Message from the General Chair

Welcome to Virtual Rehabilitation (2008), formerly known as the International Workshop on Virtual Rehabilitation. This is the 7th year that we are bringing together researchers, clinicians and engineers, as well as industries that are committed development and applications of virtual reality, assistive and telecommunication sciences and technologies for the advancement of rehabilitation.

Thanks to our Program Chairs, Tamar Weiss and Emily Keshner, this year’s conference has a rich program that includes Tutorials, Workshops, Keynotes, podium paper presentations and posters. Conference participants come from countries as far as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and USA.

Thanks to our Exhibits Chair, Greg Burdea, the exhibits hall has quickly filled up its capacity of 101 displaying the latest products and inventions from companies such as the C-Motion Inc., Captial Health e-Motek Medical (with Vicon Motion Systems), GestureTek Health Inc., Hocoma AG., Motion Analysis Inc., Northern Digital Inc., PhoeniX Technologies Inc., Quanser Inc., and WorldViz LLC. There will be a Best Paper Award ($500 donated by Hocoma AG), a Best Student Paper Award ($500 donated by GestureTek Health Inc.), as well as a Best Poster Award and a tutorial door prize (Falcon units donated by Novint).

Due to the generosity of our sponsors (listed on the home-page: http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/vrlab/iwvr/2008/index.html), we can offer a dinner cruise on August 26, so that our participants can enjoy delicious local cuisine and live music while watching an awe-inspiring sunset over the Pacific Ocean and viewing the magnificent Vancouver skyline over the harbor.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all the members of the Conference Committee for their hard work and the Steering Committee for their guidance and wisdom. I hope that you will find Virtual Rehabilitation 2008 a scientific meeting of high quality and that our community of virtual rehabilitation researchers companies will continue to grow in the years to come.

Joyce Fung, PhD, PT
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