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Preface

The 2001 International Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ICCBR 2001, www.iccbr.org/iccbr01), the fourth in the biennial ICCBR series (1995 in Sesimbra, Portugal; 1997 in Providence, Rhode Island (USA); 1999 in Seeon, Germany), was held during 30 July – 2 August 2001 in Vancouver, Canada. ICCBR is the premier international forum for researchers and practitioners of case-based reasoning (CBR). The objectives of this meeting were to nurture significant, relevant advances made in this field (both in research and application), communicate them among all attendees, inspire future advances, and continue to support the vision that CBR is a valuable process in many research disciplines, both computational and otherwise.

ICCBR 2001 was the first ICCBR meeting held on the Pacific coast, and we used the setting of beautiful Vancouver as an opportunity to enhance participation from the Pacific Rim communities, which contributed 28% of the submissions. During this meeting, we were fortunate to host invited talks by Ralph Bergmann, Ken Forbus, Jaiwei Han, Ramon López de Mántaras, and Manuela Veloso. Their contributions ensured a stimulating meeting; we thank them all.

This conference continues the tradition that ICCBR has established of attracting high-quality research and applications papers from around the world. Among the 81 (24 application + 57 research) submissions, 23 were selected for (9 long and 14 short) oral presentation and an additional 27 for poster presentation. This volume contains the papers for all 50 presentations. Also included are papers from some of the invited speakers and an invited paper by Petra Perner on image interpretation, a topic on which we wish to encourage additional community participation.

ICCBR 2001's first day consisted of the *2001 Innovative Customer-Centered Applications Workshop* (ICCA 2001). This workshop, which was expertly co-chaired by Mehmet Göker (Americas), Hideo Shimazu (Asia & Australia), and Ralph Traphöner (Europe and Africa), focused on reports concerning mature applications and technology innovations of particular industrial interest.

The second day's events included five workshops focusing on the following research interests: Authoring Support Tools, Electronic Commerce, Creative Systems, Process-Oriented Knowledge Management, and Soft Computing. We are grateful to the Workshop Program Co-chairs, Christiane Gresse von Wangenheim and Rosina Weber, for their efforts in coordinating these workshops, along with the individual workshop chairs and participants. Materials from ICCA 2001 and the workshops were published separately and can be obtained from the ICCBR 2001 WWW site.

The Conference Chair for ICCBR 2001 was Qiang Yang of Simon Fraser University, while the Program Co-chairs were David W. Aha (U.S. Naval Research Laboratory) and Ian Watson (University of Auckland). The chairs would like to thank the program committee and the additional reviewers for their thoughtful and rigorous reviewing during the paper selection process. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of ICCBR 2001's sponsors, and Simon Fraser University for providing the venue. Many thanks to Penny Southby and her staff at the Simon Fraser University Conference Services for their tremendous assistance with local arrangements. Finally, thanks to Vincent Chung of the University of Auckland for his assistance with the conference WWW site.

May 2001

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