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Preface

MICCAI has become a flagship international conference for medical image computing and computer-assisted interventions. The MICCAI conference was created by merging three closely related and thriving conference series: VBC (Visualization in Biomedical Computing), MRCAS (Medical Robotics and Computer Assisted Surgery) and CVRMed (Computer Vision, Virtual Reality and Robotics in Medicine). MICCAI now provides a single focus for the presentation of high quality research in this important, multi-disciplinary area. The first MICCAI was held in Boston, USA in 1998, and the second meeting was held last year in Cambridge, England. These previous conferences attracted a large number of excellent submissions and were very well attended. These meetings brought together the best theoretical and applied work in this rapidly emerging field, and encouraged constructive dialogue between computer scientists, engineers, and clinicians.

We are delighted to report a high level of interest in MICCAI 2000. A total of 194 papers were submitted, covering a broad range of topics. Of these, 136 were accepted for presentation at the conference – 38 as oral presentations and 98 as posters. All the selected papers appear in these proceedings. Each paper was reviewed by three members of the Scientific Review Committee, selected for technical or clinical expertise of relevance to the subject matter. Final decisions were made by the Program Planning Committee, based on advice from individual reviewers. The result is another volume of high-quality papers that will contribute to the development of this important and exciting area.

We are grateful to the members of the Scientific Review Committee for the time they devoted to the review process. We are also indebted to Branislav Jaramaz, Fredric Picard, and Katharine Cline for superb support in organizing the conference. We are most thankful to the authors of this volume, for submitting a fantastic array of work from basic work on image processing to significant clinical applications of this new technology in orthopaedics, neurosurgery, oncology, surgery, plastic surgery, cardiology, radiology, and other clinical disciplines.

We are pleased to welcome delegates to Pittsburgh and hope that you find MICCAI 2000 an enjoyable and stimulating experience. For readers unable to attend the conference, we hope that you will find this a valuable record of the scientific program, and look forward to meeting you at future MICCAI conferences.

October 2000

Scott L. Delp
Tony DiGioia
Branislav Jaramaz

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