

# Preface

This is the second MICCAI – the flagship international conference for medical image computing and computer-assisted intervention. MICCAI was created by merging three closely related and thriving conference series – VBC (Visualisation in Biomedical Computing), MRCAS (Medical Robotics and Computer Assisted Surgery) and CVRMed (Computer Vision, Virtual Reality and Robotics in Medicine) – to provide 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 October 1998. It attracted a large number of excellent submissions and was extremely well attended. The meeting went a long way towards meeting its ambitious objectives of bringing together the best theoretical and applied work in this rapidly emerging field, and encouraging constructive dialogue between computer scientists and clinicians.

We are delighted to report a similar level of interest in MICCAI 99. A total of 213 full-length papers were submitted, covering a broad range of topics. Of these 133 were accepted for inclusion in the conference – 49 as oral presentations and 84 as posters. All the selected papers appear in these proceedings. Each paper was reviewed by four members of the Scientific Review Committee, selected for scientific or clinical expertise of relevance to the subject matter. Final decisions were made by the Programme Committee, following closely the advice of the reviewers. We are indebted to the members of the Scientific Review Committee for the time they devoted to the review process and for their well-informed and generally detailed feedback to authors.

The result is another volume of high-quality papers that we hope will contribute to the development of this important and exciting area. We are also indebted to the dedicated team of staff and students at Manchester who helped to put together the proceedings, particularly Angela Castledine, Alan Brett, Mike Rodgers, Danny Allen, Christine Beeston, Karen Davies, Tony Lacey, and Chris Wolstenholme. We are very pleased to welcome delegates to Cambridge and hope that you will find MICCAI 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 programme, and look forwards meeting you at MICCAI 2000, which will be held in Pittsburgh, USA.

September 1999

Chris Taylor and Alan Colchester  
Proceedings Editors  
MICCAI99



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