

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 23 July 2002 at  
ECAI 2002 Lyon, France

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 27 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 20 years old! ECCAI is in very good shape to meet the challenges of the new millennium. While the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) observes a slight erosion in membership each year and represents about 5000 members, ECCAI is now the world's largest AI organisation representing more than 6000 European AI researchers and practitioners.

The following is a summary of ECCAI's activities over the past year.

## TRAVEL GRANTS

This year 20 awards of 400 Euros each were awarded to students attending the ECAI 02 conference. Thanks to Silvia Coradeschi for organising this.

## DISSERTATION AWARD

The winner of the ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2001 is Dorian Suc, University of Ljubljana for "*Machine reconstruction of human control strategies*". Thanks to Uli Furbach for coordinating this big task. The Award will be presented on Friday morning as part of special session at ECAI-02.

## ECCAI FELLOWS

12 new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Panel:

|                         |                     |   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Georg Gottlob           | OGAI, Austria       | Professor, Vienna University of Technology, Austria           |
| Constantine Spyropoulos | ETTN, Greece        | Director or Research, NCSR "Demokritos", Greece               |
| Gene Freuder            | AIAI, Ireland       | Director, Cork Constraint Computation Centre                  |
| Gennady Osipov          | RAAI, Russia        | Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia                |
| Felisa Verdejo          | AEPIA, Spain        | Professor, UNED, Spain  |
| Daniel Kayser           | AFIA, France        | Professor, University Paris-Nord, France                      |
| Fausto Giunchiglia      | IA*AI, Italy        | Professor, University of Trento, Italy                        |
| Lorenza Saitta          | IA*AI, Italy        | Professor, University Piemonte Orientale, Italy               |
| Boi Faltings            | SGAICO, Switzerland | Professor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland |
| Hans-Dieter Burkhard    | GI-KI, Germany      | Professor, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany                |
| Gerhard Brewka          | GI-KI, Germany      | Professor, University of Leipzig, Germany                     |
| Helder Coelho           | APPIA, Portugal     | Professor, University of Lisbon, Portugal                     |

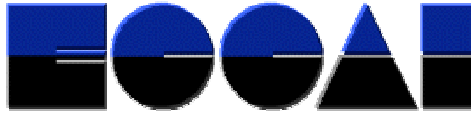
They have all made outstanding contributions over many years to the European AI community and we congratulate them. Special thanks to the Selection Panel of Wolfgang Bibel, Tony Cohn, Werner Horn, Ramon Lopez de Mantaras, Rob Milne and Oliviero Stock. The ECCAI Fellows breakfast will take place on the Thursday morning 25 July in Lyon.

## ACAI 2001

A very successful ACAI entitled "Multi-Agent Systems and Applications" was held in Prague, Czech Republic in early July 2001. There were 175 participants from 29 countries. The main part of ACAI'01 tutorials have been published by Springer Verlag. The board thanks Olga Stepankova of the Czech Technical University for her outstanding work in making this event a success.

## ECCAI BULLETIN

In order to improve communication with the ECCAI membership, the ECCAI board initiated a monthly Bulletin to go to each society. This provides topical information and reminders of up incoming ECCAI activities; as well as the contents of the recent issues of ETAI and AI Coms. Marc Ayel has taken the editorship of this and Uli Furbach has established a special email list. This has proven very successful in communicating with the member societies and their members. Additional individual emails can be added to the mail server to increase its direct communication.



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## **ETAI**

Our electronic journal, ETAI, has been thriving under the leadership of Erik Sandewall and is one of the pioneers in the area of electronic journals and rapid publishing. Erik has now taken over as co-editor of the AI Journal, which has resulted in changes at ETAI. A new structure is being put in place with Wolfgang Whalster taking the role of Scientific Editor-in-Chief while Erik Sandewall continues as General Editor.

## **COOPERATION WITH IOS PRESS**

We continue to cooperate with IOS press on the publication of AI Coms. The members of the ECCAI member societies have access to the on-line version through a web site. The major problems of the past year have been solved and the electronic version has been fully available this year.

We are also cooperating with them to launch an IOS Press Book Series '*Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence Applications*'.

## **CLOSER LINKS WITH INDUSTRY**

The ECCAI Board continues to discuss ways of involving industry more in the activities of ECCAI. Although progress is slow, we are looking at ways to provide valuable services to our member organisations and their members in exchange for appropriate sponsorship. Kris van Marcke has been leading these efforts and Uli Furbach has been exploring possible European Community financial support. Funding opportunities will have to wait until the the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework starts.

## **CLOSER LINKS WITH PUBLISHERS**

The ECCAI Board has had discussions with Elsevier and the IEEE regarding ways to provide their publications to the ECCAI member societies. An agreement has been reached with the IEEE to be a technical co-sponsor of the publication IEEE Intelligent Systems. Members of ECCAI member societies also will get a discount on this publication.

## **WORLD AI SOCIETY COORDINATION**

Extensive discussions were held at IJCAI-01, initiated by AAAI on what, if anything, should be done on a global level to bring together AI societies worldwide. Several of the largest European AI societies as well as ECCAI took part in the discussion. The ECCAI organisation was admired as a way to bring many national societies together. It was agreed to not have a global AI co-ordinating society, but instead to have various co-ordination activities at each IJCAI as well as a better web site for communication would be established. AAAI would provide the needed web site. It is expected that there will be a meeting of national society chairs at IJCAI-03 in Mexico.

## **ECAI-02 AND IJCAI-03 STAND**

ECCAI has a stand here at ECAI-02 to promote ECCAI and its member societies. This is a great chance for the member societies to promote their activities and events to AI community. It is likely that ECCAI will also have a stand at OJCAI03 in Mexico providing another chance for the societies to promote their activities.

## **ECAI-2002**

We are pleased to be in Lyon for ECAI 2002. Once again the event demonstrates the strength of AI in Europe. Our French hosts under the chairmanship of Alain Mille have done an excellent job and are to be congratulated. The PAIS applications conference is again a success, this year lead by Boi Faltings. The quality of the technical conference is a credit to Frank van Harmelen and his program committee. The innovation of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Symposium for Young Researchers in AI has provided an excellent showcase of what is to come in the future. Thanks and congratulations to all who were involved with organising ECAI 2002!

Rob Milne  
ECCAI President