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Preface - Haptics: Science, Technology, Applications

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Haptics: Science, Technology, Applications

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Preface

In this volume, you will find the proceedings of the EuroHaptics 2020 conference, held during September 6–9, 2020, in Leiden, The Netherlands. EuroHaptics is a major international conference, organized biannually, that features the latest advances in haptics science, technology, and applications. The 2020 edition of the meeting had a special focus on accessibility, and in the spirit of the focus, we have made the proceedings open access.

The organization of the conference faced a unique challenge, as the start of the review process coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like in all aspects of our lives, we also had to reinvent our scientific life, and find a new way to work. Conferences were canceled, moved to later dates, or re-organized as online virtual conferences. Eurohaptics 2020 was rescheduled; instead of late spring (June) it was held in September. Many of the authors, reviewers, and editors faced challenges: lab shutdowns, the transition to online teaching, and caring for our families to name just a few. Considering the event, we are thankful for the effort and dedication to scientific rigor of the 220 external reviewers and 35 associate editors as they juggled additional tasks and limited resources to finish the editorial process. We also want to acknowledge the diligence of authors to improve their papers in the midst of uncertainty and, for many of them, without access to their usual resources. Their commitment though the hardship of the situation made this conference possible.

All aspects of haptics, including neuroscience, psychophysics, perception, engineering, computing, interactions, virtual reality, and the arts were covered in the initial submissions for the full-paper category. The 111 submissions came from 24 countries: 50% from Europe, 37% from Asia, and 10% from North America. The Application, Science and Technology track chairs invited experts to the Program Committee and provided initial advice on three or four papers. The Program Committee members invited three independent reviewers and provided an assessment on the basis of a minimum of two reviews. To be accepted, we expected an innovative idea as well as a diligent experimental evidence, and 60 of the submissions (55%) were accepted for publication. These papers were presented either as oral (36) or as poster presentations (24). In the proceedings, the two types of presentations are published with no distinction between them.

The conference also featured work in progress abstracts which allowed for presentation of late-breaking results as a poster, receiving feedback from the community. The abstracts of these posters are not featured in these proceedings.

Finally, we are delighted to be part of such a dynamic and innovative community, and we believe that the proceedings reflect its creativity and depth of thought. We hope

that the works presented in these proceedings will serve as inspiration and spark new ideas for a better future where everyone is haptically connected.

September 2020

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