

Editorial: The SPIE Medical Imaging Meetings

IN THIS ISSUE I wish to recognize the contribution of the SPIE Medical Imaging meetings to computer applications in radiology. To that end, the first seven papers in this issue were selected for their value to *Journal of Digital Imaging* readers. They were initially given in oral form at the February 1992 meeting in Newport Beach, CA. This series of conferences dealing with image management and communications (IMAC) dates back to 1982. It has had several names over the years, but more recently it has been known as Medical Imaging. The majority of these conferences have been held under the leadership of Roger H. Schneider, MSc, and Samuel J. Dwyer III, PhD. In more recent years, R. Gilbert Jost, MD, has become one of the senior organizing chairs of the conference.

The Medical Imaging meeting now actually include four individual conferences, each with its own chair and program committee. They run from Sunday to Friday with no more than two parallel lecture tracks at any one time. The conferences and chairs are: Image Instrumentation, Rodney Shaw, PhD, Rochester Institute of Technology; Image Processing, Murray H. Loew, PhD, George Washington University; Image Capture, Formatting, and Display, Yongmin Kim, PhD, University of Washington; and Picture Archiving and Communications System Design and Evaluation, R. Gilbert Jost, MD, of Washington University.

The meetings feature a wide range of papers related to digital imaging. The largest single group of attendees are scientists and engineers from academic institutions: scientists and others from industry are the next largest group. Over the years, the meeting has served as a forum and incubator for the exchange of ideas between industry and the academic and clinical communities. Less than one fourth of the attendees have been physicians, but that number is increasing. Many presenters choose these meetings to introduce their latest work, sometimes as works in progress or as preliminary reports. Other

papers describe systems under development or in place. Attendance this year was more than 500. Frequently, meetings of American College of Radiology-National Electrical Manufacturers Association Working Groups will be held at the conference. Meetings of groups such as the Computer Committee of the American College of Radiology, the SCAR Board of Directors, and Radiology Information System Consortium meetings are often scheduled for breakfast or in the evening.

Proceedings for the meeting are published two or three months after the meetings. They are a means of measuring the growth of the conference. In 1985, the proceedings in two volumes comprised 646 pages. This year the proceedings in four volumes comprise 2,062 pages.

Journal of Digital Imaging Editorial Board members nominate outstanding papers of high potential value to *Journal of Digital Imaging* readers after this and other such meetings. From this carefully selected group of papers, a few authors are invited to submit a manuscript with or without revisions or expansion for peer review. This method of bringing leading articles to the full readership has been very well received.

In closing, perhaps a word about the sponsoring organization is appropriate. SPIE stands for Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, the original name of the society that was founded in the photo-optics field. The society is currently named the International Society for Optical Engineering; however, it retains the acronym SPIE. Obviously, there is also a smaller group of scientists and physicians with medical imaging interests in SPIE along with those who are interested in the area of optical science and engineering. The next Medical Imaging (VII) meeting will again be held in Newport Beach, CA, next February. Please see the Calendar section of this issue for further details.

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