Preface

Welcome to the Seventeenth IEEE Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and the Texas Tech University College of Engineering. We are delighted to host the symposium again in proximity to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

The response to our call for papers has been sufficient for us to create parallel sessions in Medical Databases, Content-Based Image Retrieval, Medical Systems, Signal Processing, Imaging, Telemedicine, Data Mining, Image Processing, Pattern Recognition, Segmentation, Medical Devices, Image Processing Tools, Clinical Applications, Handheld Computing for Medicine, Decision Support Systems, and Bioinformatics. In addition, we are able to offer special tutorial sessions in Image Processing Algorithms, Handheld Computing, and MEDLINE Searching, thanks to the generous contributions of time and expertise from Dr. Michael Wirth, Dr. Mohammad Al-Ubaydli, and Dr. Soaring Bear, respectively. Also, Dick Swaja of the NIH National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) has organized a special session on NIH grants and funding opportunities.

The success of this meeting is due to the efforts of many people. We are especially indebted to Dr. Milan Sonka for providing our keynote presentation and to Dr. Carl Jaffe for providing our banquet speech. We would also like to acknowledge Dr. Sunanda Mitra for her invaluable advice, work, and service as Finance Chair; Dr. Brian Nutter and Dr. Mark Zhang for their service as Program Co-Chairs; Dr. D. J. Lee, who served as Publications Chair and also contributed greatly to the work of the Program Committee; Dr. Marina Krol, who provided data from past meetings; and Dr. Margaret Peterson, who has always provided prompt and important guidance to our planning questions.

We also express our gratitude to Sheila Levy, our Local Arrangements Chair, and to Sandi Willingham, our Registration Chair, for their significant contributions in planning, coordinating, and managing many details of registration, food service, accommodations, transportation, and information for conference attendees; and to Philip King of Texas Tech for maintaining the conference Web site.

We thank the IEEE staff for their support and professional guidance, in particular Maggie Johnson and Nikki Nasabzadeh of the IEEE Computer Society conferences planning department, and Tom Baldwin of IEEE Press. Special thanks to our Proceedings Editor, Stephanie Kawada, for making the production of these conference proceedings a success.

Also, our special thanks to Dr. George R. Thoma of the National Library of Medicine for his support and encouragement in making this meeting happen. Finally, our thanks to the many researchers who created the technical content of this meeting—your innovation and effort are what it’s all about.

Rodney Long and Sameer Antani
General Co-Chairs