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Preface

This book is based on the papers presented at the *International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks*, ICANN'97, which was hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland. The ICANN conferences were initiated in 1991 and have since become the major European meetings in the field of neural networks.

From 365 submitted papers 190 were accepted for publication. In addition there were several invited papers. The process of paper selection for ICANN'97 relied heavily upon the work of our referees whom we would like to thank for their great effort. We also owe a warm 'thank you' to the members of the technical program committee, F. Blayo, M. Cottrell, F. de Viron, C. Jutten, E. Mayoraz, and K. Pawelzik who spent two days in Lausanne for the final selection of the papers and the preparation of the conference program.

The conference and the proceedings would not have been possible without the enormous work of M. Dubois and A. Moinat who handled all the organizational aspects of paper submission and registration. M.-J. Pellaud generously helped out whenever it was necessary. Financial support was provided by the Foundation 'Latsis' and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Lausanne, July 1997

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