

ITME 2008

Proceedings

2008 IEEE International Symposium on IT in Medicine and Education

12-14 Dec., 2008, Xiamen, China

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IEEE Catalog Number: CFP0853E-PRT
ISBN: 978-1-4244-2510-5
Library of Congress: 2008903802

IEEE Catalog Number: CFP0853E
ISBN: 978-1-4244-2511-2
Library of Congress: 2008903802

Publisher: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
Printed in Beijing, China

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Preface

Welcome to the 2008 IEEE International Symposium on IT in Medicine and Education (ITME2008). This conference will be held on December 12-14 in Xiamen, China.

The 21st century's information technology dramatically changes the world in every walk of life including the area of medicine and education. The purpose of 2008 IEEE International Symposium on IT in Medicine and Education (ITME 2008) is to provide a platform for researchers and attendees to discuss the state-of-the-art issues in related areas and exchange their novel ideas with each other.

This year, 392 papers were submitted, out of which 230 were selected for oral presentation or publishing, resulting in an acceptance rate of 58.7%. All submitted papers went through a rigorous review process. These papers fall into 23 topics to cover nearly all fields in the research area of IT in medicine and education such as IT Application in Medicine Education, e-Health and e-Hospital, Medical Image Processing & compression, Architecture of Educational Information Systems, Collaborative Learning/Training, Digital Library, Web Based Systems for Education, etc. The conference proceeding contains a series of keynote lectures, invited talks and individual presentations in concurrent panel discussions.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Prof. Zongkai Lin (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) for organizing the conference and Prof. Mike Keppell (Charles Sturt University, Australia), Dr. Wei G. Hansen (NIR Application Consultants Inc., USA), Prof. Kaijun Ren (National University of Defense Technology, China), Prof. Nicholas Mc Guire (Lanzhou University, China), and Dr. Karin Haenelt (Fraunhofer Gesellschaft e.V., Germany) for presenting keynote papers at ITME2008. We also express our gratitude to the local and international program committee members and peer reviewers for devoting their time to the review process and providing valuable feedback for the authors. We express our sincere respect and to all authors who submitted high-quality papers to ITME2008 and all conference attendees who support ITME2008.

ITME2008, technically sponsored by the Beijing Section of IEEE in China, co-sponsored by Wuhan University of Technology, East China Normal University, Shandong Normal University, Birmingham City University and University of Southern Queensland. It is organized by Xiamen University, Lanzhou University, Henan University of Technology, Fujian Association for Artificial Intelligence and Gansu Society for Information Technology in Education.

Our warmest, special thanks go to Dazhen Lin, Yan Gao, Suxia Xu, Donglin Cao, Songzhi Su, Ying Chen, and many other people for their support and assistant work for ITME2008.

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