

Computing in Cardiology
NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2012

Dear CinC Supporter,

First of all, may I offer you my best wishes for a fruitful 2012.

I wrote to everyone at the same time last year and thought I would repeat the exercise at the beginning of this new year.

Website

First of all, can I direct you to the updated Computing in Cardiology website (www.cinc.org) where you will be able to find details of the forthcoming meeting in Krakow in September and glance through photographs of the 2011 meeting held in Hangzhou, China, which was the first time that CinC had held its annual meeting in the Far East.

There will be some additions to the website in the coming weeks, such as advice on how to prepare a good abstract for consideration for the meeting but if anyone has any ideas on how to enhance the website, please contact Sheri Prucka, whose e-mail address can be accessed via the list of Board Members on the web site.

CinC 2012 Poland

As mentioned above, this year's meeting will be held in Krakow in Poland from 9th – 12th September. Full details can be found on the relevant pages of the website. ***Please note that the abstract deadline will be May 1st, as usual.*** I respectfully suggest that you make an entry in your diary NOW!

Some of you may have visited Krakow as a tourist or for academic reasons and I am sure you will agree that this is a very attractive city in which to hold a conference. For those of you who have not visited Central Europe in the past, I am sure you will find some very unique features in relation to architecture and culture, which should entice you to participate so I do encourage you to read the conference site web pages and plan to attend in September.

There will again be the opportunity for post conference tours and I would welcome feedback as to whether you feel that an organised tour with perhaps 25-30 participants would be of interest or whether you would prefer to tour independently.

CinC 2011 China

The 2011 meeting was certainly unique in a number of ways. Apart from being the first time Computing in Cardiology has been held in the Far East, the organisation of the meeting broke new ground by having all delegates participate in a Tuesday evening social event, which was really outstanding. This took the form of an open air show on the West Lake, which forms part of the city of Hangzhou and which was recently declared a World Heritage Site.

In addition, over 40 individuals participated in a post conference tour to Guilin and Xian and over 20 went on to visit Beijing. This was a very successful venture and everyone who took part truly did enjoy the unique experience.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking once again the Local Organising Committee for putting so much effort into preparing the conference and the social programme. Professor Huilong Duan presided over the meeting while Ling Xia and Shen Luo were the co chairs of the meeting itself. A full list of those who made such a great job of organising the meeting can be found in the Hangzhou website, which is still accessible from the CinC web pages.

CinC2011 Proceedings

I am delighted to say that the Proceedings of the 2011 meeting are now available on line. The Editor Alan Murray has spent a huge amount of time ensuring that all papers conform to the guidelines. It really is an enormous task and Alan has prepared a list of possible ways that the burden may be eased in the long term. Basically, the Board has the choice of being very strict with presentation to ensure uniformity or being much less strict, thereby running the risk of having papers with many spelling mistakes, non standard presentation etc. At present, the Board is very much in favour of the former but it is a time consuming task to standardise the format of all papers.

Link with the European Society of Cardiology

Many of you will know that CinC is linked with the European Society of Cardiology through collaboration with what is now called the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology. Last year, the relationship was further enhanced by having the CinC meeting officially endorsed by this ESC working group, whose logo was displayed on the website of the conference. It is hoped to strengthen links with the ESC in other ways.

Announcements on the CinC web pages

Last year it was intimated that the Board would be happy to accept announcements for the web pages that related to CinC related academic matters such as PhD Studentships, a new book, etc. This venture did not really proceed for various reasons but the Board is keen to restart this initiative. If you have anything of relevance which you would wish to announce, please contact the Secretary, Leif Sornmo. Rather than complicate matters by charging fees, all bona fide announcements will be posted for a short period free of charge.

PhysioNet/CinC Challenge

The Challenge for 2012 is already in preparation so keep your eyes on the CinC website for further details which will be available in due course.

Endowment Fund

I have previously advised that CinC has set up an Endowment Fund, which continues to grow. We are indebted this year to the Local Organising Committee in Hangzhou for donating \$6000 to the fund. The long term aim remains the establishment of a mechanism to fund the YIA and other prizes from investment income.

Reduced Registration Fee

I would again like to emphasise that Young Investigators who submit an abstract and a full paper for the YIA competition benefit from a 50% reduction in registration fee whether or not they reach the final. In addition, individuals who do not wish to enter the YIA competition but who submit a full paper along with their abstract by May 1st, and who meet the Young Investigator eligibility criteria, will also receive a 50% reduction in registration fee. This is a very generous discount which is aimed at encouraging younger researchers to attend CinC meetings.

Future Meetings

The 2013 meeting will be held Zaragoza in Spain from September 22nd - 25th while the 2014 meeting will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the outskirts of Boston from 10th - 13th October which are different days of the week compared to the usual choice. A number of individuals in other cities in Europe and North America have expressed an interest in hosting Computing in Cardiology, so I am pleased to report that there is no shortage of volunteers for this task.

Board Matters

The Board felt it would be appropriate to place the CinC bylaws on the web pages. This will allow all those interested in the organisation to have a better understanding of the rules and regulations under which the Board operates. There may well be some upcoming changes to the bylaws but I can not prejudge their inclusion at this stage.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Board for the tremendous support which they offer throughout the year. Every individual member makes a significant contribution to the organisation, for which I am sincerely very grateful.

Agenda Items

The Board, at its last meeting, set out a number of actions to be considered for the coming year or the longer term. These include organised sessions at the conference where invited speakers would present their research, the possibility of producing a journal etc. I hesitate to expand on any of these matters because of the very preliminary nature of discussions.

Conclusions

I believe that CinC has made significant progress over the past year and I look forward to another successful year. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to raise any matters in connection with Computing in Cardiology.

Finally, if you have a new colleague or research student whom you think might be interested in attending CinC in 2012 or beyond, do please forward this Newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Macfarlane
President, CinC