

Preface

The Sixth International Conference on Medical Imaging and Computer Assisted Intervention, **MICCAI 2003**, was held in Montréal, Québec Canada at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel during November 15–18 2003. This was the first time the conference had been held in Canada. The proposal to host **MICCAI 2003** originated from discussions within the Ontario Consortium for Image-guided Therapy and Surgery, a multi-institutional research consortium that was supported by the government of Ontario through the Ontario Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation.

The objective of the conference was to offer clinicians and scientists a forum within which to exchange ideas in this exciting and rapidly growing field. **MICCAI 2003** encompassed the state of the art in computer-assisted interventions, medical robotics, and medical-image processing, attracting experts from numerous multi-disciplinary professions that included clinicians and surgeons, computer scientists, medical physicists and mechanical, electrical and biomedical engineers.

The quality and quantity of submitted papers were most impressive. For **MICCAI 2003** we received a record 499 full submissions and 100 short communications. All full submissions, of 8 pages each, were reviewed by up to 5 reviewers, and the 2-page contributions were assessed by a small subcommittee of the Scientific Review Committee. All reviews were then considered by the **MICCAI 2003** Program Committee, resulting in the acceptance of 206 full papers and 25 short communications. The normal mode of presentation at **MICCAI 2003** was as a poster; in addition, 49 papers were chosen for oral presentation. All of the full papers are included in these proceedings in 8-page format, without any differentiation between the mode of presentation. All of the accepted 2-page short communications are also included, and appeared at the meeting as posters.

It was our great pleasure to welcome this year's **MICCAI 2003** attendees to Montréal, the world's second-largest French-speaking city, and to the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth hotel, Montréal's finest conference venue. In addition to attending the conference, we trust that the attendees took the opportunity to explore what Montréal, and other parts of Canada, had to offer and that they would return to see Canada's other face on a not-so-chilly time of the year. For those unable to attend, we trust that these volumes will provide a valuable record of the state of the art in the **MICCAI 2003** disciplines.

We look forward to welcoming you to **MICCAI 2004**, scheduled to be held next year in St Malo, France.

November 2003
Randy E Ellis and Terry M Peters

Organization

The institutional sponsor for MICCAI 2003 was The Robarts Research Institute, London, Ontario, Canada, which also provided the conference management facilities. Our major commercial sponsor was Northern Digital Inc. of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

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Additional reviews and technical assistance were also needed to form the final program. We extend our thanks to the following people for their invaluable contributions.

Takehide Asano
 Purang Abolmaesumi
 Kadi Bouatouch
 Michael Choti

Peter Kazanzides
 Hanif Ladak
 Alexis Roche
 Weiguang Yao

Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted
Intervention - MICCAI 2003

6th International Conference, Montréal, Canada,
November 15-18, 2003, Proceedings, Part I

Ellis, R.E.; Peters, T.M. (Eds.)

2003, LXVI, 822 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-20462-6