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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the IEEE Neural Networks Council (NNC), its member IEEE Societies, and their representatives, I would like to welcome you to the 1994 IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI). With over 1600 technical papers being presented by authors from around the world and with 43 plenary talks and 18 tutorials from the world's foremost authorities on Computational Intelligence, this meeting will provide you with an opportunity to learn and share in a multi-disciplinary environment of unparalleled quality and diversity.

In 1987 the IEEE sponsored the First IEEE International Conference on Neural Networks (ICNN). In 1992, the IEEE NNC sponsored the First IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE). This year, the IEEE NNC is proud to sponsor the First IEEE International Conference on Evolutionary Computation (ICEC). This meeting, like the first two, will be offered annually and will represent the three major fields of evolutionary computation: genetic algorithms, evolutionary programming, and evolutionary strategies.

Since 1987, the boundaries between fuzzy systems, evolutionary computation, and neural networks have begun to blur. Various combinations of these technologies have produced systems more capable than any single technique could provide. At the same time, the amount of funding available to attend meetings has reduced dramatically, causing researchers and engineers to carefully choose how they spend their remaining budgets.

In response to these changes, the IEEE NNC has created the WCCI — the combined presence of the ICNN, FUZZ-IEEE, and ICEC at one location for one registration fee. Every three years a WCCI will be held, with the next one scheduled for 1997 in San Diego CA. On the years between the WCCI, the meetings will be held independently. In 1995, Perth, Australia will be the site for the ICNN and the ICEC, and Yokohama, Japan will host the FUZZ-IEEE. In 1996, the ICNN will be located in Washington, D.C. and the FUZZ-IEEE will be in New Orleans, LA.

I would like to personally thank several individuals who have spent many late hours and long weekends organizing and conducting this meeting and its related events. First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Charles J. Robinson, the WCCI Director General, for forming and leading his world-class team of volunteers. I would also like to thank the WCCI Organizing Committee — Dr. Robert J. Marks II, Dr. Russell C. Eberhart, Dr. Swamy Laxminarayan, Dr. Ratan K. Guha, and Ms. Karen Haines; the conference chairs — Dr. Piero P. Bonissone, Dr. Steven K. Rogers, and Dr. Zbigniew Michalewicz; the Symposium Coordinators — Dr. Jacek M. Zurada and Dr. Toshio Fukuda; and Meeting Management. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Richard D. Klafter for his able assistance with the budget.

In closing, it is my intent to have the IEEE NNC serve the IEEE membership to the best of its ability. Currently the IEEE NNC provides conferences, educational video tapes, periodicals, books, standards, awards, regional interest organization, distinguished lecturers, and fellow nominations. If you see areas where the IEEE NNC can be of greater service, please let me know. I hope your week at the WCCI is enjoyable and profitable.

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