Preface

Welcome to the Eighth Annual IEEE Symposium on Computer Based Medical Systems. The symposium has been sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, the IEEE Computational Society for Medicine, the IEEE South Plains Chapter and, for the first time, by SPIE (The International Society for Optical Engineering). We are extremely grateful to Dr. Robert Lawless, President of Texas Tech University (TTU) and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), Dr. Robert Sweazy, Vice-Provost of Research of TTU, and Dr. Jorge Aunon, Dean of the College of Engineering for their support and cooperation. In addition, we have been fortunate to have the support and cooperation of the Department of Electrical Engineering at TTU and the Department of Radiology and the Department of Neurology at TTUHSC, in particular.

As usual, we have an excellent assortment of papers, covering a number of topics on the use of computers in medicine. One particular topic in this year’s symposium is related to teleradiology and telemedicine, which are of major research interest in healthcare at present. We would like to thank Dr. Samuel Dwyer and Dr. George Thoma for delivering the keynote addresses as well as Dr. Byrn Williamson and Dr. Glenn Roberson for presenting invited papers in these areas. We are also delighted to have a number of other invited and contributed papers in these areas in addition to other usual areas, namely image analysis, medical informatics, design/methodology, signal processing/data acquisition, and fuzzy/neural systems. One other aspect of this year’s symposium is a large poster session covering many of the above-mentioned areas.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and the long hours put in by the symposium committee. My special thanks go to Dr. Margaret Peterson and Dr. Tim Kriewall of the steering committee for their advice and help. Finally, Sandi Willingham deserves sincere gratitude from the program committee for handling all the production and publicity of programs and Mary E. Kavanaugh, of the IEEE Computer Society, deserves the same for making this proceedings possible.

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