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Preface

The Iberoamerican Congress on Pattern Recognition (CIARP), is an annual international conference that publishes original, high-quality papers related to Pattern Recognition, Artificial Intelligence, and related fields, welcoming contributions on any aspect of theory as well as applications. CIARP has become a key research event, and one of the most important in Pattern Recognition for the Iberoamerican community.

As has been the case for previous editions of the conference, CIARP 2019 hosted worldwide participants with the aim of promoting and disseminating ongoing research on mathematical methods and computing techniques for Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition, in particular in Bioinformatics, Cognitive and Humanoid Vision, Computer Vision, Image Analysis and Intelligent Data Analysis, as well as their application in a number of diverse areas such as industry, health, robotics, data mining, opinion mining and sentiment analysis, telecommunications, document analysis, and natural language processing and recognition. Moreover, CIARP 2019 was a forum for the scientific community to exchange research experience, to share new knowledge, and to increase the cooperation among research groups in Artificial Intelligence, Pattern Recognition, and related areas.

CIARP has always been an open international event, and this 24th edition received 128 contributions from 23 countries. The biggest presence was Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Germany, and Chile. We also received contributions from Argentina, Austria, Canada, Ecuador, France, Italy, India, Japan, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, UK, and USA.

After a rigorous blind reviewing process, where three highly qualified reviewers reviewed each submission (362 reviews from 146 reviewers who spent significant time and effort in reviewing the papers), 70 papers authored by 239 authors from 14 countries were accepted, which is an acceptance rate of 54.69%. The scientific quality of all the accepted papers was above the overall mean rating. The reviewers were chosen based on their expertise ensuring that they came from different countries and institutions around the world. We would like to thank all the members of the Program Committee for their work, which we are sure contributed to improving the quality of the selected papers.

The conference was held during October 28–31, 2019, at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba, and consisted of four days of papers, tutorials, and keynotes. As has been the case for the most recent editions of the conference, CIARP 2019 was a single-track conference. The program comprised eight oral sessions: Image Analysis and Retrieval; Signals Analysis and Processing; Video Analysis; Mathematical Theory of Pattern Recognition; Applications of Pattern Recognition; Machine Learning and Neural Networks; Data Mining, Natural Language Processing and Text Mining; Speech Recognition. Also, one additional poster sessions included papers on all previous topics.

CIARP 2019 was endorsed by the IAPR, the International Association for Pattern Recognition and therefore the conference gave out the CIARP-IAPR Best Paper Award. This award and the Aurora Pons-Porrata Medal (to an Iberoamerican woman with a prestigious career in Pattern Recognition and related fields) will be published as a Special Section in the *Pattern Recognition Letters* journal. Also, authors of the 20–25 best papers, within the aims and scope of the journals, will be invited to prepare an extended version for a Special Issue of the *Intelligent Data Analysis* (IDA) journal (<http://www.iospress.nl/journal/intelligent-data-analysis>), with guest editors A. Fazel Famili and José E. Medina Pagolan, and for a Special Issue of the *Pattern Analysis and Applications* (PAAA) journal (<https://link.springer.com/journal/10044>), with guest editors José Ruiz Shulcloper and Heydi Mendez Vazquez.

The program also included four invited talks by eminent speakers: Petra Perner, Alberto Del Bimbo, Massimo Tistarelli, and Jean-François Bonastre. Additionally, four tutorials, given by Ingela Nyström, Petra Perner, Alberto Del Bimbo, and Massimo Tistarelli completed the program. It was a pleasure to work with this outstanding group of invited speakers.

CIARP 2019 was organized by Universidad de las Ciencias Informáticas (UCI) and the Cuban Association for Pattern Recognition (ACRP). We appreciate their valuable contributions to the success of CIARP 2019. We gratefully acknowledge the help of all members of the Organizing Committee and of the Local Committee for their unflagging work in the organization of CIARP 2019 that allowed us to put together an excellent conference and proceedings.

We are especially grateful to Alfred Hofmann, Anna Kramer, and Volha Shaparava of Springer for their support and advice during the preparation of this LNCS volume.

Special thanks are due to all authors who submitted to CIARP 2019, including those of papers that could not be accepted. Finally, we hope that these proceedings will be a useful reference for the Pattern Recognition research community.

October 2019

Ingela Nyström
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