

The 2007 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks

August 12-17, 2007
Renaissance Orlando Resort
Orlando, Florida, USA



Celebrating 20 Years of Neural Networks!

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Message from the General Chair

Dear IJCNN 2007 Authors, Participants, and Friends of the Neural Networks Community,

On behalf of the IJCNN 2007 Organizing Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks! This year marks the twentieth anniversary of this premier event. Once again, this year's conference is a result of successful collaboration between the International Neural Network Society (INNS) and the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS). Financial support provided by Florida Institute of Technology and University of Central Florida is greatly appreciated.

In recent years, IJCNN has become a leading neural networks conference, maintaining its tradition of an interdisciplinary, systems approach to the field. It has also grown to include papers in neuroscience, machine learning, computational intelligence, and artificial intelligence. This year, our electronic paper collection and review system received 809 submissions, which indicates the growing neural networks community that this conference is serving. Almost all papers had three (3) independent reviews. Our final rejection rate was 30%, which is well on its upward path. However this is actually a direct result of 1) more and higher quality submissions; and 2) the physical constraints that we have to comply with. In addition to the outstanding papers that we bring to you at the conference, this year we also have an outstanding selection of pre-conference tutorials and a very active post-conference workshop program! I am excited to report to everyone that, 20 years after its inception, the neural networks community is not only alive and well, it is also re-energized. I am confident that more exciting milestones will be met in the years to come.

This year, our plenary and invited talks feature award-winning researchers. Two of the plenary talks are followed immediately by their respective panel sessions. On the occasion of the 20 year anniversary celebration, the conference opens with a plenary by Steve Grossberg, followed by a "Celebrating 20 Years of Neural Networks" panel discussion, and wraps up with a post-conference workshop on "Neural Nets: the Next 20 Years - Choices and Challenges." In addition, we proudly present some historical artifacts to you in remembrance of 20 years of neural networks.

The conference preparation has received tremendous support from many organizations and individuals. The entire INNS Board of Governors and its past and current Presidents have been actively involved since the very beginning, from conference planning and paper solicitation, to paper reviews and general advice. I am deeply grateful to Don Wunsch for spending a significant amount of time conducting hotel selection and negotiation, and securing financial sponsorship for the conference. Danil Prokhorov has always been an email or a phone call away, answering tedious questions about the conference. His fingerprints and IJCNN organization skills can be found in many places this year. Fred Ham has created a local anchor, and has been on site at the hotel several times discussing various details for the conference. He has been a supporter, actuator, and a sounding board for many critical conference decisions.

My organizing committee has been my closest ally since day one. I am deeply impressed by the fact that EVERYONE contributed in their largest capacity to the conference organization. Ron Sun is a great asset to the conference. He led the technical co-chairs and the publications effort meticulously every step of the way. Irwin King, David Brown, Larry Medsker, and Nik Kasabov put in tremendous hours to expertly execute the program, the review process, and the publication. Ali Minai and Hongwei Wu worked tirelessly on workshops and tutorials and they have put together very strong workshop and tutorials programs, respectively. Our positive conference response is closely associated with our proactive publicity effort executed by Bill Howell. James Dankert carefully created and maintained the web site. I'm grateful to my committee members John Weng, Brian Scassellati, Isabelle Guyon, Russell Enns, Leonid Perlovsky, Tom Cholewo, Michael Georgiopoulos, Slawo Wesolkowski for their responsiveness and their dedication. As you probably remember, each and every member of my international liaison team, Jun Wang, Ernesto Cuadros-Vargas, Artur Garcez, Takeshi Yamakawa, and chair Wlodzislaw Duch, reached out to their

respective regional pool of IJCNN participants, soliciting papers and participation. Staff members from The Rees Group, Jane Shepard, Lisa Horton, Amy Bayer, and other associates, have been a critical part of the conference organization. The IJCNN 2007 organization has been a true team effort!

The IEEE CIS Officers Vincenzo Piuri, David Fogel, Garrison Greenwood, and Slawo Wesolkowski have all been directly involved in the coordination of the conference. Their support is greatly appreciated! I thank Jose Principe, Don Wunsch, and DeLiang Wang for asking me to serve as the General Chair, with the opportunity I have had the good fortune to know and to work side by side with so many outstanding individuals.

Finally, I wish everyone a successful career in the neural networks field, and I wish many more brilliant years to come for the neural networks community.

Enjoy the conference!

Jennie Si
IJCNN 2007 General Chair

Organizing Committee

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Program Committee Chair: Ron Sun; Technical Co-Chairs: David Brown, Irwin King, Nik Kasabov

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