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Front Matter: Volume 8673

, "Front Matter: Volume 8673," Proc. SPIE 8673, Medical Imaging 2013: Image Perception, Observer Performance, and Technology Assessment, 867301 (11 April 2013); doi: 10.1117/12.2025012

SPIE.

Event: SPIE Medical Imaging, 2013, Lake Buena Vista (Orlando Area), Florida, United States

Medical Imaging 2013

**Image Perception, Observer
Performance, and Technology
Assessment**

Craig K. Abbey
Claudia R. Mello-Thoms
Editors

10–11 February 2013
Lake Buena Vista, Florida, United States

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SPIE

Volume 8673

Proceedings of SPIE, 1605-7422, V. 8673

SPIE is an international society advancing an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light.

Medical Imaging 2013: Image Perception, Observer Performance, and Technology Assessment,
edited by Craig K. Abbey, Claudia R. Mello-Thoms, Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8673, 867301
© 2013 SPIE · CCC code: 1605-7422/13/\$18 · doi: 10.1117/12.2025012

Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8673 867301-1

The papers included in this volume were part of the technical conference cited on the cover and title page. Papers were selected and subject to review by the editors and conference program committee. Some conference presentations may not be available for publication. The papers published in these proceedings reflect the work and thoughts of the authors and are published herein as submitted. The publisher is not responsible for the validity of the information or for any outcomes resulting from reliance thereon.

Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Medical Imaging 2013: Image Perception, Observer Performance, and Technology Assessment*, edited by Craig K. Abbey, Claudia R. Mello-Thoms, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 8673 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2013) Article CID Number.

ISSN: 1605-7422

ISBN: 9780819494474

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA

Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Introduction

The Image Perception, Observer Performance, and Technology Assessment Conference, part of the SPIE Medical Imaging Symposium 2013, was held Sunday and Monday – February 10th and 11th – at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, Florida.

The conference opened with a Keynote lecture by Prof. Miguel Eckstein, Ph.D., from the University of California, Santa Barbara, entitled “Optimizing visual search: How does the brain do it?” The talk was lively and connected search in medical imaging to current research topics in vision and neuroscience. In many ways it set the tone for the presentations and discussions that followed.

The conference program included a total of 36 oral presentations, in addition to the Keynote lecture, organised into seven sessions over the two days of the conference. The poster session was again strong with 26 submissions accepted for display and dialogue on the evening of February 11th; the *cum laude* award went to Dr. Bin Zheng Ph.D. and colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh for their poster on “Prediction of near-term breast cancer risk using a Bayesian belief network.”

The workshop held the first evening of the conference was entitled “ROC Analysis: A tribute to Charlie Metz and an assessment of the State of the Art.” The workshop served as a commemoration of the life and career of the late Prof. Charles Metz, Ph.D., from the University of Chicago, as well as an assessment of the field he did so much to develop and promote. Four speakers gave presentations that ranged from describing the arc of Prof. Metz's life, to the specific topics in ROC analysis that appear to be driving research at this time. The speakers were Prof. Yulei Jiang, Ph.D., from the University of Chicago, Prof. Harrison Barrett Ph.D. from the University of Arizona (standing in for Dr. Kyle Myers of the FDA who could not attend), Prof. Stephen Hillis, Ph.D., of the University of Iowa, and Dr. Brandon Gallas, Ph.D., of the FDA. Their presentations both reminded the audience of the loss to our community in Dr. Metz's passing, but also managed to convey the gratitude that so many felt to have had the chance to work and interact with him, as well as painted a bright future for the field that he dedicated so much of his career to.

Craig K. Abbey
Claudia Mello-Thoms