The 2nd IEEE/IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics (IJCBI 2014) was recently held in Clearwater, Florida, USA from September 29 to October 2, 2014 at Sheraton Sand Key Resort. This flagship conference combined two major biometrics research annual conferences; the Biometrics Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS) conference from IEEE Biometrics Council and the International Conference on Biometrics (ICB) which is the flagship conference of IAPR-TC4. This conference was held in a beach resort in Florida and attracted over 200 participants from academia, industry, research institutions and government bodies.

This year the conference received 261 paper submissions. With great help from over 150 reviewers and 21 area chairs, the PC Chairs were able to manage the review process by ensuring at least three reviews per paper and accepted 25 papers for 6 oral sessions and 55 papers for 3 poster sessions. The process included a useful rebuttal stage where about 85% of the authors replied to reviewer comments, often leading to an adjustment of the final paper scores. Based on the Area Chairs’ recommendations, the PC Chairs deliberated on all the submissions, except for those co-chaired by a PC Chair or a General Chair. The latter types of papers were handled offline by non-conflicting General Chairs (for papers co-authored by PC Chairs) or PC Chairs (for papers co-authored by a General Chairs).

IJCBI 2014 program schedule encompassed a broad range of topics from various research groups around the world. The presentations cover the main topics in Biometrics spanning from traditional to emerging themes such as the issues related to the deployment of biometrics in large scale ID programs and the efforts to acquire usable biometric samples in critical conditions. The paper presentations were complemented with 4 invited tutorials talks offered by distinguished researchers. The tutorial topics were chosen to emphasize the most mature and widely deployed biometrics technologies and best practices. The tutorial speakers included Jianjiang Feng (Latent Fingerprint and Palmprint Recognition), Jiwen Lu (Metric Learning for Face Analysis), Kevin Bowyer (Iris Recognition: From Basics to Research Frontiers) and Norman Poh (System Design and Performance Assessment: A Biometric Menagerie Perspective).
IJC2014 also featured a most distinguished set of keynote speakers: Hitoshi Imaoka, NEC (Japan) and Mark Burge, IARPA (USA). Hitoshi Imaoka delivered ‘IAPR 2014 Biometrics Lecture’ titled ‘Face Recognition: Beyond the Limits of Accuracy’. He presented an overview of real life covariates influencing the face recognition algorithms. The face recognition algorithm developed by him has been evaluated with the highest accuracy in the still face track of Multiple-Biometric Evaluation 2010 carried out by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Mark Burge from Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) delivered invited talk titled ‘Face Recognition: Pushing the Boundaries’. IJC2014 also witnessed a panel session on Promoting High Quality Research in Biometrics: Challenges and Mechanisms. This panel session was chaired by Anil Jain (Michigan State University) and included Stan Li (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Davide Maltoni (University of Bologna), and Rob Rowe (Lumidigm).

The conference program for IJC2014 also included a special session on National ID Programs as well as a session reporting the results of four biometric algorithm competitions that were held in conjunction with this conference. The speakers of National ID Programs session included Vijay S Madan (Digital ID for Benefit and Service Delivery to Billion Plus People) from UIDAI (India), Shukri Ali Al Braiki (The UAE Population Register and ID Card Program: Achievements and the Challenges Ahead) from EiDA (UAE), Sara Lenharo (Brazilian National Biometric Selection: New and Legacy Challenges) from RIC (Brazil) and this session was chaired by Kevin Bowyer (University of Notre Dame). A panel session on Large Scale Identification was also organized in conjunction with this conference. This panel session was chaired by Nalini Ratha (IBM) and included Michael Garris (NIST), Stéphane Gentric (Morpho), William G. Mckinsey (FBI), Mark Burge (IARPA), and Charles Y. Li (IBM).

IJC2014 received the generous support from several organizations without which this conference would not have been possible. In particular, support from Lumidigm, Safran Morpho, Nielsen, 3dMD, Cognitec, Cross Resolve, Digital Signal Corporation, Integrated Biometrics, Morgan & Claypool, SRI International and Springer is much appreciated and acknowledged. Conference organizers also provided IAPR Travel Award to 10 participants of doctoral consortium. The doctoral consortium also had a poster session and a Best Presentation Award which was delivered to Gaurav Goswami (IIIT Delhi).

A biometrics quiz titled Who Wants to be (biometrics) Millionaire witnessed enthusiastic participation across the dinner tables and was organized by Mark Nixon (University of Southampton) and Mayank Vatsa (IIIT Delhi). The BTAS...
**Best Paper Award** was given to Laurent El Shafey, Elie Khoury and Sébastien Marcel (all from *Idiap Research Institute*) for their paper titled “Audio-Visual Gender Recognition in Uncontrolled Environment Using Variability Modeling Techniques”. The **Five Year Highest Impact Paper Award for a BTAS Paper** was given to Unsang Park, Arun Ross, and Anil Jain, for their paper "Periocular Biometrics in the Visible Spectrum" presented in BTAS 2009. The **IAPR 2014 Senior Biometrics Investigator Award** was delivered to Anil Jain (*Michigan State University*). The **IAPR 2014 Best Biometrics Student Paper Award** was awarded to Bin Yang, Junjie Yan, Zhen Lei, and Stan Li, for their paper titled “Aggregate Channel Features for Multi-view Face Detection”. The **IJCB 2014 Best Reviewers Awards** were presented to Kevin Bowyer, Anil Jain, Alice O'Toole, BVK Vijaya Kumar, Hugo Proenca, Oleg Komogortsev, Maria De Marsico, Kiran Balagani, Walter Schirer, Chi-Ho Chan, and Shengcai Liao. The conference participants also voted for the best poster presentations. The **IJCB 2014 Best Voted Poster Awards** were awarded to (i) Christian Rathgeb, Andreas Uhl, and Peter Wild for their paper titled “Effects of Severe Image Compression on Iris Segmentation Performance” on first day, (ii) to Anush S, Prateekshit Pandey, Mayank Vatsa, and Richa Singh for their paper titled “On Latent Fingerprint Minutiae Extraction using Stacked De-noising Sparse AutoEncoders” and to Peter Wild, Petru Radu, Lulu Chen, and James Ferryman for their paper titled “Towards Anomaly Detection for Increased Security in Multibiometric Systems: Spoofing-resistant 1-Median Fusion Eliminating Outliers” on second day, and (iii) to Ajita Rattani and Arun Ross for their paper titled “Automatic Adaptation of Fingerprint Liveness Detector to New Spoof Materials” on final day of the conference.