

Computing in Cardiology Letter from the President January, 2011

Dear CinC Supporter,

I thought I would write to all interested in Computing in Cardiology to update you with some information which I hope will be of interest.

CinC 2010

As most of you will know, the 2010 meeting of Computing in Cardiology was held in Belfast last September and was attended by over 300 delegates. The meeting was very successful and sincere thanks are due to Dewar Finlay and Chris Nugent together with their supporting team for all of the work which went in to organising the conference. Thank you to Alan Murray and his team for preparing the Proceedings which are now available on the CinC website.

CinC 2011

In 2011, Computing in Cardiology will be venturing to the Far East for the first time in its history. The first announcement is attached. This is an exciting prospect and I do hope you will consider making plans at this stage to participate in this meeting. The meeting will be held in Hangzhou, from September 18th - 21st. The conference itself will be held in the international class Zhejiang Hotel in Hangzhou, which is about one hour's travel from Shanghai. There are direct flights to Hangzhou from Amsterdam on KLM, though not daily, and from Hong Kong, Tokyo, Beijing etc. Participants from North America and Europe could fly direct to Shanghai (e.g. from London on BA, Chicago on United or Los Angeles on United or China Eastern) and transfer to Hangzhou by bus or train (assistance will be offered by the local organisers via a reception desk at Shanghai Airport). Overseas attendees could also transit via other airports as indicated above. It is the intention that post conference tours will be organised if there is sufficient demand. Fares from Europe to Hangzhou are similar to fares from Europe to the West Coast of the USA. Fares from the USA are a little more expensive than compared to travelling to Europe but do plan ahead and look towards purchasing a ticket when a sale price is on offer!

I personally have visited Hangzhou to review the facilities, which are excellent. The city itself has over 6 million inhabitants and offers a mixture of ancient and modern culture. The conference venue is situated beside West Lake with its pedestrian and cycle paths. The Chinese regard it as one of the most beautiful lakes in China. Part of the social programme will include attending a beautiful show entitled " Impression West Lake " – see some clips at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEcPJRiRaT4>

Visitors to China require to have a visa but the CinC organisers will automatically issue all participants with an invitation letter at the time of abstract acceptance or registration,

whichever is the earlier.

So, please mark the date in your diary and plan to attend. This is really an exciting opportunity to attend a first class conference in an environment which is probably new to many of you. The abstract submission deadline will be May 1st as usual – even although it is a Sunday.

Community Announcements

As an experiment, the CinC website will shortly include a page for announcements from CinC members. The Board hope that this will provide an opportunity for members to learn about available PhD studentships and post-doctoral positions in fields that are very clearly linked to Computing in Cardiology, courses offered in a related area, newly published books of interest, and the like. Submitted announcements will be screened for relevance and posted for a limited time only. A small fee will be charged; the fees collected will be added to the CinC endowment fund (see below).

Bill and Gary Sanders

Many of you will know that Bill Sanders decided to retire from his position as Director of Information Systems. An appropriate tribute was paid to his work at the Belfast meeting and Bill and Gary were presented with a plaque to honour their many years of service to Computers in Cardiology. They were also given a specially configured book containing many pictures of previous conferences in which they had participated. The Board would again like to thank them for their outstanding service to the organisation over 37 years. Bill and Gary have generously agreed to continue to support the poster awards for Computing in Cardiology and these will continue to be known as the Bill and Gary Sanders Posters Awards.

Physionet/CinC Challenge

The challenge for 2011 is already advertised on the CinC website. It is very topical and relevant, dealing with the area of M-health. The title of the challenge is “Improving the Quality of ECGs collected using Mobile Phones”. A very full description can be found at <http://physionet.org/challenge/2011/>. I hope many of you will be attracted to this competition, which always proves very popular.

Previous Announcements

I previously advised that there was a new reduced registration fee category for young investigators who wish to submit a full paper along with their abstract. This worked well last year and a number of young investigators benefited from a 50% reduction in registration fee whether or not the author entered the YIA competition. Please bear this in mind when considering submitting an abstract for the 2011 meeting.

I also advised that the organisation has set up an endowment fund and this has grown over the past year. We are indebted to the organisers of the Bologna and the Park City conferences for contributing \$5000 each to the endowment fund. This will be used to fund prizes for the annual meeting. The Belfast Local Organising Committee members have also intimated a

desire to contribute to the endowment fund and discussions are in progress to this end.

As usual, the Rosanna Degani YIA Competition attracted over 20 entries last year and the winner was from Italy. Do remember that every eligible entry is able to attract a 50% reduction in registration fees.

Future Meetings

In addition to the meeting in Hangzhou, I would like to remind you that the 2012 meeting will be held in Krakow in Poland. At the Future Sites meeting held in Belfast, it was agreed that the 2013 meeting would be held in Zaragoza in Spain, while the 2014 meeting will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts on the outskirts of Boston, USA.

Board Matters

Once again, I would like to thank all members of the Board for the outstanding support during the past year. I must say that CinC is one of these organisations where the Board have to remain active throughout the year in responding to various developments as they occur. They also play a very significant role in managing the annual meeting and I am very grateful to every single member for their contribution over the past 12 months. Membership of the Board can be seen on the website.

Conclusion

I believe CinC has had another successful year and I look forward to its continuing success. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to raise any matters in connection with Computing in Cardiology.

Yours sincerely

Peter Macfarlane

President, CinC Board