

## EDITORIAL

In the lead article, Paul Cohen analyzes over 150 papers that were presented at the national conference last summer. Based on this analysis, he makes some interesting observations on the types of research in which we currently engage. Most research (or at least most research considered worthy of presentation by the AAAI-90 Program Committee) follows one of two strategies, according to Cohen's statistical analysis. One strategy is model oriented; that is, formal models of symbolic problem solving are hypothesized to be applicable to particular situations and then often tested on toy problems. The second strategy is system oriented; that is, it emphasizes the building of systems to solve difficult real-world problems. With this strategy, success is measured by the performance of the system. Cohen notes that few articles in the proceedings bridge these two methods of conducting research. He thus demonstrates that most of us are either neats or scruffies, and few can claim membership in both camps. Is this situation healthy, or should all good research aim at a synthesis of these two approaches? I'm looking forward to your comments on this article, a subset of which will be published in the Letters column in the next issue. (I already have some e-mail correspondence between Cohen and colleagues who reviewed a draft.)

I am pleased to welcome two new members of our editorial staff. Drs. Elaine Rich and Ramesh Patil are associate editors and will assume increasing responsibilities in guiding the editorial content of the magazine as we progress through 1991. Elaine is well known to many of you as the author of the widely used textbook, *Artificial Intelligence* (McGraw-Hill), now in its second edition. A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, she is currently the director of the Artificial Intelligence Lab in MCC's Advanced Computing Technology Program, where she has been responsible for the development of a knowledge-based natural language-processing system. She is also a member of the AAAI Executive Council.

Ramesh Patil is also a respected member of the AI community, particularly well known for his research in model-based reasoning and its application to medical diagnosis. Ramesh received his Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is now on the staff of the Information Sciences Institute at the University of Southern California.

I look forward to working closely with Elaine and Ramesh. They bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm that should translate into a better publication: greater variety, more solicited articles, news reports, and more. Examples of potential new directions include a regular report on funding for AI research; emerging trends in technical areas; a forum for sounding off; project and career retrospectives; and state-of-the-art surveys on commercially available systems for speech understanding, vision, machine translation, diagnostics, planning, and so on. BUT, we need help in translating these ideas into real copy. If you have experience in any of these areas and would like to become a visible, authoritative source in a specific domain, please let me know.

—Robert S. Engelmore



### AAAI Officials

*President*  
Daniel G. Bobrow, Xerox Palo Alto Research Center

*President-elect*  
Patrick Hayes, Xerox Palo Alto Research Center

*Past President*  
Raj Reddy, Carnegie Mellon University

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Bruce Buchanan, University of Pittsburgh

*Councilors (through 1991)*  
Elaine Rich, MCC  
Geoffrey Hinton, University of Toronto  
Wendy Lehnert, University of Massachusetts  
Reid Smith, Schlumberger

*Councilors (through 1992)*  
Kenneth D. Forbus, University of Illinois  
Howard Shrobe, Symbolics  
William Swartout, USC-ISI  
J. Martin Tenenbaum, Schlumberger

*Councilors (through 1993)*  
Mark Fox, Carnegie Mellon University  
Barbara Hayes-Roth, Stanford University  
Thomas Dietterich, Oregon State University  
Richard Fikes, Price Waterhouse Technology Centre

### Standing Committees

*Conference Chair*  
Howard Shrobe, Symbolics

*Conference Cochair*  
William Swartout, USC-ISI

*Finance Chair*  
Bruce Buchanan, University of Pittsburgh

*Publications Chair*  
Mark Fox, Carnegie Mellon University

*Scholarship Chair*  
Barbara Hayes-Roth, Stanford University

*Symposium Chair*  
Peter Patel-Schneider, AT&T Bell Laboratories

*Symposium Cochairs*  
James Hendler, University of Toronto  
Wendy Lehnert, University of Massachusetts

*Workshop Grants*  
Kathy McKeown, Bellcore

*AI in Medicine Subgroup Liaison*  
Gordon Banks, University of Pittsburgh

*AI in Manufacturing Subgroup Liaison*  
Karl Kempf, Intel

*AI and the Law Subgroup Liaison*  
Edwina Rissland, University of Massachusetts

*AI and Business Subgroup Liaison*  
Dan O'Leary, University of Southern California

### The AAAI Press

*AAAI*  
Claudia Mazzetti

*MIT Press*  
Robert Prior, Teresa Ehling

*Editor-in-Chief*  
William Clancey, Institute for Research on Learning

*Publishing Consultant*  
David Mike Hamilton, The Live Oak Press

*Management Board*  
William Clancey, Institute for Research on Learning  
David Mike Hamilton, The Live Oak Press  
Claudia Mazzetti, AAAI  
Robert Prior, Teresa Ehling, The MIT Press  
Reid Smith, Schlumberger

*Editorial Board*  
Ken Forbus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Tom Dietterich, Oregon State University  
Scott Fahlman, Carnegie Mellon University  
Jean-Claude Latombe, Stanford University  
John McDermott, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Judea Pearl, University of California, Los Angeles  
Reid Smith, Schlumberger  
Yoav Shoham, Stanford University  
Howard Shrobe, Symbolics  
J. Martin Tenenbaum, Schlumberger  
Bonnie Webber, University of Pennsylvania

### AAAI Corporate Sponsors

Digital Equipment Corporation  
General Motors Research Laboratory