Governing Board

Battista Biggio

Italy

For pioneering contributions to adversarial machine learning, and for service to the IAPR through its Technical Committees and conferences

Wen-Huang Cheng

Taiwan

For contributions to intelligent multimedia computing, and for service to the IAPR through its Taiwanese member society and conferences

Robert Jenssen

Norway

For scientific contributions at the intersection of information theoretic learning, kernel machines and deep learning, and for service to the IAPR

Jun Liu

United Kingdom

For foundational contributions to human behavior analysis and video understanding, and for service to the IAPR community through member society events, conference organization, and editorial governance

Simone Marinai

Italy

For significant contributions to document recognition and retrieval, and for extraordinary service to the IAPR through various leadership positions

Mariofanna Georgieva Milanova

United States of America

For contributions to biologically motivated computer vision and human-computer interaction, and for exceptional service to the IAPR through Technical Committee leadership, the IAPR Governing Board, and industry-academia collaboration

Faisal Shafait

Pakistan

For contributions in document image analysis, and for outstanding service to the IAPR through its Technical Committees and conferences

Continued on next page...

CONGRATULATIONS
IAPR Fellowships, continued

Chao Shen
China

For contributions to the theory and industrial applications of trustworthy multimedia analysis and recognition, and for service to the IAPR

Vitomir Struc
Slovenia

For contributions to biometrics, and for service to the IAPR through its Technical Committees and conferences

Luisa Verdoliva
Italy

For contributions to image processing and multimedia forensics, and for service to the IAPR through its conferences

Qi Wang
China

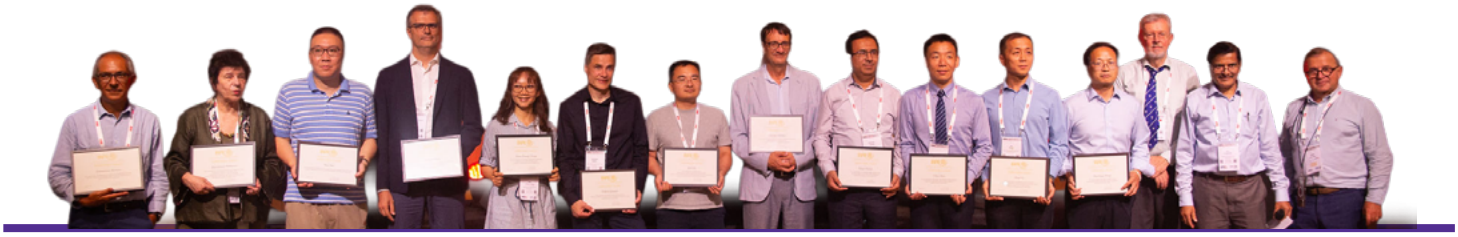
For contributions to cross-domain image analysis, and for service to the IAPR

Shiqi Yu
China

For foundational contributions to gait recognition through the development of influential datasets and approaches, and for service to the IAPR through its Technical Committees and conferences

Baochang Zheng
China

For pioneering and sustained contributions to efficient representation learning for object recognition, and for service to the IAPR



IAPR FELLOW — Getting to Know... IAPR Fellow…

The *IAPR Newsletter* introduces IAPR Fellows in more detail through our *Getting to Know... IAPR Fellows* series, initiated in October 2009 by Alexandra Branzan Albu, then Editor of the *Newsletter*. These articles testify to the outstanding research and service of IAPR Fellows.

The images below link to featured articles by Fellows who have also served as IAPR Presidents.

J. K. Aggarwal
Pres. 1992-1994
featured in
Oct, 2009

Herbert Freeman
Pres. 1978-1980
featured in
July, 2011

Gabriella Sanniti di Baja
Pres. 2000-2002
featured in
July, 2010

Rangachar Kasturi
Pres. 2002-2004
featured in
Jan. 2018

Brian Lovell
Pres. 2008-2010
featured in
Apr. 2015

ANTONIO DI CECCO

Editor's Note: Antonio Di Cecco's paper on the Eva Optimizer won the Piero Zamperoni Best Student Paper Award at ICPR 2026.

~Heydi Méndez-Vázquez, EiC

Antonio Di Cecco *is a PhD student in the Italian National PhD Program in Artificial Intelligence (Campus Bio Medico University of Rome, research affiliation Universit`a "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti–Pescara). He holds a Laurea Magistrale in Theoretical Physics from the University of L'Aquila. He has worked as a data scientist at CyberGuru and as a researcher at Sony CSL in collaboration with Sapienza University of Rome, and he teaches mathematics and physics at the Liceo Scientifico "Leonardo da Vinci" in Pescara. He founded the School of AI Italia in 2017.*

He is the author of Explainable AI with Python *(Springer, 2025) and of an Italian book on the critical use of AI for secondary school teachers. His research focuses on optimization and representation in deep networks.*

How did you get involved in pattern recognition?

I reached pattern recognition by a longer road than most of the students this series has featured. I trained as a theoretical physicist at the University of L'Aquila, and physics left me with a habit rather than a formalism: A claim is worth exactly as much as the experiment that could have shown it to be false. For years afterwards I taught mathematics and physics in Italian secondary schools.

What changed my direction was AlphaGo's match against Lee Sedol in 2016, and in particular its thirty-seventh move in the second game, which professional commentators first took for a mistake. A system that had learned from human games and then, through reinforcement learning, from playing against itself had found an idea that centuries of human play had missed. The question it left me with was a practical one: If learning systems could find such structure in Go, what could they do where the stakes are real, and who would teach people to use them well? A year later I founded the School of AI Italia, a volunteer community that brought machine learning to people who had no access to it through universities. The courses I taught there grew into a book, *Explainable AI with Python* (Springer).

Industry gave that question a concrete form. At CyberGuru I worked on AI for cybersecurity awareness, helping people recognize attacks aimed at them, and explainable AI became my tool for understanding, and then improving, how safe those systems were: A model that protects people must be one whose decisions can be inspected. The questions I kept running into—why training behaves as it does and why a model that shines on a benchmark disappoints real users—eventually needed a doctorate rather than a side project, so I took leave from my school to join the Italian National PhD Program in Artificial Intelligence.

What technical work have you done, and what are your current research interests?

A single question runs through my work, and it is the one explainable AI first taught me to ask: What is a learning system actually doing? Explaining individual predictions is only one answer to it. I have become increasingly interested in understanding the process that produces a model: how optimizers move through the loss landscape,

and how representations organize themselves during training. I pair this with a strong preference for experiments designed to kill a hypothesis rather than to decorate one.

The work recognized by the Zamperoni Award is the Eva optimizer, developed with Carlo Metta, Andrea Papini, Marco Fantozzi, Silvia Giulia Galfr`e, Michelangelo Veglio`, Luigi Amedeo Bianchi, Maurizio Parton and Francesco Morandin. Adaptive methods such as Adam normalize each coordinate of the gradient by a running estimate of its magnitude. This is precisely what makes them effective, and also what makes them fragile. In low-curvature regions, where gradients are small and nearly flat, the normalizer shrinks, and the proposed step can become disproportionately large. Training then either stalls in a degenerate region or is thrown out of it erratically. Eva monitors, coordinate by coordinate, whether the adaptive step is out of proportion with what local gradient and curvature information justifies. When it is, Eva intervenes.

The family has two members. Eva+ takes controlled ascent steps to leave degenerate regions. Eva− takes a conservative, damped descent step instead. Both are drop-in replacements for Adam with negligible overhead. We have since carried the same idea to physics-informed neural networks. There, low-curvature plateaus are common, and optimizer instability translates directly into violated physical constraints.

Eva raised a question I found more interesting than any single optimizer: Which update would actually have been best, coordinate by coordinate, at a given step? My current work builds an oracle probe to answer it. At selected points of training, the probe perturbs groups of parameters along candidate update directions and measures the resulting change in validation loss. This yields an empirical map showing where standard rules waste their step budget. For example, it shows that coordinates with adaptive and plain gradient steps that disagree in sign are far more valuable per unit of step than those where the signs agree. The humbling part is what happened next. Several update rules suggested by the probe improved the loss in one-step tests, yet were clearly worse over full training runs. I believe these results are worth publishing as negative results. Local optimality of an update is not a reliable proxy for good training dynamics, and our field has few places where such lessons are recorded.

A second line of work concerns architecture and representation. GloNet is a network in which every layer projects its pre-activations onto a shared latent space. These contributions are summed and fed to the classification head, so the contribution of each layer to the shared representation can be read off directly. The result is a globally connected structure that mitigates the degradation observed as plain networks grow deeper, without relying on residual paths alone. A related question is what happens at the end of the network. Late in training, the features of each class tend to gather tightly around a single point, a phenomenon known as neural collapse. I am currently testing whether this can be encouraged on purpose by pulling features towards their class center on alternate training steps, and whether doing so helps or harms language models.

The same question becomes most pressing where models make decisions about people. My most recent work, not yet published, applies federated learning to medical AI, where a model must learn from data held by separate institutions without the data ever leaving the institutions. In that setting, understanding what a model has learned is not an academic nicety but a condition for trusting it. This brings me back to where I started: explainability, which began with the book and continues in my use of additive models to measure what dense networks actually compute.

Looking forward, my interests converge on understanding training itself: how the optimizer, the architecture and the representation interact. I care equally about methodology, meaning measurements that could have come out differently, and reporting that includes what did not work.

How can the IAPR help young researchers?

