Foreword

This is the thirteenth edition of the International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management, SSDBM 2001, held at the George W. Johnson Center, on the scenic campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. We are pleased to have the cooperation of the ACM SIGMOD, IEEE TC on Data Engineering, and the VLDB Endowment.

The SSDBM 2001 technical program was selected by an international program committee consisting of leading researchers and practitioners in areas related to scientific and statistical database management. Of the forty-five submissions, representing 16 countries, the Program Committee selected an invited tutorial, nineteen full papers, one panel, four poster papers, and four demonstration papers. The program committee did an outstanding job of reviewing the papers in a timely fashion. We also wish to commend the authors of accepted papers for the excellent quality of their submissions. The SSDBM conference depends on researchers and practitioners who are committed to performing leading-edge research and share their findings with the community at large.

The large volumes of scientific datasets, e.g., from NASA remote sensing missions, the human genome project, astronomical databases, etc., make it imperative that one approaches scientific databases in an interdisciplinary fashion, bringing statisticians, DB experts and scientists in a common forum. The issues that SSDBM addresses are even more relevant today than in the past. We are honored to be the hosts of this important meeting at GMU.

All papers were submitted electronically using the on-line system CyberChair, developed by Richard van de Stadt of the University of Twente. The program committee, together with our external reviewers, reviewed the papers, submitted their reviews, and discussed the papers via the CyberChair system. We wish to make a special acknowledgement to Mr. Jearanai Vongsard, a graduate student in the School of Computational Sciences, for installing, maintaining, and updating the CyberChair system.

In addition, we wish to thank Dr. X. Sean Wang, who was responsible for tutorials and panels. We would like to acknowledge the SSDBM Steering Committee: Arie Shoshani, Hans-Joachim Lenz, Gultekin Ozsoyoglu, Maurizio Rafanelli and David Maier for guidance and assistance.

We all know that a successful conference requires attention to detail, and we are indeed fortunate to have the support of the Office of Events Management at George Mason University. We want to extend our sincere thanks to Rickee Mahoney and Beth Grohnke for their handling of registration, social events, and the overall logistics of the conference.

We would like to thank Ms. Anne Jacobs and Mr. Tom Baldwin of the IEEE Computer Society Press, for their support in publishing the SSDBM 2001 Proceedings. As in previous years, the SSDBM 2001 Proceedings will appear in the ACM SIGMOD Anthology. We wish to thank Richard Snodgrass, ACM SIGMOD Chair, Michael Ley, editor of the Anthology, Isabel Cruz, editor of SIGMOD Disc, for making this possible.

Finally, we would like to thank the School of Computational Sciences and the School of Information Technology and Engineering at George Mason University for their support of SSDBM 2001.

Larry Kerschberg, Program Chair
Menas Kafatos, Conference Chair