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Almost 500 paper and poster contributions from more than 30 countries had to be evaluated for CARS 2004. In addition to the traditional CARS themes and topics, emphasis has been given to developments such as IHE, Surgical Workflow and PACS, Operation Room of the Future, and Strategic Thinking. In special congress sessions, partner societies such as SPIE and SCAR have joined these endeavours to assist in achieving progress in these fields.

While the increased reliance on multi-source information is proceeding at a rapid rate, it is interesting to note that the basis for the greater part of medical decision making is still medical imaging. This may change as genomics and proteomics fulfil more of their potential, but it is estimated that more than half of current hospital visits result in imaging studies. In that respect, it is true that "the more things change, the more they stay the same" (Alphonse Karr, 1849) and that medical imaging is the cornerstone of the field. This focus on medical imaging is evident throughout the CARS conference, with sessions dedicated to Medical Imaging (MI) itself, Image Processing and Display (IPD), Image Guided Radiological Therapy (IGRT), Image Guided Therapy (IGT), and separate symposia on Computer Aided Diagnosis (based on imaging) and both Cardiovascular and Maxillofacial Imaging. Still, it is up to you, the engineers, scientists, clinicians, and related personnel participating in CARS, to ensure that innovation in technology and procedures is not developed just for the sake of change, but instead to achieve progress and thereby provide better patient care.

List of Committee MembersProgram CommitteePrefaceAcknowledgementsPreludeComputer Assisted Radiology18th International Congress and ExhibitionMedical ImagingImage Processing and VisualizationValidation on Medical IPD Integrating the Health Care Enterprise Special Session on Information Assurance Image Processing and Display Image Management and Communication Electronic Medical Record Image Guided Radiological Therapy Workstations and Workflow 8th Annual Conference of the International Society for Computer Aided Surgery Surgical Simulation and Education Surgical Navigation Image Guided Therapy Surgical Robotics and Instrumentation Modeling, Implants and Rapid Prototyping Computer Assisted Orthopaedic Surgery Computer Assisted Head, Neck, and ENT Surgery Computer Assisted Neurosurgery Minimally Invasive Cardiac, Thoracic and Abdominal Surgery Surgical Workflow, PACS and the OR of the Future 6th International Workshop on Computer Aided Diagnosis Special Session on Breast CAD Special Session on Thoracic CAD Special Session on Colon CAD CAD Liver Cancer, Intracranial Aneurysms and Breast Cancer 2004 International Symposium on Cardiovascular Imaging Invasive Vascular Imaging Three-dimensional Echocardiography Multi-slice Computed Tomography Modelling Advances in Cardiovascular MRI and CT 10th Computed Maxillofacial Imaging Congress New Concepts in Computed Maxillofacial Imaging Multi-dimensional Craniomaxillofacial Imaging Concepts Multi-dimensional Craniomaxillofacial Imaging Applications Poster Session Computer Assisted Radiology 18th International Congress and Exhibition 8th Annual Conference of the International Society for Computed Aided Surgery 6th International Workshop on Computer-Aided Diagnosis 2004 International Symposium on Cardiovascular Imaging 10th Computer Maxillofacial Imaging Congress Author index Keyword index

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