First, by keeping its definition of “young” generous. Talent in our field increasingly arrives from industry, from other sciences, and in my case from a secondary-school classroom. Student awards and travel grants that judge the work and the stage of research, rather than age or a conventional career line, send a powerful signal. The Zamperoni Award did exactly that for me.

Second, by giving negative and replicative results a proper home. Students learn quickly which results get accepted. If only positive, single-seed improvements are rewarded, we train a generation to find them whether or not they are real. Dedicated tracks, reproducibility badges, or even a regular newsletter column on “what did not work” can change incentives at low cost.

Third, by using its international reach for mentorship and access. Structured mentoring between senior members and first-year students can make an immediate difference, especially across countries and institutions. So can summer schools, and shared compute for students at institutions without large clusters. Finally, I would urge the IAPR to look at secondary schools. Teachers are multipliers. A small investment in material that helps them teach pattern recognition critically, rather than as magic, will shape who applies to our PhD programs ten years from now.

~Antonio Di Cecco

*The IAPR congratulates and welcomes the following Technical Committee Leaders for 2026 to 2028.**

We appreciate their service to the IAPR community!

Red Text = New Leadership Roles

TC #	Title	Chair(s)	Vice Chair(s)
1	Statistical Pattern Recognition Techniques	Maura Pintor (Italy)	Nikolaos (Nikos) Nikolaou (UK)
2	Structural and Syntactical Pattern Recognition	Luca Rossi (Hong Kong)	Luca Cosmo (Italy) Bai Xiao (China)
3	Neural Networks and Computational Intelligence	Mirco Ravanelli (Canada)	Y. Cem Subakan (Canada)
4	Biometrics	Shiqi Yu (China)	Vitomir Štruc (Slovenia)
5	Computer Vision for Underwater Environmental Monitoring	Kevin Köser (Germany)	Derya Akkaynak (Israel)
6	Computational Forensics	Irene Amerini (Italy)	Victor Sanchez (UK)
7	Earth Observation	Sylvain Lobry (France)	Ksenia Bittner (Germany) Charlotte Pelletier (France) Marc Russwurm (Germany)
8	Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection	Zheng Liu (Canada)	Hiroyuki Ukida (Japan)
9	Pattern Recognition in Human Machine Interaction	Patrick Thiam (Germany)	Friedhelm Schwenker (Germany) Mariofanna Milanova (USA)
11	Reading Systems (soon: Document Analysis & Recognition)	Mickaël Coustaty (France)	Momina Moetesum (Pakistan)
12	Multimedia and Visual Information Systems	Albert Ali Salah (The Netherlands)	Hugo Jair Escalante (Mexico) Sergio Escalera (Spain) Henning Müller (Switzerland)
15	Graph Based Representations	Vincenzo Carletti (Italy)	Benoit Gaüzère (France)
16	Algebraic and Discrete Mathematical Techniques in Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis	Vera Yashina (Russian Federation)	Davide Moroni (Italy) Maria Antonietta Pascali (Italy) Bernd Radig (Germany)
18	Discrete Geometry and Mathematical Morphology	Lidija Comic (Serbia)	Benjamin Perret (France)
19	Computer Vision for Cultural Heritage Applications	Gennaro Vessio (Italy)	Alessandra Scotto di Freca (Italy)
20	Pattern Recognition for Bioinformatics and Digital Health	Arzucan Özgür (Türkiye)	Fenglong Ma (USA)
22	Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition	Federico Bolelli (Italy)	Bertrand Kerautret (France)

*** Note:** This table is based on email responses from TC leaders for 2024-2026 and on websites (when no response was received). *If the information for your TC is incorrect, please 1) send a correction via email to* cab@sayitbetterscience.com*, and 2) correct the information on your TC's website as soon as possible. Corrections will be announced in the January 2027 issue of the IAPR Newsletter.*

IAPR Technical Committee News

In this issue

Click on a TC box to skip to their news

TC2 Structural and Syntactical Pattern Recognition | TC5 Computer Vision for Underwater Environmental Monitoring | TC6 Computational Forensics | TC8 Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection | TC9 Pattern Recognition in Human Machine Interaction | TC11 Reading Systems (Document Analysis & Recognition) | TC12 Multimedia and Visual Information Systems | TC15 Graph-Based Representations | TC19 Computer Vision for Cultural Heritage Applications

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.

We are pleased to announce the great success of S+SSPR 2026, the 21st Joint IAPR International Workshops on Statistical Techniques in Pattern Recognition (SPR) and Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition (SSPR), held August 24–26, 2026 in Bern, Switzerland.

This joint event was organized by IAPR TC1 and TC2 and featured two highy distinguished keynote speakers: Christopher Morris (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) and Bernhard Schölkopf (Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems and ELLIS Institute, Tübingen, Germany). Twenty-three papers were presented by researchers representing 16 different countries. Watch for a complete report in the next *IAPR Newsletter.*

IAPR TC5 Computer Vision for Underwater Environmental Monitoring

iapr.org/tc5

Chair: Kevin Köser (Kiel University, Germany)
Vice Chair: Derya Akkaynak (University of Haifa, Israel)

Aims: TC5 focuses on the development of computer vision and image processing techniques for applications in environmental underwater monitoring, encompassing a wide range of activities and tasks such as habitat mapping, species identification, estimation of species diversity and abundance, and analysis of animal behaviour. TC5 runs the Computer Vision for Analysis of Underwater Imagery (CVAUI) Workshop series and is closely involved in other workshops such as the Marine Imaging Workshop (MIW).

We thank Prof. Alexandra Branzan Albu for her fabulous work as a TC5 chair over the past years and her engagement for IAPR and the underwater vision community. We also thank Declan McIntosh, University of Victoria, for serving as the webmaster of the TC5 website. The new TC5 chairs are Prof. Kevin Köser (Kiel University) and Prof. Derya Akkaynak (University of Haifa). Dr. David Nakath (Kiel University) will continue to serve as the TC5 communications officer.

AUSTech 2026: Alexandra Branzan Albu served as an advisor for the ICPR 2026 Workshop on Advances in Underwater Surveillance: Technologies, Challenges and Future Directions.

David Nakath (TC5 Communications Officer), jointly with Malte Pedersen, Joakim Bruslund Haurum, Alexandra Branzan Albu and Anthony Hoogs co-edited the SpringerNature PAA Special Issue on Marine Vision.

IAPR TC5
Computer Vision for Underwater Environmental Monitoring

iapr.org/tc5

Continued

After the very successful fusion of the different Marine Computer Vision communities through our Joint Workshop on Marine Vision in 2025, David Nakath and Alexandra Branzan Albu co-organized the 2nd Workshop on Marine Vision in Malmö, jointly with colleagues from Aalborg University (Denmark), Kitware (USA), British Antarctic Survey (UK) and MIT (USA). Kevin Köser and Derya Akkaynak served on the Advisory Board, together with colleagues from Aalburg University and Ocean Networks Canada. Held in conjunction with the European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV 2026), the workshop attracted 47 submissions (59% acceptance rate) and around 100 participants. There is now a vibrant community of about 100 people in marine vision, of whom 70 served as reviewers for this workshop. Thanks to all for making this workshop a great success!

IAPR TC6
Computational Forensics

iapr.org/tc6

Chair: Irene Amerini (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
Vice Chair: Victor Sanchez (University of Warwick, UK)

Aims: TC6 seeks to further research, development, and education in Computational Forensics (CF) and to provide a platform for cooperation and exchange among researchers, practitioners, and teachers from the various disciplines of computational and forensic sciences. CF is an emerging research domain. It concerns the investigation of forensic problems using computational methods. The primary goal is the discovery and the advancement of forensic knowledge. CF involves modeling, computer simulation, computer-based analysis, and recognition in studying and solving forensic problems.

Logo Source: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/research/siplab/ai4mfdd2026/

IAPR TC 6 organized the 3rd Workshop on AI for Multimedia Forensics & Disinformation Detection (AI4MFDD) in Malmö, Sweden, on Sep. 8, 2026, as part of the 19th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV 2026). The technical program included a wide range of topics from watermarking techniques to the detection of synthetic data using multimodal approaches. Two keynote speakers, Prof. Sebastiano Battiato, from the University of Catania, Italy, and Prof. Roberto Caldelli, from Universitas Mercatorum and CNIT, Italy, covered the topic of detection of synthetic data.

The workshop included a session dedicated to the top four papers, where the best paper was selected by the audience. The IAPR-TC6 Best Paper Award was given to the paper *Understanding Why Foundation Models Work for Diffusion-Generated Image Detection*, by Davide Cozzolino, Giovanni Poggi, and Luisa Verdoliva.

The image (*right*) shows Prof. Roberto Caldelli (keynote speaker), Prof. Luisa Verdoliva (a co-author of the best paper), and Prof. Victor Sanchez (co-organizer of AI4MFDD).

IAPR TC8

Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection

iapr.org/tc8

Chair: Zheng Liu (University of British Columbia, Canada)
Vice Chair: Hiroyuki Ukida (Tokushina University, Japan)

Aims: The primary objective of TC8 is to promote and coordinate research, development, and dissemination of knowledge in the field of machine vision for industrial inspection. The TC aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by fostering collaboration among researchers, engineers, and practitioners. It also seeks to establish standards and best practices that can guide the application of machine vision technologies in various industrial sectors.

The MVI2: Machine Vision for Industrial Inspection Workshop was successfully held on August 21, 2026, in conjunction with ICPR 2026. Ten papers were presented and were positively received by the audience. Attendees showed strong interest in participating in the TC's activities.

