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Preface

The AI 96 Conference is the 11th in a series of biennial artificial intelligence conferences sponsored by the Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence/Société canadienne pour l'étude de l'intelligence par ordinateur. In recent years it has been held in conjunction with the Vision Interface and Graphics Interface conferences, as it is again this year.

While organized by a national society, AI 96 has followed the Canadian AI conference tradition of being explicitly international in scope. Papers were submitted to AI 96 from around the world, and these proceedings represent a significant geographic diversity. The conference also maintains the tradition of attracting papers covering an eclectic range of AI topics, a diversity that can be fully appreciated by conference attendees since the papers are scheduled in a single track. These papers have been fully reviewed, and are of high quality. A journal version of the best paper at the conference will appear in the Computational Intelligence journal, the official journal of the CSCSI/SCEIO.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a number of people who were instrumental in helping put this conference together. First, thanks to the members of the program committee (listed below) for their work in refereeing and coordinating the refereeing of the papers, and for their suggestions and ideas about the conference. Thanks also to the many referees (also listed below) who reviewed the papers. Not only were the reviews by and large constructive, but very tight deadlines had to be met. I would like to express my gratitude to those who helped me in special ways in editing these proceedings, in arranging conference events, and in keeping all the paper and electronic records straight. In these regards, Jim Greer, Rob Holte, Randy Goebel, Nancy Bohachik, Fabian Searwar, Wayne Davis, and Gail Walker have all made special contributions to the AI 96 conference. I also appreciate the cooperation I have received from Springer-Verlag, especially Alfred Hofmann.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the most important people at this (or any) conference: those who come to the conference, especially those who have written papers; our invited speakers, Martha Pollack, Bruce Porter, and the CSCSI/SCEIO distinguished service award winner (who is still unchosen as these proceedings go to press); workshop organizers Lev Goldfarb and Joel Martin; and our various panelists and debaters. I hope you all enjoy the conference.

March 1996

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