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# **PACS** and Imaging Informatics

Steven C. Horii Katherine P. Andriole Editors

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### Introduction

With the publication of these proceedings, the PACS and Imaging Informatics conference has reached its twenty-fifth year! The first of these meetings, titled "The First International Conference and Workshop on Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS) for Medical Applications," was co-chaired by Samuel J. Dwyer III and Andre Duerinckx and was held in 1982. After a few years of operating as an independent SPIE conference, it was added to a larger SPIE meeting called, "Applications of Optical Instrumentation in Medicine". With the addition of other related conferences, the meeting evolved into the large Symposium of today.

It is interesting to review the current contents of this proceedings and compare them with what appeared in the first meeting proceedings. As might be expected, the Proceedings of the 1982 conference included many papers on what we would regard as the technology infrastructure of PACS. Interestingly, there were also papers on the need for standards (two years before the organization of the ACR-NEMA Committee) and a surprising number of papers on prototype PACS. These early efforts were by true pioneers as the radiology community was highly skeptical of efforts to move away from film and lightboxes. Today, functioning PACS are a given and papers in this proceedings focus on moving the PACS concept into surgery, content-based image retrieval, support for clinical trials, and clinical applications. The conference is never far from hardware and software engineering, though, and papers on data grids and color displays are also included.

Areas of common interest with the Conference on Visualization and Image-Guided Procedures (6509) led this year to a joint session covering topics in novel display systems, computer-aided visualization and analysis, integrated CAD, an image-guided surgery toolkit, and digital whole-slide imaging in pathology.

As digital imaging in medicine continues to evolve, the goal of this conference remains to present papers on the leading edge of new developments. We invite your perusal of the papers in this proceedings and hope you consider presenting your work at future meetings.

Steven C. Horii Katherine P. Andriole