Dr. Hiroyuki Ukida (Vice Chair of TC8) organized the 32nd International Workshop on Frontiers of Computer Vision at Tokushima University, Tokushima, Japan, from September 30 to October 2, 2026. Dr. Zheng Liu (Chair of TC8) gave a talk entitled *Beyond Pixel-Level Fusion: Rethinking the Utility and Evaluation of Visible-Infrared Image Fusion.*

The TC8 website will be moved to a dedicated GitHub account (but will still be accessible via iapr.org/tc8). A mailing list has been created with a Google account. If you are interested in joining, please contact us using this link.

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: TC9 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 invites papers for a Special Issue of *Computers: (MDPI) Multimodal Pattern Recognition of Social Signals in HCI (3rd Ed)* with Special Issue Editors Prof. Dr. Mariofanna Milanova and Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Schwenker. The submission deadline is Oct. 31, 2026. For more information, click here.

Collaborative Work with IAPR Industrial Liaison Committee

One of the primary objectives of TC9 is to bridge the gap between academia and industry in the field of Human-Machine Interaction. To achieve this, members of TC9 have been actively collaborating with the IAPR Industrial Liaison Committee. This collaboration has facilitated the exchange of ideas, research findings, and best practices between researchers and industry professionals. By working together, we aim to ensure that HMI research remains relevant and applicable to real-world industrial settings.

Free NVIDIA Deep Learning workshops, online classes and tutorials

TC9 offers and delivers FREE NVIDIA Deep Learning workshops, online classes and tutorials. Participants who complete the tasks receive a NVIDIA Certificate. For more information click here or contact: mgmilanova@ualr.edu

Our most recent NVIDIA Workshop, MPRSS 2026, titled *Building AI Agents with Multimodal Models*, was held in conjuctions with ICPR 2026 in Lyon, and was sponsored by the IAPR.

TC 11

IAPR TC 11

iapr.org/tc11

Reading Systems soon to become Document Analysis & Recognition

Chair: Mickaël Coustaty (University of La Rochelle, France)
Vice Chair: Momina Moetesum (National Univ. of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan)

Aims: IAPR TC11 is concerned with the theory and applications of Reading Systems. We seek to study and develop systems that recognize character content and structure in handwritten and typeset documents, images, and video.

We are pleased to announce the formation of the new IAPR Technical Committee 11 on Document Analysis and Recognition, created by merging TC10 (Graphics Recognition) and TC11 (Reading Systems). Officers for the 2026-2028 term are:

Chair: Mickaël Coustaty
Vice Chair: Momina Moetesu
Communications: Brian Kenji Iwana
Education Officer: Anna Scius-Bertrand
Dataset Curator: Sanket Biswas
Webmaster: Natalia Bottaioli
Secretary: Carlos Moreno-Garcia
Industrial Officer: Jordy Van Landeghem

As Industrial Officer, Jordy Van Landeghem will lead efforts to build strong, lasting connections between TC11 and companies with an interest in document analysis and recognition topics.

We warmly thank the outgoing officers of both committees — KC Santosh, Andreas Fischer, Christophe Rigaud, Carlos Moreno, Sanket Biswas, Muzzamil Luqman, Mickaël Coustaty, Nibal Nayef, Foteini Liwicki, and Joseph Chazalon — for their contributions, and look forward to the new committee's work spanning graphics recognition, reading systems, and document analysis more broadly. We warmly thank the former TC chairs for their dedication and leadership, and we see this new chapter as a shared research journey. We look forward to welcoming new members who want to help us shape the future of Document Analysis and Recognition.

TC10 and TC11 jointly organized three workshops and one tutorial at ICPR 2026 in Lyon:

TrustDoc *Trustworthy Document Understanding: Privacy, Unlearning, Robustness, and Explainability*
Organizers: Lei Kang, Lluis Gomez, Alicia Fornés, Andrey Barsky, Maura Pintor, Antonio Emanuele Cinà, Marçal Rossinyol, Ernest Valveny, and Dimosthenis Karatzas

MANPU 2026 *The 7th International IAPR Workshop on coMics ANalysis, Processing and Understanding*
Endorsed by the IAPR, a full report is included in this issue of the *IAPR Newsletter.*
Organizers: Jean-Christophe Burie, Motoi Iwata, and Yusuke Matsui

TIPS *Workshop on Textual Information Processing & Synthesis in the Wild*
Organizers: Umapada Pal, Venu Govindaraju, Lianwen Jin, and Veronique Eglin

Tutorial: *Agentic Document Intelligence: From Prototype to Production with Trustworthy AI Agents*.
Sanket Biswas, Andres Aravena, and Lukasz Borchmann.

The 20th edition of the International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR) took place at TU Wien in Vienna, Austria, between Aug 30 and Sept 4, 2026, with the three-day main conference held from Aug 31 to Sept 2. The conference welcomed over 500 participants from around the world. We would like to thank all the Document Analysis and Recognition community for their involvement in this IAPR flagship conference. A full report will be included in a future edition of the *IAPR Newsletter.*

TC 12

IAPR TC 12 Multimedia and Visual Information Systems

iapr.org/tc12

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

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.

Announcing: ImageCLEF 2027

Henning Müller, Vice Chair of IAPR TC12, is an organizer for ImageClef 2027, part of the CLEF Initiative (Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum).

We are pleased to welcome interested parties to learn more about the larger CLEF Initiative at CLEF 2027. Details about ImageCLEF 2027 are available here.

The target audience for ImageCLEF 2027 is mainly the multimodal data annotation and retrieval community, from fields such as computer vision, image information retrieval and digital image processing. Due to the specific nature of the medical tasks, a significant portion of the audience will come from the medical informatics, machine learning and pattern recognition community. There will be 5 tasks:

1) ImageCLEFmedical consists of automatic image captioning, synthetic medical image creation via GANs, visual question answering, and reasoning over doctor–patient dialogues and accompanying images to answer closed-ended clinical questions supported by evidence from the dialogue or the image.

2) ImageCLEFtoPicto is designed for individuals with language impairments who use pictograms as a communication aid. The main usage scenario involves converting text into a meaningful sequence of pictograms, facilitating communication between verbal individuals and AAC users.

3) ImageCLEF MultimodalReasoning: Vision-Language Models (VLMs) excel in tasks combining vision and language, like image captioning and basic visual question answering. However, they often falter in deep logical reasoning and handling complex dependencies or hypothetical scenarios. This task aims to evaluate modern LLMs' reasoning abilities on intricate, multilingual inputs across diverse subjects.

4) Deepfake Detection and Generation challenges participants to both generate and detect audio, image and video deepfakes, jointly evaluating how realistic synthetic media can be made and how robust detection systems are against increasingly sophisticated forgeries.

5) CvTR QA (Multilingual Multimodal Chart and Tabular Question Answering) challenges participants to extract, understand, and reason over structured information presented in charts and tables, across multiple languages and across visual, code-based, and textual representations.

Image Source: https://www.imageclef.org/2027

IAPR TC 15 Graph Based Representations

iapr.org/tc15

Chair: Vincenzo Carletti (University of Salerno, Italy)
Vice Chair: Benoit Gaüzère (INSA Rouen Normandy/LITIS, France)

Aims: The goal of TC15 is to federate and to encourage research works at the intersection of Machine Learning, Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis on one side and graph theory framework on the other side. Among the topics covered by TC15 we find: graph matching, graph-based segmentation and graph pyramids, graph-based clustering regression or classification together with clustering, classification and regression of graphs using various methods such as: graph edit distance, graph embeddings, graph kernels and graph neural networks.

gbrpr.org GbR27

GbR is a biennial workshop sponsored by IAPR through TC15. Its main goal is to advance research in Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis through the framework of graph theory. Details available at gbrpr.org

The 15th GbR will be in Pisa, Italy, from June 9 to 11, 2027

Call for Papers

Topics include, but are not limited to:

Graph-based Pattern Recognition
- Graph learning, clustering, matching, and classification
- Graph similarity, distances, kernels, embeddings
- Graph signal processing and spectral methods
- Graph-based representations (images, shapes) and segmentation
- Statistical, probabilistic, and algorithmic graph theory
- Graph algorithms, combinatorial & geometric optimization
- Geometry processing and manifold learning

Deep Learning on Graphs
- Graph Neural Networks (architectures, expressivity, transformers, equivariance)
- Scalable, self-supervised, and foundation graph models
- Graph generative models (diffusion, flow, etc.)
- Robust, trustworthy, and fair graph ML (explainability, adversarial, privacy)
- Causal inference and reasoning on graphs

Applications
- Life sciences and medicine (bioinformatics, chemistry, health)
- Social and network analysis
- NLP, LLMs, and knowledge graphs
- Computer vision and geometric ML
- Recommender systems, security, physical sciences
- Data mining and general graph-based applications
- Benchmarks, datasets, libraries, and infrastructures

Paper Submission Deadline is Jan 30, 2027.

IAPR TC 19 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.

TC 19 is pleased to announce the success of PRESTIGE 2026, held in conjunction with ICPR 2026. This new series merged two well-established workshop series, FAPER (Fine Art Pattern Extraction and Recognition) and PatReCH (Pattern Recognition for Cultural Heritage). A full report is in this issue of the *IAPR Newsletter.*

Meeting Reports

Conferences, Workshops, & Summer/Winter Schools

Click on the banner image for an event to visit its website

MANPU 2026

The 7th International IAPR Workshop on coMics ANalysis, Processing and Understanding

August 22, 2026
Lyon, France

organized in conjunction with ICPR2026

Goals

The goal of MANPU is to share research aimed at analyzing, processing, and understanding the content of comic albums. MANPU gathers mainly researchers in the field of computer science, but also some researchers in the human sciences. Comics images are attractive research targets because their structure includes a wide variety of elements, limited only by the creativity of the author/artists and their graphic universe. Therefore, comics image analysis is not a trivial problem and is still relatively unexplored when compared with other applications of image analysis and pattern recognition.

