Foreword

Welcome to the Seventeenth IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR'98), held on June 23 - 25, 1998, in Santa Barbara, California, on the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The call for papers elicited 453 submissions. The program committee accepted 139 outstanding papers for publication, an overall acceptance rate of about 30%. Of these, 42 papers were selected for regular presentation and 97 were selected for poster presentation. The selection was based on perceived suitability for extended oral presentation; all accepted papers are afforded equal space in these proceedings. In addition to the customary poster sessions, this year's technical program features parallel sessions comprising short oral presentations for the posters and demos. We hope that this new feature will enhance the value of the technical program.

The CVPR'98 review process was "double-blind." Only the Program and General Chairs were privy to authorship information and we, of course, excluded ourselves from making paper selection decisions. The Program Committee was formed in an unusual (for CVPR) two-step process that was designed to minimize the possibility of bias. In consultation with the General Chairs and several other members of the CVPR community, the Program Chairs selected 14 internationally recognized authorities in major sub-areas of specialization to serve as Area Chairs. Each Area Chair was invited to nominate about seven highly regarded experts in his or her area and, merging nominations, we assembled a large Program Committee. The Program Chairs classified submissions and distributed anonymous manuscripts to the Area Chairs for further handling. Area Chairs assigned each paper for review to three members of the Program Committee. Committee members occasionally solicited reviews from Auxiliary Reviewers with special expertise. The Area Chairs were instructed to examine the papers as well as the written reviews and to record a preliminary recommendation and justification regarding the disposition of each paper that they handled. Except for the mailing of manuscripts, the entire review process was conducted electronically, served by a primary WWW site at UCSB plus a secondary site at the University of Toronto serving the numerous video files submitted by authors in support of their manuscripts. The electronic procedure was successful and it received praise.

The final paper selections were made at a two-day meeting on the weekend of February 7 in Los Angeles, which was attended by a quorum of Area Chairs. On the first day, we partitioned papers into approximately equal sized groups and assembled Area Chairs into teams of three. Each team carefully studied the manuscripts, the written reviews, and the preliminary recommendations for their group of papers and reached agreement on tentative recommendations. On the second day, all the attendees participated in a systematic round-table discussion in which each paper again came under scrutiny until a final decision was reached by consensus among all of the Area Chairs in attendance. The Program Chairs actively encouraged the prolonged discussion of controversial papers with conflicting reviews and/or opposing preliminary and tentative recommendations. In the final analysis, the preliminary recommendations were ratified in most cases, but some were overturned. Of course, normal conventions regarding the treatment of conflict of interest situations were enforced throughout the review process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors for their submissions. Our sincere apologies to authors of rejected papers whose contributions have been overlooked. While we recognize that no peer review process can ever be completely infallible, we are proud of the job done by the 11 Area Chairs, 103 members of the Program Committee, and 131 Auxiliary Reviewers. It is impossible to praise them enough for their diligent efforts under tight deadlines and for their cooperation in maximizing the professionalism and fairness of the CVPR'98 review process. You can be assured that these proceedings contain the best examples of research from our discipline.

CVPR'98 would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Sally Vito and Miki Swick of UCSB in handling the local arrangements, of Patrick Flynn in organizing the workshops, of Lynn Abbott in organizing the tutorials, and of Terry Boult and Lynne Grewe in organizing the demo sessions. Many thanks to Keith Price for watching finances and for arranging the PC meeting, as well as to Chandra Kambhamettu for orchestrating the publications. Our appreciation goes to our foreign liasons Horst Bunke and Roland Chin. We thank Ronald Alferez of UCSB, Min Shin of the University of South Florida, and Dan Astoorian of the University of Toronto for their assistance. It was a pleasure to work with Mary-Kate Rada and Regina Sipple of the IEEE Computer Society.

It has been our privilege to organize CVPR'98. We anticipate an exciting scientific meeting both inside and outside the conference sessions, and wish all conference participants a very pleasant stay in beautiful Santa Barbara.

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Dmitry Goldgof
Anil Jain
General Chairs

Demetri Terzopoulos.
Yuan-Fang Wang
Program Chairs

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