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# SIXTH IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUZZY SYSTEMS

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BARCELONA, SPAIN, JULY 1-5, 1997

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THE IEEE NEURAL NETWORKS COUNCIL



## **GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN**

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, its Neural Network Council, and the Organizing Committee of the Sixth IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems, it is my pleasure to welcome the participants of the FUZZ-IEEE'97 to this beautiful city of Barcelona.

I felt most honored when, in March 1995, Jim Bezdek recommended to the IEEE Neural Networks Council my appointment to head the major conference in the field, particularly because this important event was going to be held in Europe for the first time.

Now that the Conference has been successfully planned and organized, I want to thank all the persons who have assisted me. In particular the Organizing Committee headed by Francesc Esteva, the Finances and Proceedings Chair Pere Garcia, the Program Chairs Lluís Godo and Joan Jacas, our secretary María del Mar Cuñado for their very hard and excellent work and to the IIIA Administration for their help. I am also most thankful to the Honorary Chairs Enric Trillas and Lotfi Zadeh for their encouragement and support.

I have received invaluable advice from Hamid Berenji, Jim Bezdek, Piero Bonissone and Enrique Ruspini, their experience in past FUZZ-IEEE Conferences has been extremely helpful. I want to specially acknowledge Karen Haines for her help in dealing with the student travel grants, a very good initiative of the IEEE Neural Networks Council that started in FUZZ-IEEE'96 and that, I hope, will continue in future conferences. I also hope that you will find the time to enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Barcelona and the friendship of catalan people: Benvinguts a Barcelona!

*Ramon López de Mántaras*  
General Chair FUZZ-IEEE'97

## GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRS

Since 1992 the IEEE International Conferences on Fuzzy Systems have been held either in USA or in Japan (1992 San Diego, 1993 San Francisco, 1994 Yokohama, 1995 Orlando, 1996 New Orleans). When, for the first time the IEEE Neural Network Council decided that the conference would travel to Europe, the Barcelona group, represented by the IIIA Research Institute, accepted enthusiastically this challenge but we were also aware that we had to compete with some previous outstanding conferences. Nevertheless, when asked by the General Chair Ramon López de Mántaras to become co-chairs of the program committee we accepted the risk with pleasure. The conducting idea has been to achieve a balanced high quality program. Balanced in the sense that could incorporate the main advanced applications based in fuzzy-logic and hybrid techniques, and the most notable and recent theoretical results. We think that there is a need of a forum that aims to be a meeting point of both aspects in Fuzzy Set Theory. We hope that Barcelona, example of blending between all Mediterranean cultures and civilizations, can translate this feeling to all participants.

On the other hand, we have been specially careful to maintain the high scientific standards held in previous conferences. This year we have received 376 papers. Of these, 184 will be presented in regular sessions and 92 in poster sessions. Four additional papers will be presented in plenary talks.

As general features of the program, we can emphasize the outstanding number of control applications, an increasing interest in the theoretical aspects and a general area of hybrid techniques included in the subject of Soft-Computing.

The number of persons that have made this conference possible is "high", the possibility of not missing any of them is "low" but the set is "crisp" in our mind. We would like to thank to all of them. We also extend our recognition to all members of the program committee, as well as all other additional reviewers, that with their effort have contributed to enhance the quality of the accepted papers. Finally we are particularly grateful to Maria del Mar Cuñado and Imma Moros for their excellent secretarial work, to Juan Antonio Rodríguez and Francisco Martín for their help with the web pages of the conference, and to Gemma Sales for her excellent work in preparing these proceedings volumes.

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