

Message from the General Chair

Welcome to the 38th Annual Simulation Symposium, the premier symposium on computer simulation! Welcome to San Diego, California with its beautiful sites and numerous attractions! It has been a real honor and privilege to serve as a general chair.

The Annual Simulation Symposium continues its tradition to bring together first-class researchers, planners and practitioners, from different perspectives, to exchange ideas and report progress on the state-of-the-art and in the field of simulation. It is our hope that you will find this particular symposium stimulating, informative and delightful.

An exciting and high quality technical program was put together for the 38th Annual Simulation Symposium. The technical program will open with a keynote address from Professor Mostafa Ammar, from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, a well-known researcher in the field of computer networks, distributed computing systems, and performance evaluation.

There will be 35 innovative and dynamic papers to be presented at this year's symposium. The papers were selected from a large number of submissions (96) based upon quality and relevance. This year's acceptance rate is 36.5%. Congratulations to all the authors for their particularly fine papers.

The topic coverage of this symposium is broad, including traditional discrete-event and continuous simulation topics, and topics in the areas of distributed systems, network modeling and advances in simulation methodology and practices.

A number of social events will also provide ample opportunities for discussions, debates and exchange of information between users, providers and researchers. Participants will be able to view state-of-the-art demonstrations that will highlight the emerging developments in the field of simulation.

This year's program is the result of the hard work and enthusiasm of the organizers, the contributors and many volunteers. This event could not have come about, however, without the devoted and effective labor of Professor Helen Karatza from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It is a tribute to Helen's efforts to work together with an outstanding program committee to prepare a call for papers, submit the papers for external reviews, and then carry out the arduous task of selecting papers across many different areas, while maintaining a uniform high standard for innovation, technical competence, and pertinence to the field of simulation. We owe many thanks to Helen, to all the program committee members, to the external reviewers, to the speaker, and to several unnamed volunteers whose help was instrumental in bringing this symposium to a successful culmination.

I would like also to express my sincere appreciations to Steve Branch from the Society for Computer Simulation who as usual was a guiding influence behind this symposium, as well as performing numerous tasks critical to the preparation of this year's meeting. The IEEE Computer Society Press, particularly, Jeniferdawn Cantarella, are to be commended for their professional help with the production of the Proceedings.

We hope that the 38th Simulation Symposium will provide you, once again, with intensive intellectual stimulation, a unique opportunity to meet new colleagues and forge new relationships, and lots of fun. The future success of the symposium depends on many who are willing to help carry forth the outstanding tradition that many have established. The Annual Simulation Symposium is open to all, and we invite you to join in participating not only as contributors, but also as organizers and attendees.

Taieb F. Znati