

Preface

We are pleased to welcome you to the 21st IEEE International Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems in the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. This is the fifth time for CBMS to be held outside the USA, and the very first time in Finland, and we are delighted to host it here in Jyväskylä.

We have had an outstanding response to our Call for Papers. Out of 246 submissions from 778 authors and 45 countries we have selected 86 full papers thus having 35% acceptance rate for this category. Besides, 57 short papers have been selected including both research and application oriented contributions.

In 2005 CBMS has switched to the special tracks system. This year CBMS has nine special tracks and three special sessions as integral parts of the programme. We are grateful to the chairs and programme committee members of the tracks for helping us to attract many high-level submissions from the different areas of computational medicine, for reviewing the submissions and for organizing interesting technical sessions.

There is one novelty in the programme's structure, in comparison with the previous years. To emphasize the importance of practical relevance of research, and not only its theoretical rigor, we introduce a series of new technical sessions called "Applications". The focus of these sessions is on practical applications; real-world medical systems and their prototypes. We hope this novelty will be successful, and will be accepted at the following CBMS symposiums.

We are greatly thankful to Prof Niilo Saranummi (VTT Research Centre, Finland), Prof Tharam Dillon (Curtin University of Technology, Australia), and Dr Sameer Antani (National Library of Medicine/NIH, USA) for agreeing to deliver their keynote talks at CBMS 2008. Certainly, the success of the present symposium would not be achievable without the efforts of many other dedicated individuals. We would like to thank Oleksiy Mazhelis, our Local Organizing Committee Chair, for his help in every single aspect of the organizational process. We thank the IEEE Computer Society staff for their professional help in the organization of the conference. Bob Werner helped us put together these proceedings. We would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee for their readiness to help. Prof Peter Kokol has been always ready to share his ample experience in the organization of the past CBMS symposiums. We are also thankful to the creators of the EasyChair Conference System and its main developer Andrei Voronkov; EasyChair has certainly simplified the paper submission and review process. We are grateful to all the members of the Organizing Committee who have helped us in different occasions; especially Dr Amandeep Sidhu, Dr DJ Lee, and Prof Pasi Tyrväinen.

Last, but not least we would like to thank all who submitted papers to CBMS 2008, and all who provided reviews, on the basis of which we put together the present programme. We hope you enjoy the symposium and find many topics of interest for you in the technical programme. We are grateful for your participation.

General and Programme Committee Chairs

Seppo Puuronen
Mykola Pechenizkiy
Alexey Tsymbal