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Preface

"Change is inevitable."[1] Embracing this quote we have tried to carefully experiment with the format of this conference, the 15th International Conference on Inductive Logic Programming, hopefully making it even better than it already was. But it will be up to you, the inquisitive reader of this book, to judge our success. The major changes comprised broadening the scope of the conference to include more diverse forms of non-propositional learning, to once again have tutorials on exciting new areas, and, for the first time, to also have a discovery challenge as a platform for collaborative work.

This year the conference was co-located with ICML 2005, the 22nd International Conference on Machine Learning, and also in close proximity to IJCAI 2005, the 19th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Co-location can be tricky, but we greatly benefited from the local support provided by Codrina Lauth, Michael May, and others. We were also able to invite all ILP and ICML participants to shared events including a poster session, an invited talk, and a tutorial about the exciting new area of "statistical relational learning". Two more invited talks were exclusively given to ILP participants and were presented as a kind of stock-taking—fittingly so for the 15th event in a series—but also tried to provide a recipe for future endeavours.

Abstracts of all invited events as well as full-length papers of 24 presentations comprise this volume. All the presentations of the "Work-in-Progress" track as well as all submissions to the "ILP Challenge" should be available both as a technical report and on the Web.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Kluwer Academic Publishers for the "Best Student Paper" award on behalf of the *Machine Learning* journal; and Springer for continuing to publish the proceedings of these conferences. The German Gesellschaft für Informatik acted as a guarantor for the conference budget, relieving us from any imminent dangers of bankruptcy. Additional support was provided by the SIGILP of the PASCAL network of excellence. Finally, we are especially grateful for the efforts of Anne Einenkel, who ran the online services of the conference in a very smooth and effective way. *Danke schön.*

June 2005

Stefan Kramer
Bernhard Pfahringer

[1] —except from a vending machine. –Robert C. Gallagher

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