

Introduction

I am very pleased to be able to write a foreword to the Proceedings of the 39th Computing in Cardiology Conference. Many of you will not read all of this introduction but before you move on, please note that the Board of Computing in Cardiology is again greatly indebted to the Editor of the Proceedings, Alan Murray, and his Assistant Cathie D'Amico for the huge amount of work which they undertake, with continuing meticulous attention to detail, in ensuring that each and every paper conforms to the rules for publication. This year, papers were submitted as Word and Latex files, causing extra work for George Moody and Pablo Laguna to whom thanks are also due. Responsibility for editing, however, remains with Alan and Cathie and I would again emphasise that they take the utmost care to ensure that every paper is properly presented. For this, every author should be very grateful.

This year, Computing in Cardiology was held in the beautiful city of Krakow. The city itself is steeped in history and delegates enjoyed walking (and running, sailing, cycling....) around the city. Notwithstanding, the whole purpose of Computing in Cardiology is to allow participants to share their scientific experiences with colleagues and enjoy the exchange of information (networking!) in the best scientific tradition. At the same time, of course, delegates always enjoy the social aspects of Computing in Cardiology, which are a highlight of the meeting. This year was no exception and an additional special social event took place on the Sunday evening after the symposium when everyone visited the Wieliczka salt mine where they also enjoyed an excellent dinner.

The host of this year's meeting, Professor Piotr Augustyniak was, for some time, extremely keen to hold the meeting in the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow. He expended a great deal of effort in organising the meeting to ensure that every delegate extracted the maximum benefit from the conference. On this occasion, there were two preconference workshops in areas that might not normally be associated with Computing in Cardiology, e.g. cardiac surgery and cardiotoxicity prediction, which proved popular.

The Board of Directors of Computing in Cardiology would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Augustyniak most sincerely for the tremendous amount of work which he undertook in organising the meeting. He was supported by a team of young colleagues from AGH University of Science and Technology, who must also be thanked for their enthusiastic assistance in making arrangements and helping out throughout the meeting.

The Board of Directors of Computing in Cardiology continue to work hard behind the scenes throughout the year, and I must thank them all very sincerely for doing so. For example, they continue to encourage individuals to host future meetings. Each September, there is what is known as a Future Sites Meeting where those interested in hosting Computing in Cardiology outline plans for holding the meeting in their own city. While we know that the 2013 meeting will be held in Zaragoza in Spain and the 2014 meeting will be held in the Boston area, Massachusetts, there are in addition 5 other Universities interested in hosting Computing in Cardiology. This is certainly pleasing to the Board and we hope it will be of encouragement to you to continue to support Computing in Cardiology in the knowledge that it remains an extremely popular conference which scientific colleagues vie with each other, in a friendly way, to host.

I hope that each one of you will benefit from dipping into the Proceedings to pick out those papers of particular interest for you. Most of all, I hope you will be encouraged to attend next year's Computing in Cardiology meeting in Zaragoza, from September 22nd – 25th, 2013 whether as an “old hand” or a new recruit to this very special annual conference. Start thinking of your abstract now – the deadline for submission will be May 1st as usual!

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