

Preface

In the four years of its existence, MICCAI has developed into the premier annual conference on medical image computing and computer-assisted intervention. The single-track conference has an interdisciplinary character, bringing together researchers from both the natural sciences and various medical disciplines. It provides the international forum for developments concerning all aspects of medical image processing and visualization, image-guided and computer-aided techniques, and robot technology in medicine.

The strong interest in MICCAI is confirmed by the large number of submissions we received this year, which by far surpassed our expectations. The arrival of the shipload of papers just before the deadlines (one in the European and the other in the American time zone) was a particularly enjoyable experience, as was the whole procedure of preparing the scientific programme. Both the quantity and quality of the submissions allowed us to compose a volume of high quality papers, which we are sure will contribute to the further development of this exciting field of research.

As for the hard numbers, in total 338 submissions were received. Next to full papers, short communications were solicited for works in progress, hardware prototypes, and clinical case studies. Long papers were reviewed by three or four reviewers and short papers by two or three reviewers. The final selection of papers was carried out by the Programme Board. Out of the 246 long papers, 36 were accepted for oral presentation and 100 as full posters. An additional 75 of the long papers, and 47 out of 92 short papers were accepted as short posters. We are indebted to the the Scientific Review Committee and the Programme Board for their timely and high-quality reviews. The entire review procedure was carried out electronically. We are very grateful for the dedicated work performed by Shirley Baert and Josien Pluim in setting up and maintaining the web based review system, which made our task substantially easier.

We are very pleased to welcome delegates attending MICCAI 2001 in Utrecht. It is a small and friendly city with a beautiful centre and nice atmosphere, even if it rains (which it usually does in October). We hope that the conference proves to be both scientifically and socially an enjoyable and stimulating experience. For researchers who are unable to attend, we hope that the proceedings provide a valuable record of the scientific programme and we look forward to meeting you at the next MICCAI, which will be held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2002.

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Fourth International Conference on
Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention
Utrecht, The Netherlands
14-17 October 2001

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Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted
Intervention - MICCAI 2001
4th International Conference Utrecht, The Netherlands,
October 14-17, 2001. Proceedings
Niessen, W.J.; Viergever, M. (Eds.)
2001, LXX, 1447 p. 741 illus., 49 illus. in color. In 2
volumes, not available separately., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-540-42697-4