Organizers

General Co-Chairs: Jean-Christophe Burie, *University of La Rochelle, France*
Motoi Iwata, *Kyoto Tachibana University, Japan*
Yusuke Matsui, *The University of Tokyo, Japan*

Program Co-Chairs: Tien-Tsin Wong, *Monash University, Australia*
Ryosuke Yamanishi, *Kansai University, Japan*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

MANPU 2026 Logistics & Data

INSA Lyon, Lyon, France, Aug. 22, 2026

Previous Editions
6th MANPU (2024) Athens, Greece
5th MANPU (2022) Montreal, Canada
4th MANPU (2020) Virtual event, Milan, Italy
3rd MANPU (2019) Thessaloniki, Greece
2nd MANPU (2017) Kyoto, Japan
1st MANPU (2016) Cancun, Mexico

Endorsed by the IAPR

Submissions Received: **10**
Average of 2 to 3 reviewers per paper, double-blind review
Oral Presentations: **5 (50%)**

4 Countries Represented
France, Italy, USA, Japan

MANPU 2026 Program

Invited Speaker

Samuel Petit
Chief R&D Officer, Mangas.IO

Research and Applications for the Digital Ninth Art: Building a Global Comics and Manga Infrastructure through Editorial Standards, Production, Localization, and Distribution

This half-day workshop included five 15-minute presentations, each followed by a 10-minute question-and answer period.

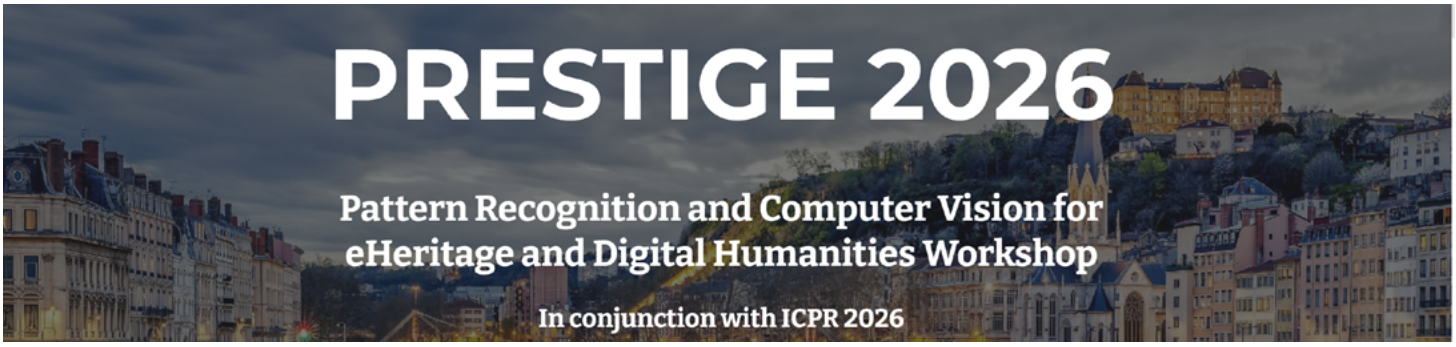
Proceedings

Springer LNCS (with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

Join In! MANPU 2026 Research Commentary

A primary focus at MANPU 2026 was the impact of Artificial Intelligence (LLMs, VLMs) on comics album research. LLMs and VLMs provided by leading AI companies have led to some interesting results. Notably, off-the-shelf models can describe page content, recognize characters, and transcribe speech balloons with surprising accuracy, even without additional task-specific training. However, their understanding remains quite limited for specific applications, such as reading order estimation or character re-identification across pages. Models also struggle with the temporality of the story: They have difficulty understanding flashbacks and time ellipses, and therefore reconstructing the chronology of events from the sequence of panels. Research carried out by academic laboratories can fill this gap. These laboratories have proposed new architectures and models based, for example, on transformers that are specifically adapted to the structure and visual language of comics. Another goal we discussed is the need to provide “frugal models” for real applications, in order to limit the environmental impact of AI.

~ Jean-Christophe Burie



Goals

The workshop provides a dedicated forum for researchers, professionals, and practitioners to present advances, share experiences, and discuss future directions at the intersection of pattern recognition and cultural heritage applications.

Organizers

Workshop Chairs:

Dario Allegra, *University of Catania, Italy*
Giovanna Castellano, *University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy*
Alessandra Scotto di Freca, *University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Italy*
Gennaro Vessio, *University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy*

Click for Program Committee List

PRESTIGE 2026 Logistics & Data

Louis Néel Building, Lyon, France, Aug 21, 2026

6 Countries Represented: France, Italy, China, Sweden, Türkiye, and USA

Submissions Received: **15**
Double-blind review with at least 2 reviewers per paper

Oral Presentations: **7 (47%)**
Poster Presentations: **4**

Sponsored by IAPR

Proceedings
Springer LNCS
(with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

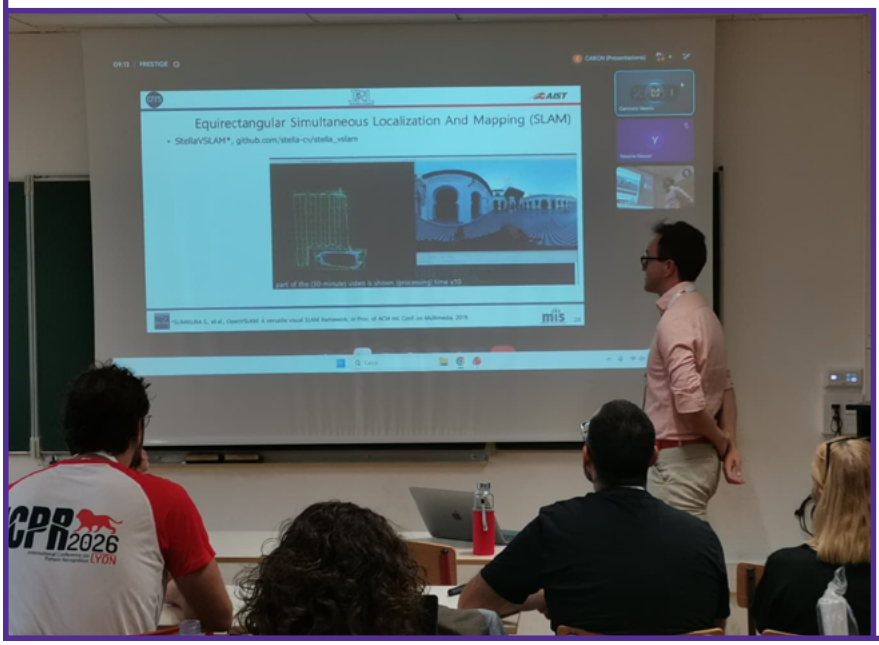
PRESTIGE 2026 Program Highlights

Keynote

Guillaume Caron
University of Picardie Jules Verne, France
Visual Perception: From Robotics to Digital Cultural Heritage and Way Back

The **invited talk** (left) highlighted the fruitful interplay between computer vision for robotics and digital cultural heritage.

Seven accepted papers were presented across **two oral sessions**, covering grounded generative AI and photogrammetry for non-visitable heritage (Ciro Russo et al.); pattern matching for medieval ceramic sherds (Yassine Nasser et al.); AI-assisted condition assessment of Khmer stone heritage (Nimol Thuon and Panhapin Theang); multi-view learning for archaeological wood charcoal classification (Dieu-Donné Fangnon et al.); metadata-driven 3D storytelling for micro-heritage (May Baker et al.); tool-augmented AI agents for European cultural heritage (Pierluca Landolfi et al.); and computational analysis of the connections between Herman Melville's reading and writing (Nudrat Habib et al.).



A dedicated **poster session** featured four contributions involving members of the PRESTIGE organizing team, highlighting their active scientific engagement in the workshop. The posters addressed automatic scribe identification in medieval manuscripts (Alessandra Scotto di Freca et al.); corpus-driven analysis of scientific cultural heritage in the age of LLMs (Simone Pio Barbagallo et al.); interpretability of multimodal large language models for artwork description through token activation maps (Nicola Fanelli et al.); and visual localization in museums using image retrieval from 360-degree LiDAR scans (Gioele Litrico et al.)

Join In! PRESTIGE Research Commentary

A research question that emerged during the discussion following Guillaume Caron's invited talk was whether recent advances in world models and spatial intelligence can provide a new foundation for visual perception in both robotics and digital cultural heritage. Rather than treating images as isolated observations, the question is how AI systems can build structured internal representations of environments, objects, geometry, viewpoints, and spatial relationships, and use them to reason over time and across different sensing modalities.

The discussion suggested that this direction is particularly promising because both robotics and cultural heritage require more than conventional image recognition. In robotics, an agent must understand how the world is spatially organized in order to navigate and interact with it. In cultural heritage, similar capabilities could support 3D reconstruction, virtual exploration, viewpoint reasoning, object localization, scene understanding, and the integration of heterogeneous visual and geometric data. At the same time, there was no clear consensus that current world models are already mature enough for these tasks. Important open issues remain in terms of geometric consistency, physical grounding, long-term spatial memory, multimodal integration, and the reliability of generated or inferred spatial representations.

