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Introduction

Welcome to the 2010 edition of the SPIE Visualization, Image-Guided Procedures, and Modeling conference proceedings. The conference continues to be a premier venue for our field, where one can see the latest advances, as well as catch up with long-time friends. The conference is also an ideal venue for students to gain an understanding of the research community and interact with both peers and mentors. This year we received approximately 150 abstract submissions, resulting in 55 oral presentations and 70 posters. The number of submissions has remained strong in the face of economic downturns and new challenges for research funding, which is very encouraging for our field.

As technical challenges in our field are understood and overcome, researchers turn to new and exciting areas of investigation. Two of these areas, motion compensation and quantitative imaging, were addressed in our keynote lecture by Professor Paul Kinahan from The University of Washington Medical Center. Professor Kinahan reminded us that although we have made great strides in the treatment of some diseases, other diseases such as lung cancer have seen much less progress. The challenge to our community is to use the power of our newest innovations to tackle these difficult clinical problems.

We were saddened this year by the passing of Dr. Robert Susil, a pioneering researcher in the field of MRI-guided prostate interventions and a close friend to many of us. His optimism and dedication will be greatly missed, but the continuing progress in this field is a fitting tribute to his life and work.

This year we welcomed two new members to the committee: Gabor Fichtinger from Queen's University and Bob Webster from Vanderbilt University. David Holmes from The Mayo Clinic will be stepping up as a conference chair for 2011; Mike Miga is completing his "tour" as conference chair this year. We are grateful to all our committee members for their help in reviewing abstracts, evaluating student papers, and judging posters.

It would not be possible to run this conference without the first-rate support of the SPIE staff members, including the office staff, management, and the editors. They make our job easier, ensure that deadlines are met, and allow us to focus on the technical content. Finally, we would like to thank all the attendees who come to give talks, present posters, and participate in the meeting. We look forward to seeing you next year in Orlando and for many years to come as we continue to collectively develop this technology toward the ultimate goal of improved patient care.

Kenneth H. Wong
Michael I. Miga