This volume includes articles presented at the 23rd International Conference of the Chilean Computer Science Society that was held on November 6-7, 2003, in Chillán, Chile (SCCC 2003). This event was locally organized by the University of Bío-Bío with the support of the University of Concepción.

We received 35 submissions coming from ten countries of South America, North America, and Europe. An international program committee selected 16 articles based on criteria of quality, relevance, originality and presentation clarity. The papers accepted for presentation at the SCCC 2003 cover diverse areas of Computer Science, including algorithms, data structures, artificial intelligence, databases, software engineering, networking, and image processing.

The Chilean Computer Science Society seeks to facilitate the interchange of knowledge and experience among academics and professionals who work in the field of computing. This conference is one of the oldest and highest quality computer science conferences in Latin America. It started more than 20 years ago, and it helps to bring work done in Latin America to the attention of computer scientists from around the world. It also helps to keep Latin American scientists and computer professionals up to date with major advances in the field.

I would like to thank to the organizing committee, the program committee and the other reviewers, for their hard work and dedication. I would like to acknowledge the support of our institutions, and the collaboration of the governmental and industrial sponsors. Finally, I would like to thank IEEE CS Press for publishing the proceedings.

This proceedings is dedicated to the memory of Alvaro Campos, a member of the program committee of this conference, who unexpectedly died last July. Alvaro was a dedicated academic and researcher in the area of distributed systems and programming languages. He was an active member of the Chilean Computer Science Society and served as treasurer and member of the board of governors of our Society. We will remember him as a person with strong human qualities.

**Andrea Rodríguez**

Concepción, Chile

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