



Guest editorial

## Computational Neuroscience: Trends in research 2004

The papers of this proceedings volume were originally presented at the Computational Neuroscience Meeting (CNS\*03) held Saturday, July 5, 2003 to Wednesday, July 9 in Alicante, Spain. All papers were peer reviewed prior to the meeting and final revised versions were submitted in September last year.

CNS\*03 marked the second time the Computational Neuroscience Meeting came to Europe and, like CNS\*00 in Brugge, it was a great success. We received 293 papers of which 285 were accepted for presentation at the meeting. This makes it the second biggest CNS meeting, only Brugge received more papers. It is clear that CNS benefits from a larger European attendance each time it is held in Europe without losing too many American participants. It is therefore certain that we will come back soon.

Alicante was a very nice location for the meeting. It is an old Spanish town with extensive tourist facilities that mainly attracts Spanish customers. Therefore people from abroad do not get the tourist trap feeling they might experience in other popular Spanish destinations. Registration and poster sessions were at the Hotel Meliá, pleasantly next to the beach, so it was easy to escape for a few minutes and take a swim. Oral sessions were held at auditorium of the CAM Cultural Center, which was a nice 5 min walk along the esplanade and offered excellent facilities. We changed the timing of the poster sessions to the afternoon, instead of evening and night, and followed them by a short evening oral session. This innovation was necessary because of Spanish lunch and dinner schedules which would not very well accommodate a night poster schedule, but it was not appreciated by everybody as the (huge) poster sessions were often cut short. Next year we will return to the standard poster schedule. But nobody will complain about the conference dinner! We enjoyed excellent tapas and paella while seated outside among the ruins of the Santa Barbara castle, a medieval fortress on a mountain top overlooking Alicante. Finally, the workshops were an opportunity to discover one of the local universities, the University Miguel Hernández, which is building a large, new neuroscience building that promises to offer a superb research environment. A warm thanks to the local organizer, Albert Compte, and the anonymous ladies from Viajes Hispania for all the excellent work.

As in the preceding years the CNS\*03 proceedings are published both as a special issue of the journal *Neurocomputing* and as a separate proceedings book published by Elsevier, with a beautiful cover designed by Jim Bower. For those who bought the proceedings book: treat it well as it may become a collector's item! This will indeed

be the last time we publish the proceedings also as a separate conference book. The cost of producing these books was quite large and not enough books were bought by conference attendees. The CNS organization therefore decided that it was no longer worthwhile producing both the special issue and proceedings book. In the future CNS papers will appear only in the journal *Neurocomputing*.

But let us return to the essence of the meeting: its scientific content. A total of 285 papers were presented at the meeting and 173 of these papers are published in this proceedings volume. The papers are ordered by topic, like the presentations at the meeting but without making any distinction between oral or poster presentations. I hope you enjoy reading these papers which represent the work of enthusiastic researchers, many of whom are young and represent the future of the field of computational neuroscience.

### **Conference details**

#### *Program chair:*

Erik De Schutter (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

#### *Local organizer:*

Albert Compte (Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante, UMH-CSIC, Spain)

#### *Workshop organizer:*

Maneesh Sahani (University of California, San Francisco, USA)

#### *CNS-Organization for Computational Neurosciences:*

Christiane Linster (Cornell University, USA), President

Todd Troyer (University of Maryland, USA), Vice-President

Linda Larson Prior (Touro University, USA), Treasurer

Erik De Schutter (University of Antwerp, Belgium), Program-chair

Philip Ulinski (University Chicago, USA), Grants-chair

#### *Government Liaison:*

Dennis Glanzman (NIMH/NIH, USA) and Yuan Liu (NINDS/NIH, USA)

#### *Program Committee:*

Upinder Bhalla (National Centre for Biological Sciences, India)

Victoria Booth (New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA)

Alain Destexhe (CNRS Gif-sur-Yvette, France)

John Hertz (Nordita, Denmark)

Bill Holmes (Ohio University, USA)

Hidetoshi Ikeno (Himeji Institute of Technology, Japan)

Barry Richmond (NIMH, USA)  
Eytan Ruppin (Tel Aviv University, Israel)  
Frances Skinner (Toronto Western Research Institute, Canada)

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