

# Preface

---

On behalf of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and its faculty we are delighted to welcome the Ninth Midwest Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science Conference, MAICS-98, to Wright State University.

This year the meeting takes place with a pre-conference workshop on "Information Fusion" organized by Raj P. Malhotra and is followed by the Human-Interaction with Complex Systems Symposium under the leadership of John Flach. We hope that the synergism of the workshop and the conference adds to the interdisciplinary nature of this regional conference. This time and place were chosen partly because the HICS Conference (Human Interface to Complex Systems) is scheduled to follow immediately on March 23-24. Although the MAIC-98 is supposedly regional, it seems that its topic attracts national and international participants and we have been open to their interests. We hope that the tradition continues and that future organizers may be able to function and plan with more time and flexibility than has been possible this year.

We want to thank, in particular, Dr. Jay DeJongh who, as chair of the local arrangements committee, has performed a Herculean and meticulous task of organizing the local aspects of the Conference at the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State. We want to thank all the authors and participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the conference and the accommodating members of the program committee for the rapid turnaround on paper reviews.

*Oscar N. Garcia,*  
MAICS Conference Chair  
NCR Distinguished Professor and Chair  
Department of Computer Science and En-  
gineering  
303 Russ Engineering Center  
Wright State University  
Dayton, OH 45435