

## Welcome message from the ICB 2019 General Chairs

We welcome all delegates to the lovely island of Crete and to the 12<sup>th</sup> IAPR International Conference on Biometrics (ICB 2019), sponsored by IAPR (Technical Committee on Biometrics – TC4, International Association for Pattern Recognition) and co-sponsored by the IEEE Biometrics Council. ICB is the premier forum for the presentation of new advances and research in biometrics. ICB occurs annually; when held in North America every third year, it is combined with the IEEE Biometrics Theory Application and Systems as the IEEE/ IAPR International Joint Conference on Biometrics. ICB was previously in Australia, Sweden, Thailand, Madrid and New Delhi, with others stretching back to 2006. We are now in Crete, which is the first time ICB has been held in Greece.

In terms of statistics, around 200 papers were submitted to the conference (which is close to a record submission) and eventually 88 papers were accepted from the 172 papers remaining after initial review procedures. This corresponds to an acceptance rate of 51%, and so we can be assured that only the best papers are presented at ICB.

We have two pre-scheduled keynote speakers, Oleg Komogortsev and Didier Meuwly. A third keynote presentation will be made by the recipient of the *IAPR Young Biometric Investigator Award* winner, to be announced during the meeting. Amongst the many additions to the program, there will be a doctoral consortium, and

- 1 a special session on *The Future of Biometrics beyond Recognition and Anti-Spoofing*,
- 2 tutorials on
  - Human Identification at a Distance by Gait Recognition*;
  - New Trends in Convolutional Neural Networks for Biometric Applications*
- 3 a competition session including
  - a. *Sclera Segmentation Benchmarking Competition (SSBC)*;
  - b. *Unconstrained Ear Recognition Challenge (UERC)*;
  - c. *OU-ISIR Wearable Sensor-based Gait Challenge: Age and Gender (GAG)*;
  - d. *Fingerprint Liveness Detection in Action (LivDet)*; and
- 4 an IAPR TC-4 Committee meeting.

Naturally, this conference exists via the time, dedication and skill of many people. We wish to thank Program Chairs Josef Kittler, Massimo Tistarelli, Mahos Bourlai, and Vishal Patel for their diligence and skill assembling a fine technical program, and especially to Vishal for his many inputs. Fifteen other people on the organizing committee deserve your thanks for organizing various programmatic and logistical aspects of the meeting. In addition, we acknowledge and appreciate the conference sponsors. ICB exists under the aegis of IAPR TC4, supported by the IEEE Biometrics Council: these are voluntary organisations and always seek and welcome new members and their input.

We wish all delegates an enjoyable and rewarding International Conference on Biometrics 2019.

Pat Flynn and Mark Nixon

General Chairs ICB 2019