A particularly interesting future direction is therefore the development of spatially grounded world models that combine images, video, depth, point clouds, and semantic knowledge. Such models could create a stronger methodological bridge between robotics and digital heritage, allowing techniques developed for embodied perception to be transferred to cultural heritage, while the complex geometry and semantics of heritage environments could in turn provide challenging benchmarks for spatial intelligence.

~ Gennaro Vessio

The 4th International Workshop on Pattern Recognition in Healthcare Analytics and Bioinformatics

In conjunction with the 28th International Conference on Pattern Recognition

Goals

The PRHA workshop aims to showcase original ideas on predictive modeling, clustering, feature extraction, temporal analysis, data visualization, and interpretability for patient data in tabular, text, and image formats.

Organizers

General Co-Chairs: Arzucan Özgür, *Bogazici University, Türkiye*
İnci M. Baytas, *Bogazici University, Türkiye*
Fenglong Ma, *Pennsylvania State University, USA*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

PRHA 2026 Logistics & Data

Louis Néel Building, Lyon, France, Aug 22, 2026

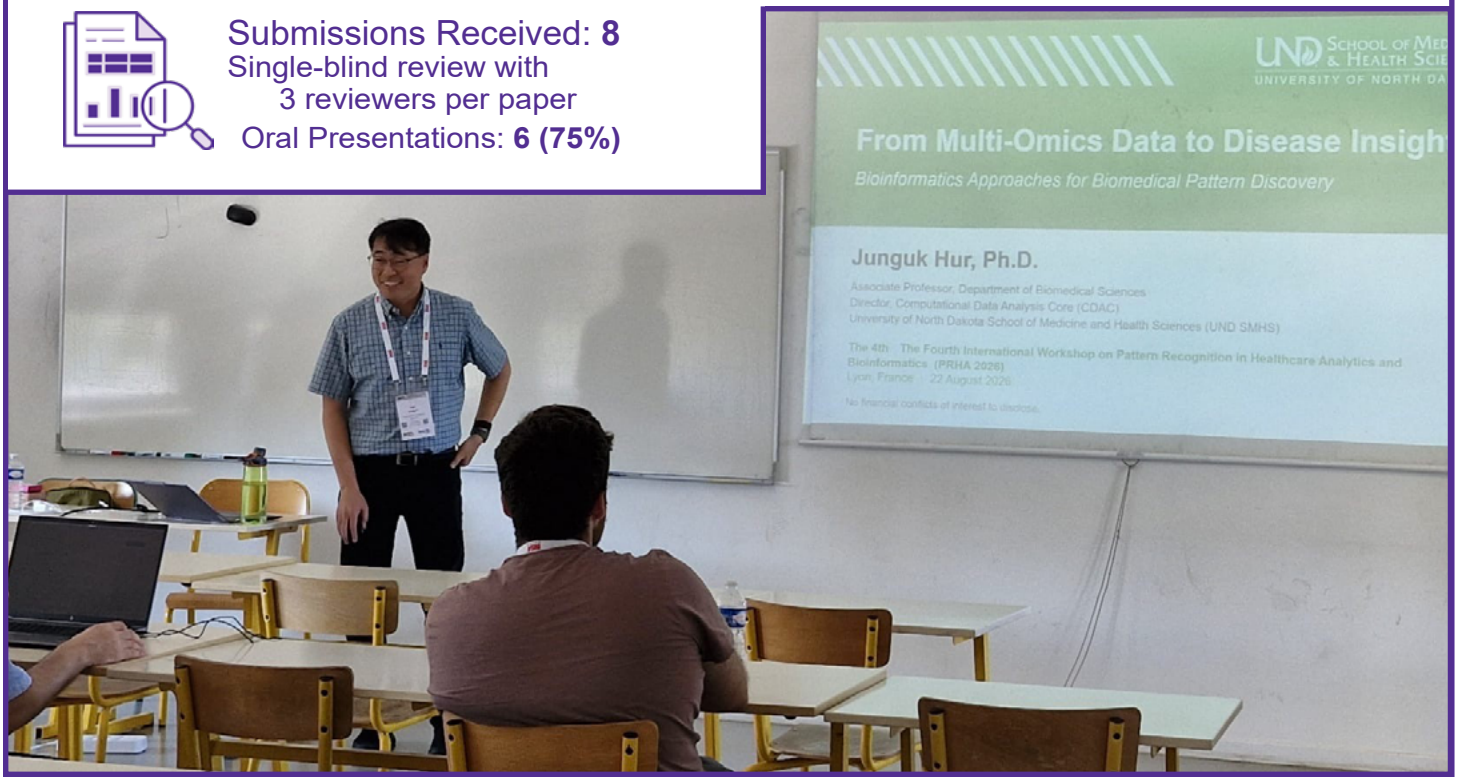
6 Countries Represented: France, Austria, Spain, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, and USA

Previous Editions

3rd PHRA (2014) Kolkata, India (virtual)
2nd PHRA (2023) Istanbul, Türkiye
1st PHRA (2022) Montreal, Canada (virtual)

Sponsored by IAPR

Submissions Received: **8**
Single-blind review with 3 reviewers per paper
Oral Presentations: **6 (75%)**



PRHA 2026 Program

2 Keynote Speakers

Yifan Peng
Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University, USA
Advancing Methods of Medical Evidence Extraction, Summarization, and Implementation

Junguk Hur
School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of North Dakota, USA
From Multi-Omics Data to Disease Insights: Bioinformatics Approaches for Biomedical Pattern Discovery

This half-day workshop featured an opening keynote and a closing keynote with six 20-minute presentation sessions with a social (coffee) break. Titles and first authors are listed below.

Medical Image Segmentation via Morphological Conformal Prediction and Fractional Iterations
(Mukama et al.)
Quantifying the Impact of Segmentation Inaccuracies on Cell Phenotyping in Imaging Mass Cytometry
(Schuiki et al.)
Modeling Temporal Dynamics of the ICSI Procedure for Fertilization Outcome Prediction
(Castera Lapeña et al.)
G-TBI: Graph-Structured Ordinal Learning for TBI Outcome Prediction
(Duong et al.)
Efficient Polyp Segmentation via Low-Rank Adaptation: A Cross-Dataset Study on Colonoscopy Images
(Kibria et. al)
A Deep Learning Pipeline for Lipid Droplets Analysis in Glioblastoma Spheroids
(Alani et. al)

Proceedings

Springer LNCS
(with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

Join In! PRHA 2026 Research Commentary

Given that researchers now profile a sample's genome, transcriptome, epigenome, proteome, metabolome, and microbiome, how can we extract mechanistic insights into a disease from these high-dimensional measurements? One of the keynotes discussed the challenges of this problem. Diseases might have multifactorial underlying pathology, develop over years, and involve multiple tissues simultaneously. The specific questions are which molecular patterns can reliably distinguish diseased from healthy states, and whether these patterns are consistent across tissues, species, and independent patient cohorts. Furthermore, it is important to ask whether these patterns can be translated into a biomarker or therapeutic target.

The proposed solutions in the literature share the premise that no single omics layer is sufficient or meaningful for solving this problem. Furthermore, pathway- and network-level representations are considered more reproducible and interpretable than gene-by-gene results. However, there is no consensus on a standard for how to integrate heterogeneous omics layers. To develop solutions to this problem, harmonized human cohorts with matched multi-omics profiles, stronger metadata, and ontology standards are required. Thus, datasets and literature can be carefully benchmarked.

~ İnci M. Baytas

IAPR TC7 EARTH OBSERVATION

14th IAPR Workshop on Pattern Recognition in Remote Sensing

Goals

The PRRS Workshop brings together researchers from both PR and remote sensing, with emphasis on applications of pattern recognition methods to remotely sensed data. In the past five years, an unprecedented volume of data has been collected through Earth Observation. The diverse spatial, spectral, and temporal characteristics of these rich data sources open opportunities for various applications while also creating significant challenges in representation and interpretation.

Organizers

Workshop Chairs:
Sylvain Lobry, *Université Paris Cité, France*
Charlotte Pelletier, *Southern Brittany University, France*
Marc Rußwurm, *University of Bonn, Germany*
Ksenia Bittner, *German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany*

Click for Program Committee List

PRRS 2026 Logistics & Data

Louis Néel Building, Lyon, France, Aug 21, 2026

Previous Editions
13th PRRS (2024) Kolkata, India
12th PRRS (2022) Montreal, Canada
11th PRRS (2020) Milan, Italy (virtual)
10th PRRS (2018) Beijing, China
9th PRRS (2016) Cancun, Mexico

Submissions Received: **17**
Double-blind review with exactly 3 reviewers per paper
Oral Presentations: **4 (24%)**
Poster Presentations: **7**

Sponsored by IAPR

Proceedings
Springer LNCS (with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

4 Countries Represented
France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain

Program Highlight

Keynote Speaker

Florence Tupin
Telecom Paris, France
Self-supervised Strategies for Radar Imaging

Join In! PRRS Research Commentary

The 14th edition of the PRRS workshop at ICPR 2026 featured many works representing the diversity of the current research on Earth Observation. Presentations and posters tackled image processing and computer vision techniques for different modalities (e.g. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), multi-spectral, LiDAR) and a variety of tasks such as biodiversity estimation, fine-grained urban mapping and geo-localization.

