

SCSC GENERAL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2003 Summer Computer Simulation Conference, SCSC2003. This year the conference is being held at a very dynamic time in which Simulation is being offered new opportunities for successful development. Montreal is the ideal framework for organizing SCSC2003 since it offers a truly balanced mix between North America and Europe in the Canadian summertime.

SCSC2003 allows the international simulation community to present the current advances and innovative concepts in M&S (Modeling and Simulation) in a city where major research centers, universities and leading companies are playing a very active role in this specific sector. Such interaction is a very critical issue for guaranteeing that M&S will continue to remain up-to-date with respect to new challenges. In effect, the worldwide situation is providing a "brave new world" of issues where solutions that are "right the first time" are mandatory. Simulation results are often the only affordable means of approaching such issues. However, strong efforts to divulge such concepts as well as the proper background to ensure the effective application of M&S are still required.

SCS International itself is changing, while all of us feel that the spirit of John McLeod remains a cornerstone for providing the proper support for this evolution.

Today, simulation needs to get back to real problem-solving by using the latest techniques, proper technology and strong fundamentals. Such factors are needed to guarantee that models can be effectively applied, with quantitative understanding of the relative potential, limitations, fidelity and tolerances. The success of the SCSC is based on its ability to create a forum for academia, industry, business, and government covering a wide variety of disciplines and domains that utilize M&S technology to present their work in a unique setting. Through the SCSC, participants can share their expertise, results, and achievements in all areas of M&S technology. In the future it will be critical for the SCSC to become a point of departure for starting new initiatives and cooperative efforts in order to promote new innovative projects in this area. SCSC2003 focused much attention on the concept of quality. In fact, we forced contributors to go through an extensive and detailed review process not only in terms of selection, but in particular to correct and improve the manuscripts. Over 230 full papers and extended abstracts were submitted for publication and at least three reviewers provided a detailed report of each paper, including detailed suggestions and notes to authors. 70% of submissions passed the final review - a significantly high percentage owing to the improvement process. Such a process also involved exceptional motivation and strong efforts by the IPC (International Program Committee).

SCSC2003 includes tracks involving different methodological aspects and application areas. This year, however, along with the traditional program, we also added workshops as events for promoting discussion and cooperative activities. New Technical Councils have in fact been established and SCSC2003 is an ideal opportunity to create a meeting point for SIMPLEST (Technical Council in SIMulation applications in Management, PLanning & forEcaSTing). The LESNEX workshop (Lean Simulation Network), an initiative presented to European Community and now open for worldwide cooperation, is an attempt to network new M&S techniques. The Standards workshop is becoming a traditional event during major Simulation Conferences and such a mix of panel discussions and paper presentations during SCSC2003 provides a reference with regard to the recent and rapid evolution in this area.

Last, but not least, the Student Workshop can be considered a major step forward for SCS International: new blood in this area is a must. That's because young people are the future of simulation, not only in terms of the scientists carrying out specific research in this area, but mostly with regard to users who are aware of the potential and the requirements for successfully applying M&S.

Many individuals have contributed to the success of this truly international conference. My sincere appreciation goes to all authors, technical program committee members and their reviewers, international liaisons, as well as track and session chairs. Special thanks go to the Program Chair Mhamed Itmi, to Track Chairs and the IPC: V.Amico, F.Barros, L.Birta, M.Brandolini, C.Briano, P.Broas, J.P.Celano, J.M.Couretas, M.Den Hengst, C.L. dos Santos, P.Elfrey, A.Elkelmel, A.El Hami, A.El Moudni, C.Frasson, S.Frimpong, C.Frydman, N.Giambiasi, A.Guash, D.Hill, V.Hlupic, R.Huntsinger, P.Kropf, R.Lutz, J.Hopkins, R.McGraw, P.Gravitz, R.Mosca, T.Ören, A.Orsoni, M.Piera, S.Raczynski, E.Radwan, R.Revetria, C.Roberts, L.Rothrock, S.Saetta, H.Sarjoughian, R.Signorile, R.Strini, S.Swenson, H.Szczerbicka, J.Uzdziński, G.Wainer, J.Wallace, E.Waller, F.Wieland, E.Williams, S.Youngblood and A.Zini. I would also like to acknowledge the important work by M. Massei and M. Chinni in SCSC2003 web management and the SCS International Office for their prompt reactions, and namely: S.Branch, S.Odegaard, M.Yen and S.LaFlair. Finally, I invite all of you to join us in July in Montreal and endeavor to improve the worldwide use of Advanced Simulation.



Agostino G. Bruzzone
General Chair SCSC2003