

## **Introduction**

Once again, I am pleased to be able to write an introduction to the Annual Proceedings of Computing in Cardiology. This set of papers represents the second with the newer title of Computing in Cardiology but with the same format as in previous years. It also represents the 38th annual Proceedings of the organisation. It is relevant at this stage to say that the Board of Computing in Cardiology prides itself in the structured format of the Proceedings and is indebted to our Editor Alan Murray and his Editorial Assistant Cathie D'Amico for the huge amount of work which they undertake, with meticulous attention to detail, in ensuring that each and every paper conforms to the rules for publication. No punctuation mark is left unturned in the quest for properly presented papers!

This year, for the first time, Computing in Cardiology was held in the Far East in Hangzhou, relatively close to Shanghai in China. This marked a very significant departure from the pattern of meetings held in Europe and in North America. I believe that all those who attended would regard the meeting as a great success both from an academic and from a social perspective. The latter is particularly true with the West Lake area in Hangzhou having been declared, only this year, to be a World Heritage site. Conference participants enjoyed strolling through the city, as well as along the lakeside within the city and even across the lake, on causeways or by boat, as part of the social program. All delegates also had the opportunity to attend a stunning concert on the West Lake on the Tuesday evening as part of the conference package. This was also a new venture for the meeting.

While there were slightly fewer individuals from Europe and North America attending than usual, this was compensated for by the participation of many individuals from China and elsewhere. The total number of participants was therefore on a par with many of the meetings previously held. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Huilong Duan, Chair of the Local Organising Committee and Dean of the College of Biomedical Engineering and Instrument Science at Zhejiang University, for all his support in relation to the organisation of the meeting in Hangzhou. The conference co-chairs, Ling Xia and Shen Luo must also be thanked for the tremendous amount of work which they did in order to make the meeting a success. Others who made a very significant contribution include Mingqi Qian and Yinglan Gong to whom sincere thanks are offered.

I trust you will find the Proceedings as useful as ever, so much so that you will be encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration for presentation at next year's meeting, which will be in Krakow, Poland from 9-12th September 2012. I look forward to seeing you there.

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