One central element linking most of these works, reflected in the keynote given by Florence Tupin on self-supervised learning strategies for SAR imaging, is the discrepancy between the amount of Earth Observation data acquired daily and the amount of available labeled data. In fact, it is estimated that only 5% of the acquired EO data is ever looked at, analyzed or used. Therefore, the role of self-supervision in Earth Observation was a central topic throughout the workshop.

Many self-supervised solutions were debated: from single-purpose methods to general-purpose foundation models and the emergence of pre-computed representations with Earth Embeddings. Interestingly, these paradigms share substantial scientific overlap and increasingly complement one another.

~ Sylvain Lobry

RRPR 2026: Sixth Workshop on Reproducible Research in Pattern Recognition

Workshop proposed as satellite event from ICPR 2026

Goals

RRPR 2026 is intended as both a short participative course on Reproducible Research (RR) aspects, leading to open discussions with the participants, and as a practical workshop on how to actually perform RR, with the further goal of advancing the scientific aspects of reproducibility in pattern recognition research.

Organizers

Workshop Chairs:
Federico Bolelli, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Miguel Colom, *Centre Borelli, ENS Paris-Saclay, France*
Daniel Lopresti, *Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, USA*
Bertrand Kerautret, *LIRIS, Université Lumière Lyon 2, Lyon, France*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

RRPR 2026 Logistics & Data

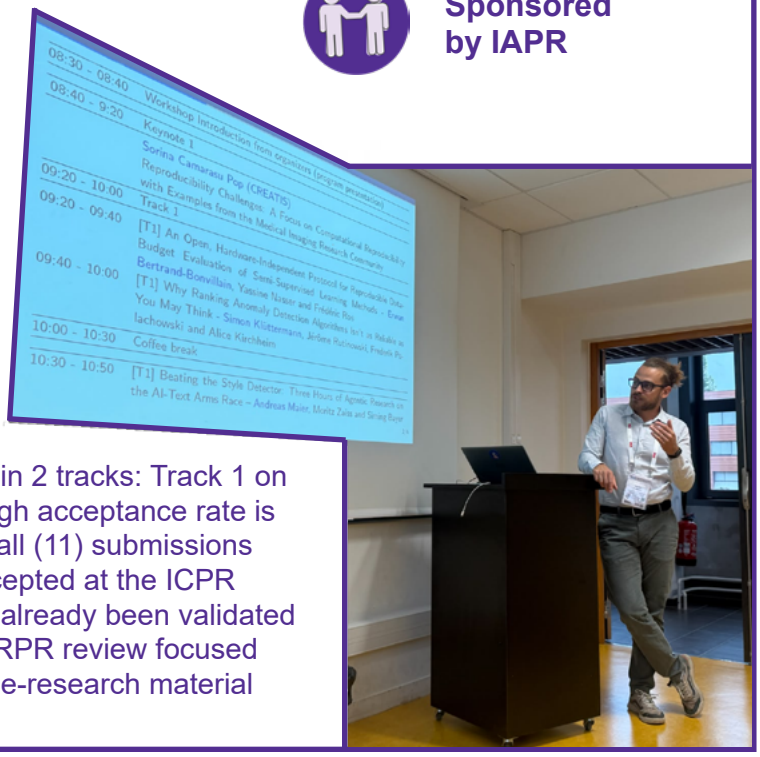
Louis Néel Building, Lyon, France, Aug 21, 2026

13 Countries Represented:
France, Germany, China, Italy, USA, Algeria, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Taiwan

Previous Editions
5th RRPR (2024) Kolkata, India
4th RRPR (2022) Montreal, Canada
3rd RRPR (2020) Milan, Italy (virtual)
2nd RRPR (2018) Beijing, China
1st RRPR (2016) Cancun, Mexico

Sponsored by IAPR

Submissions Received: **17**
Blind peer review with
2.1 reviews per paper
Accepted for presentation: 17*



* Reviewers evaluated text and checked that the accompanying source code was correct and matched exactly what was described in the paper, in addition to checking relevant supplementary materials (e.g., scripts). Submissions were handled in 2 tracks: Track 1 on RR Frameworks and Track 2 on RR Results. The high acceptance rate is largely explained by the nature of Track 2, in which all (11) submissions were companion papers to submissions already accepted at the ICPR main conference. Because their scientific merit had already been validated through the main conference review process, the RRPR review focused on the quality and completeness of their reproducible-research material (code, data, environment and documentation).

Join In! RRPR 2026 Research Commentary

The research question. Both keynotes and much of the discussion at RRPR 2026 converged on a single question: When we say that a pattern recognition result is “reproducible,” what exactly are we promising, and for how long? Releasing source code is now common practice, but a released repository is only reproducible if someone else can rebuild the exact computational environment it ran in—the same libraries, the same versions, the same numerical behaviour—possibly years later.

Leading answers and consensus. Sorina Camarasu-Pop (CNRS, CREATIS) showed, through studies conducted within the ReproVIP project, that even a neuroimaging pipeline packaged with Docker or Guix can produce different linear registration results because of software variability, library evolution, and numerical instability due to floating-point arithmetic (rounding errors, hardware and compiler optimizations). Simon Tournier (Université Paris Cité) approached the same problem from the preservation side: Source code must first be identified and archived for the long term—the role of Software Heritage—but since computers execute binaries, the computational environment itself, and therefore the package manager that builds it, must also be identified and preserved.

The consensus in the room was that code availability is a necessary but clearly insufficient condition. Reproducibility is a property of the whole artifact chain (code, data, environment specification, and the archive that holds them), and it degrades over time unless it is explicitly engineered.

A second point of agreement was that reproducibility must be verified by people rather than merely declared. The workshop’s own review process, in which referees re-run the code and check that it matches the paper, and the review procedure for the first ICPR 2026 RRPR Badge—through which 83 papers were granted the badge after evaluation by dedicated reviewers and meta-reviewers—were discussed as concrete, scalable instruments. Notably, several papers that did not obtain the badge failed for procedural reasons such as a missing software licence or unspecified library versions rather than for any scientific shortcoming, which itself says something about where the community’s practices still need to mature.

Future directions. Promising directions raised during the workshop include functional, bit-reproducible build systems (GNU Guix) combined with permanent source-code archival; the systematic reporting of numerical tolerance rather than exact-match reproduction; and agentic/LLM-assisted support for artifact review, presented at the workshop as a way to relieve the reviewing burden that reproducibility checking creates. Participants also discussed how to make reproducibility evaluation a routine, incentivized part of the ICPR review cycle rather than an optional add-on, building on ten years of RRPR and the creation of IAPR TC22.

Collaborators. Researchers interested in these topics can contact the RRPR/IAPR TC22 community via email: rrpr_workshop@icpr2026.org, or contact any of the workshop chairs directly, as listed at the top of this report, or the RRPR 2026 Reprodicible Label Chair, Adrien Krähenbühl (ICube, University of Strasbourg).

~Federico Bolelli and Bertrand Kerautret

RRPR 2026 Program Highlights

2 Keynote Speakers

Sorina Camarasu-Pop
CNRS Research Engineer, CREATIS Laboratory, Lyon, France
Reproducibility Challenges: A Focus on Computational Reproducibility with Examples from the Medical Imaging Research Community

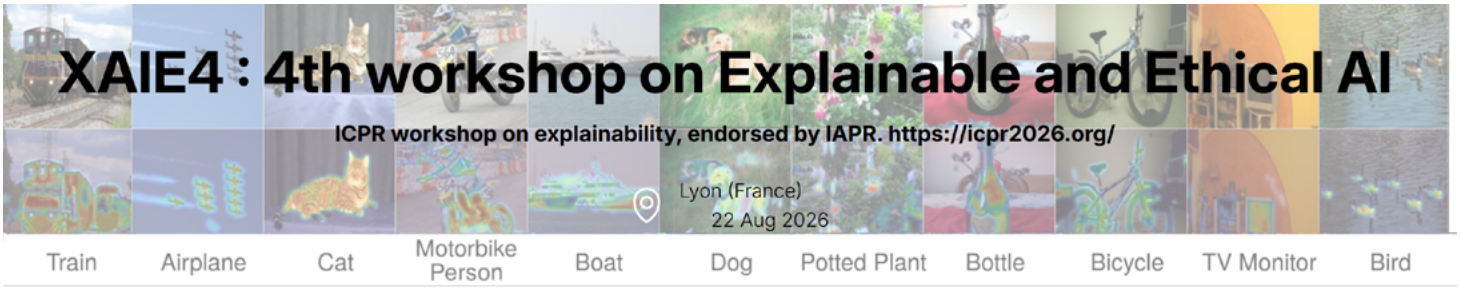
Simon Tournier
Research Engineer, Université Paris Cité / Core Facilities of the Saint-Louis Research Institute, Paris, France
Reproducible Computational Environment: Archiving and Beyond

Proceedings

Springer LNCS (with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

RRPR 2028

Will be held in Sydney Australia, in conjuntion with ICPR 2028



Goals

AI's growing societal impact makes explainability, transparency, bias detection, controllability, and ethical auditing essential to ensure trustworthy adoption of AI across critical applications. The aim of XAIE is to bring together scientists interested in ethics for pattern recognition systems to discuss these aspects.

