Foreword

The 15th International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management, held in Cambridge, MA, USA, July 9-11, 2003, brought together researchers, practitioners and developers for the presentation and exchange of current research on concepts, tools and techniques for scientific and statistical database applications.

This year’s conference focused on the priority themes of Bioinformatics (Genomics, Biodiversity informatics including Biological Databases), and Geospatial and Sensor Databases. The call for papers attracted 48 full paper submissions, 5 short papers and 7 demo submissions. For the conference, 20 full papers were accepted by the program committee, as well as 12 poster and demo papers. Most of these papers present preliminary reports of continuing research; they have been read by the Program Committee but not formally refereed. It is anticipated that most of them will appear in a more polished form in scientific journals.

The proceedings also include the abstracts of the three plenary talks given in the conference by Prof. H.-J. Lenz (Free University, Berlin), Dr. Divesh Srivastava (AT&T Research) and Prof. Ian Foster (Argonne National Lab, and University of Chicago). Although not covered in these proceedings, the conference also featured a tutorial on approximate query answering techniques by Gautam Das, Microsoft Research.

The Program Chairs would like to thank all those who submitted papers for consideration, the members of the Program Committee for their hard and conscientious work and being on time with submitting reviews. We would also like to thank the sponsoring organizations for their assistance and support. There was no Program Committee meeting as such, and the decisions were reached through electronic exchanges, using the electronics submissions server and the web based conference management tool (CMT) made available by Microsoft Research. Special thanks go to the Local Organization Chair George Kollios.

The Program Chairs would also like to thank Blane Shaw, NCGIA, University of Maine who handled the registration process, Theodoros Folios, University of California, Riverside for the conference web site management, and Ginny Lepow for her excellent support to help organize the conference at the Hotel@MIT.

Silvia Nittel
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Program Committee Chairs