Message from the Program Co-Chairs

The progression of this scientific meeting from workshop to full fledged Conference reflects an increase in the number and quality of our submissions. In 2008 there are two keynote talks, 27 full length papers, tutorials, two workshops, and 17 poster presentations. This represents a considerable growth in the number and variety of conference presentations in comparison to previous years.

While the larger participation in 2008 mirrors the growth of our field, it correspondingly increased the review load the Program Co-Chairs and the International Program Committee had to handle. Each paper received two reviews of the full manuscript, responding to requests made by participants at previous conferences for more thorough review process. The podium presentations constitute six sessions dedicated to the themes Upper Limb Rehabilitation, Posture and Gait, Cognitive Rehabilitation, Virtual Gaming for Rehabilitation Assessment and Development and Assistive Technology.

Two keynote talks are scheduled. Dr. Maja Mataric from the University of Southern California will speak about "Human-Centered Socially Assistive Robotics for Rehabilitation: Is it Time for a Robot Coach?" and Dr. Emily Keshner from Temple University will speak on the topic of “Developments in Balance Assessment and Intervention as a Challenge for Virtual Rehabilitation”.

This year, for the first time, we posted a call for late breaking results and received almost 18 poster submissions for this session. It has given presenters an opportunity to submit work in progress that is already generating results.

Continuing the tradition started in 2006, IEEE has provided Technical Sponsorship of our CD-ROM Proceedings. Thus all podium presentations and Keynotes will subsequently be included in the IEEE Xp online library.

Virtual Rehabilitation 2008 is awarding a Best Paper Award, sponsored again by Hocoma AG. A Best Student Paper Award, sponsored by GestureTek Inc., will be awarded at the conference for the second time.

We wish you a great and productive conference.

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Program Co-Chairs, Virtual Rehabilitation 2008 International Conference