Organizers

Program Chairs:

Marco Angelini, *University Roma 3, Italy*
Romain Bourqui, *University of Bordeaux, France*
Jenny Benois Pineau, *University of Bordeaux, France*
Romain Giot, *University of Bordeaux, France*
Sebastian Lapuschkin, *Fraunhofer Inst. for Telecommunications, Heinrich Hertz Institute*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

XAIE 2026 Logistics & Data

Louis Néel Building, Lyon, France, Aug 22, 2026

5 Countries Represented
Germany, France, USA, Greece, and The Netherlands

Endorsed by IAPR

Previous Editions
3rd XAIE (2024) Kolkata, India
2nd XAIE (2022) Montreal, Canada
1st Workshop on Explainable DL/AI (2020) virtual

Submissions Received: **18**
Blind peer review with 3 reviews per paper
Accepted for presentation: **9 (50%)**

Proceedings — *Springer LNCS* (with ICPR 2026 Proceedings)

Join In! XAIE Research Commentary

The problem of trust in AI applications has been at the core of almost every application for years. Explainability is essential to finding a solution to this problem, but ultimately, it must be meaningful to the user who decides whether to trust the application. In this edition of XAIE, among other things, we held valuable discussions on the evaluation of XAI methods—essential for the choice of a good explainer for critical applications—and on the recent family of methods of concept-based explanations. Solutions included the use of inpainting techniques for evaluation of explainers in image classification tasks. We also discussed ways to build concepts in latent space.

~Romain Giot and Jenny Benois Pineau

Goals

MCPR provides a forum for the exchange of scientific results, experiences, and new knowledge with the goal of promoting cooperation among research groups in Pattern Recognition and related areas in Mexico and around the world.

Organizers

Program Committee Co-Chairs Jesús Ariel Carrasco-Ochoa & José Francisco Martínez-Trinidad, *Nat. Inst. of Astrophysics, Optics, and Electronics, Mexico*
José Arturo Olvera-López *Meritorious Autonomous U. of Puebla, Mexico*

Local Chairs Vianey Guadalupe Cruz-Sánchez & Osslan Osiris Vergara-Villegas, *Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico*
Juan Humberto Sossa-Azuela, *CIC-National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico*

Click for Complete List of Organizers

MCPR 2026 Logistics & Data

Center for Innovation and Integration of Advanced Technologies (CIITA), National Polytechnic Institute, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, June 24-27, 2026

Previous Editions
3rd MCPR (2025) Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico
2nd MCPR (2024) Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico
1st MCPR (2023) Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico

Submissions Received: **58**
Single-blind peer review with at least 2 reviewers per paper.
Oral Presentations: **34 (59%)**

6 Countries Represented
Ireland, Japan, Spain, USA, Viet Nam, and Mexico

See also Postgraduate Sudents Meeting, Program HIghlights (next page)

Hosted by CIITA, National Polytechnic Institute Mexico
Sponsored by Durol, ErgoTech-Mexico, and Mechatronics AI
Endorsed by IAPR

Proceedings
Springer *LNCS*, linked here

MCPR 2026 Program Highlights

3 Keynote Speakers

Erik Rodner
University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Germany
Foundation Models for Microscopy and Medical Data Analysis

Walterio Mayol Cuevas
University of Bristol, UK
New Paradigms in Sensors and Computer Vision Methods plus Comments on AI Production at an International Scale

Salvador E. Venegas-Andraca
Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, Mexico
Quantum Computing: Foundations, Transition to Industry and Applications in Pattern Recognition

Postgraduate Students' Meeting

MCPR 2026-PSM was designed to bring together Master's and PhD students to discuss and enrich their research. Six papers were submitted. Of these, 3 were accepted for Poster Presentations.

IAPR Best Paper Award
Graph-Based Modeling of Disfluent Speech for Alzheimer's Detection
Carlos Antonio Olachea Hernández, Luis Villaseñor Pineda, and Manuel Montes Y Gómez

IAPR Best Student Paper Award
UAV Pose Estimation in Low-Light
Esteban Tlelo-Coyotecatl, Alejandro Gutiérrez-Giles, and José Martínez-Carranza

Social and Cultural Programs

Participants enjoyed a tour of the city, visiting museums and popular downtown sights. The tour concluded at the Kentucky Bar & Grill, the place where the famous drink "Margarita" was invented.

3 Tutorials

Understanding Modern NLP Techniques
Humberto de Jesús Ochoa Domínguez, UACJ, Mexico

Neuromorphic Computing for Edge AI
Victor Hugo Ponce Ponce, CIC-IPN, Mexico

Robot Modeling and Control
Elsa Rubio Espino, CIC-IPN, Mexico

Join In! MCPR Research Commentary

During the conference, in Walterio Mayol´s talk, *New Paradigms in Sensors and Computer Vision Methods*, one interesting question was whether the frontier of pattern recognition has not yet been reached, partly due to a lack of connection between the synthetic world and real-world actions.

The obvious answer was no; i.e., the frontier of pattern recognition has not yet been reached. While today's mainstream large-scale pattern recognition models thrive on passive, disembodied data processing within virtual clouds, true "recognition" requires a recognizer to actively interact with a physical environment. Bridging the chasm between the synthetic and the real requires pattern recognition to evolve from a passive observer into an active, embodied participant. The necessary information and methodologies must come from egocentric wearable sensors and autonomous robotics that recognize human-object interactions in real time. Professor Mayol commented that by utilizing Pixel Processor Array technology, future pattern recognition techniques will not only process static internet data but also immediately transform raw photons into closed-loop physical actions. This direct integration of ultra-low-latency perception with physical robotics is the precise technological leap required to bridge the synthetic-to-real-world gap and significantly advance the pattern recognition frontier.

~ José Francisco Martínez-Trinidad

SSDA 2026
Summer School on Document Analysis

The 6th IAPR TC10/TC11 Summer School on Document Analysis (SSDA2026) took place from May 25 to 29 at Vall de Núria in the Catalan Pyrenees, Spain.

The summer school was designed to provide cutting-edge tools for information extraction from documents using Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), Vision-Language Models (VLMs), and structured knowledge representation. The summer school followed a Challenge-Based Learning framework, where participants could progress from foundational lectures to hands-on practice sessions and culminate in solving real-world industry challenges in collaborative teams.

The main learning outcomes of the summer school were defined as:

Design and implement DocVQA systems with RAG techniques

Master multimodal data generation for efficient VLM training

Build knowledge graphs from complex document collections

Apply solutions to low-resource and historical document analysis

The program of the summer school was structured around three types of activities: lectures, hands-on lab sessions, and a challenge-based open lab (see box to the right).

The summer school had 35 registered participants (30 students and 5 researchers), about 25% women. Eighteen different nationalities were represented, including Spanish (10), Indian (3), French (3), German (3), Mexican (2), Chinese (2), Tunisian (1), Iranian (1), Uruguayan-Spanish (1), Guatemalan (1), Czech (1), British (1), Chilean (1), USA (1), Pakistani (1), Ethiopian (1), Uruguayan-Italian (1), Dutch (1).

The overall assessment of the Summer School was highly positive. All participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with both the program and the lectures, and all agreed that they had learned new concepts and knowledge throughout the course. The challenge-based Open Lab was considered useful by 93% of participants. The lectures received an average rating of 4.53 out of 5, while the Summer School as a whole achieved an outstanding overall rating of 4.89 out of 5. Participants also expressed high levels of satisfaction with both the location and the venue.

IAPR sponsorship helped lower registration fees for students. TC10/11 sponsorship provided three full tuition scholarships. Candidates for scholarships were ranked according to three criteria: gender (20%), geographic constraints/under-representation (35%), and academic merit, such as participation in international conferences or strong academic performance (45%). The ranking process was conducted by first anonymizing personal information, retaining only the relevant evaluation criteria to ensure unbiased results. TC10/11 sponsorship also provided an award of €800 for the winners of the hackathon.

The award for the hackathon was selected based on the evaluation of the student's presentation, innovative potential, and quality of the solution design. The award was given to the following team: Ludwig Mittermeier (Germany), Nicolas Sibuet Ruiz (Spain), Syed Yaqub Shah (Pakistan), and Pu Sun (China).

The Summer School was highly successful, as reflected in the overall satisfaction expressed by participants regarding both the program and the quality of the lectures. Feedback indicated that the content was well aligned with participants' expectations. Participants generally demonstrated a strong background in the field and a high level of motivation to engage with the topics covered during the event.

The thematic focus of the Summer School, including Vision-Language Models (VLMs), Knowledge Graphs, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), trustworthiness of AI systems, and related topics, proved to be highly relevant and attractive to students and researchers working in document analysis, highlighting the timeliness of the program.

The School Program
Lectures and Presenters

Introduction to Document Analysis and Vision & Language
Dimosthenis Karatzas, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)

Trends on Truthworthy Doc Analysis
Maura Pintor, University of Cagliari (Italy)

When Historical Demography Met Pixels: Construction and Analysis of Population Data from the Past
Joana M. Pujades, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)

Reshaping Access to the Past: Computer Vision and RAG in Historical Archive
Gerard Corbella, La Foneria (Spain)

Generating and Editing Visually -Rich Documents
Silvia Cascianelli, Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy)

Learning on Graphs: GNNs in Document Analysis
Andreas Fischer, University of Freiburg (Germany)

Information Retrieval
Richard Zanibbi, Rochester Institute of Technology (USA)

Agentic: RAG, GraphRAG
Antonio Fabregat, European Bioinformatics Institute, Cambridge (UK)

Hands-on Lab Sessions

VLMs and Agents; Graph Neural Networks; Agentic GraphRAG

Hackathon

Challenge-based Open Lab

Groups selected a real challenge of document understanding and built an agentic-based visual question answering prototype for the challenge using some of the tools and methods introduced in the lectures and lab sessions. All the solutions were presented in the last session of the summer school, and an award was given to the team with the most innovative and well designed solution.

