It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Sixth International Symposium on Wearable Computers (ISWC 2002). I am especially pleased that this year’s conference is being held in the Pacific Northwest, the home of three head mounted display companies, several outstanding industrial, academic, and government research labs working in the wearable computing field, and large commercial users of wearable and mobile computers. Seattle is of course also famous for its scenery, coffee, and baseball, among other attractions. I hope that conference attendees will take time to leave the beautiful University of Washington campus and explore what the region has to offer.

Much has happened in the last year, both politically and commercially that have affected many people worldwide. It is gratifying to see that, despite this, there is still an increasing interest in wearable computers and we were able to attract nearly one and a half times the paper submissions that were sent to ISWC 2001. Attendees at this year’s conference will be exposed to the best in wearable computing research as well as many compelling demonstrations, keynote speeches, a fashion show, and the ever popular gadget show. In addition to formal presentations, many of the most interesting ideas will arise during the breaks between sessions where attendees have the chance to mix with the leaders in the field. I urge you to take advantage of all that ISWC 2002 has to offer to broaden your own knowledge of the field and help identify the pressing research problems that you can contribute to in future years.

Finally, I would like to thank the various organizing committees and individuals for putting together this conference. Bruce Thomas and Mark Smith did an outstanding job of creating a strong technical program from a very large number of submissions, while Chris Esposito made sure that there were a number of interesting tutorials to support the posters and papers. Eric Seibel and Chandra Narayanaswami dealt extremely professionally with companies who wanted to exhibit or financially support the conference. ISWC 2002 has a large number of demonstrations due to the hard work of Yohan Baillot, while Jay Schneider has managed the students helping with conference support. Suzanne Weghorst gave many hours of significant service as the local arrangements chair, supported closely by Bill Rogers and his staff at the University of Washington Engineering Professional Programs office. Kiyoshi Kiyokawa worked very hard to produce the proceedings that you are reading, Wayne Piekarski developed the website and publicized the conference, and Paul Jackson handled the financial arrangements. Mary-Kate Rada, Kristine Weiand, and the staff at IEEE have also provided outstanding service and support. Of course, behind these people stand many others who helped in ways small and large. Without all of their efforts, the conference would not have occurred. Thank you all so much.

Please enjoy the conference and the papers contained in these proceedings!

Mark Billinghurst
ISWC 2002 Conference Chair