The hands-on laboratory sessions were a valuable complement to the lectures, enabling participants to apply the concepts presented in class to practical scenarios. These sessions provided useful tools that participants can directly incorporate into their own research activities.

The hackathon represented a key aspect of the Summer School. It encouraged creativity and the exploration of innovative ideas that can be useful for future research activities. The team-based format also fostered interaction among participants, helping them to establish professional connections and creating opportunities for future collaboration.

From an organizational perspective, hosting the Summer School in a relatively isolated venue presented some logistical challenges, particularly with respect to transportation. Nevertheless, this setting proved beneficial overall, as it allowed participants to remain fully immersed in the program, encouraged informal exchanges outside the scheduled activities, and strengthened the sense of community and group belonging among participants.

~ Ernest Valveny, CVC (UAB)

IAPR TC10/TC11 Summer School (SSDA26)

Report from Natalia Bottaioli, Scholarship Recipient

I have been asked to write a report as a recipient of the TC10/11 Scholarship for the 6th IAPR TC10/TC11 Summer School (SSDA26), titled *Next-Gen Document Understanding: RAG, VLMs, and Structured Knowledge Extraction*, held in Vall de Núria, Catalonia, in May of 2026. I am delighted to do so since this was a truly enriching experience.

To begin, notification of my scholarship arrived almost two months before the school dates, giving me ample time to arrange travel through my university. This was just the tip of an iceberg of timely, clear communication, and careful organization, with great attention to detail throughout.

I will start with the most obvious highlight: the venue. It was absolutely superb and perfectly suited to a school of this size (fewer than 50 participants). We had sufficient space for the conference, excellent food, attentive service from the hotel staff, and beautiful surroundings in which to exercise or relax once the working day was over. I believe that holding the summer school in a location largely isolated from the outside world naturally encouraged interactions among participants. Being able to discuss the PhD experience with students and professors from different universities and countries was one of the most enriching aspects of the school. This was further supported by another thoughtful touch: asking each of us to give a 1-minute pitch of our PhD project. This helped us identify people working on related sub-fields or problems, with whom we could collaborate or continue discussions throughout the week and, hopefully, beyond.

As for the presentations, topics, and speakers, I felt they struck a good balance between research experience and industrial applications. I do think there is room for improvement in the lab sessions: They are naturally more difficult to organize and run than oral presentations, and were, in my view, the sessions from which we gained the least.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words about the organisers' involvement throughout the entire week (and before and after it): They were impressively open to suggestions, attentive to detail, and made sure everyone got the most out of the experience. This definitely made a difference throughout the week.

Most respectfully,

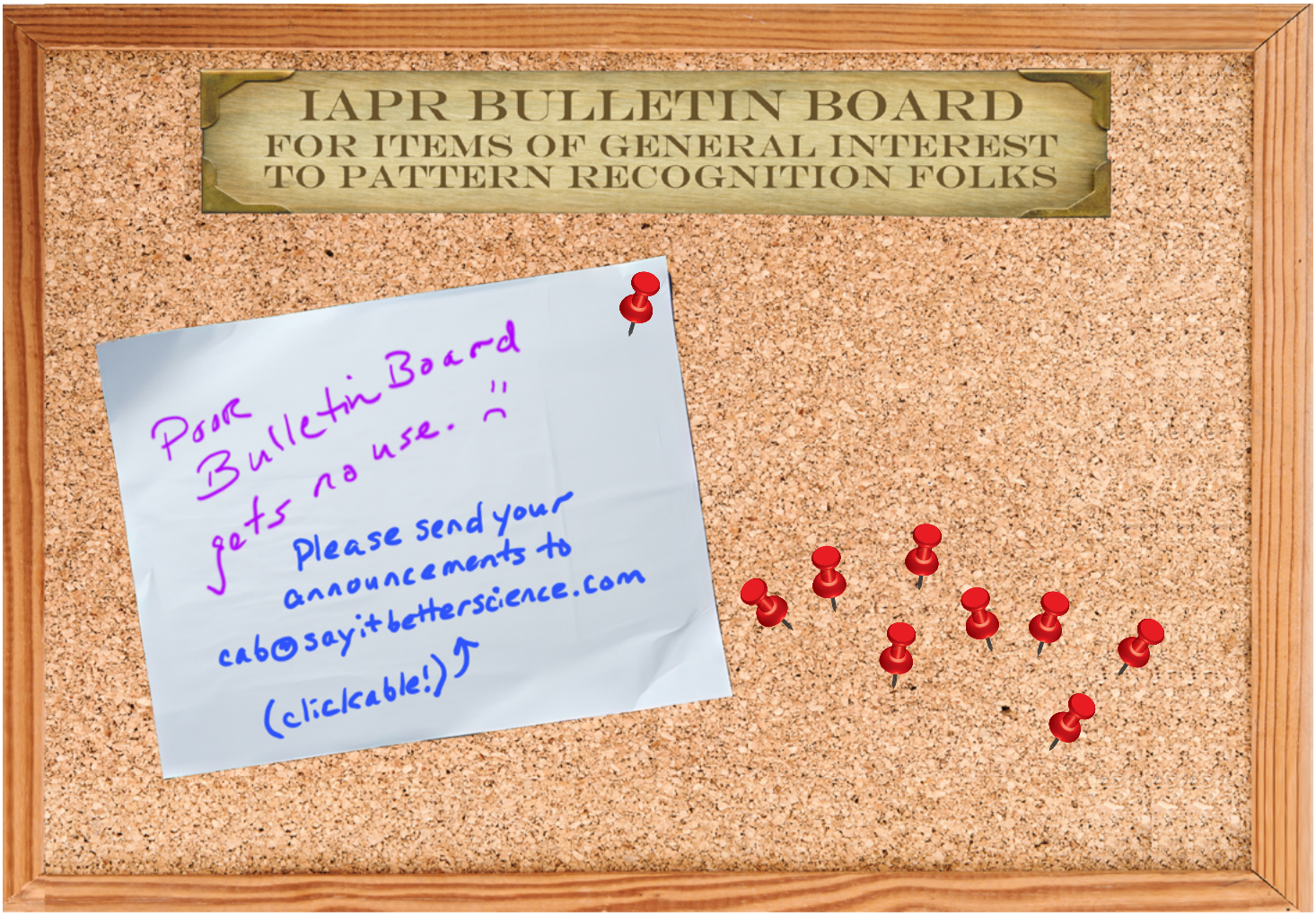
Natalia Bottaioli

2nd year PhD Student

Université Paris-Saclay

Meeting and Education Planner

Month	Days	Meetings, Workshops & Schools		Previous edition & link to Report	Venue	Paper/ Application Deadline
= Sponsored by IAPR		**2026**				
Nov	24-27	CIARP 2026	29th Iberoamerican Congress on Pattern Recognition	2025	CDMX **Mexico**	closed
Dec	9-12	CVIP 2026	11th International Conference on Computer Vision and Image Processing	2024	Calicut **India**	closed
	20-22	ISPR 2026	6th International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Pattern Recognition	2025	Istanbul **Türkiye**	Nov 5 2026
		2027				
Feb	20-22	ICPRAM 2027	16th International Conference on Pattern Recognition Applications and Methods	2026	Velletta **Malta**	Oct 29 2026
	26-28	VISAPP 2027	22nd International Conference on Computer Vision Theory and Applications	2026	Velletta **Malta**	Oct 29 2026
	27-28	ROBOVIS 2027	7th International Conference on Robotics, Computer Vision and Intelligent Systems	2026	Velletta **Malta**	Oct 29 2026
Mar	8-11	ICPRS 2027	16th International Conference on Pattern Recognition Systems	2025	Talence (Bordeaux) **France**	Nov 7 2026
Jun	8-11	SCIA 2027	Scandinavian Conference on Image Analysis	2025	Gjovik **Norway**	Jan 26 2027
Aug	18-22	ICDAR 2027	21st International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition	2025	Kuala Lumper **Malaysia**	Feb 28 2027
Sep	13-17	IJCB 2027	2027 IEEE/IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics	2025	Foz do Iguacu **Brazil**	Apr 10 2027
Oct	4-6 & 14-15	ICPRv 2027	International Conference on Pattern Recognition Virtual	1st, but see pp. 3, 4, 9-26	**Online**	Mar 1 2027



IAPR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR JANUARY 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28	Dec 28 *Invited Next Gen, 50 Years Essays Due*	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 1 *Invited Getting to Know IAPR Fellows Essay Due*	Jan 2
Jan 3	Jan 4 *New ads, plus...* ***All Meeting Reports!*** ***ALL Meeting Reports!*** ***ALL MEETING REPORTS***	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8 *Standing Committee Columns/News, Technical Committee News, Changes to existing ads*	Jan 9
Jan 10	Jan 11 *From the ExCo Essay and News Points*	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15 *Conference Calls for Papers, Proposals, & Applications*	Jan 16
Jan 17 through Jan 25: ***Final Copy Draft and Review Week (New materials can no longer be accepted)***						
Jan 24	Jan 25 *Publication Day (Planned)*	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	

Wondering when to send new or unlisted content? Please contact the Layout Editor by Dec 15, 2026

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION
IAPR Newsletter

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Editor in Chief (EiC): Heydi Méndez-Vázquez hmendez@cenatav.co.cu
Layout Editor (LE): Carolyn Buckley cab@sayitbetterscience.com
Assistant Secretariat: Rosemary Green: secretariat@iapr.org

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