

The 14th Annual CyberTherapy & CyberPsychology Conference

WELCOME! This issue of *CyberPsychology & Behavior* features abstracts from the 14th Annual CyberTherapy & CyberPsychology Conference (CT14). The theme this year, Designing the Future of Healthcare, recognizes the significant role technology is playing in the changing face of health care. As part of this change, we see individual citizens becoming more active participants in their own health care, moving care out of the clinic and into the home and office settings. Organized by the Interactive Media Institute (IMI), a 501c3 nonprofit organization, in cooperation with Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milan, Italy, CT14 was held June 21–23, 2009, at Lago Maggiore, Verbania, Italy.

Since its inception 14 years ago, this conference has grown from featuring solely virtual reality (VR) to now showcasing a multitude of innovative technologies for therapy, training, and rehabilitation, including robotics, adaptive displays, e-health, videogames, brain–computer interfaces, fMRI and physiological monitoring devices, and wearables. It has also begun increasingly to explore the impact of these technologies on both individual behavior and societal relations.

As in years past, a “Cyberarium” was once again held for 2 days and was open to conference participants and representatives of the press, allowing individuals to experience the simulations and other technologies firsthand and to learn more about innovative health care options. This year, as a special part of the Cyberarium demonstration and exhibition, we focused on one trend, CyberFashion for Well-being. We see wearable computers becoming part of the everyday fabric of society, allowing patients access to continuous monitoring and providing individuals the ability to monitor their own health status for preventative purposes.

I am happy to announce that the international CyberTherapy (CT) Conference series has also agreed to become the official conference of the International Association of CyberPsychology, Training, & Rehabilitation (I-ACToR), and *CyberPsychology & Behavior* is one of I-ACToR and CT’s two official journals. This year, the inaugural General Assembly for members of I-ACToR was held at the CT conference, and I-ACToR’s president, Professor Cristina Botella, presided over the assembly after the conclusion of the CT14 conference presentations. We were pleased to have over 50 individuals as part of I-ACToR’s first official activity!

We were honored to once more have as this year’s keynote speaker the internationally renowned Dr. Richard M. Satava. Dr. Satava was our keynote in 2004 in San Diego, California, and this year he once again amazed conference attendees with a glimpse into the possibilities for future advancements in health care. Pre-conference workshops allowed attendees new to the field to attend an introduction to the basics of VR and provided advanced knowledge in specialty areas, including VR and physiological feedback for PTSD, rehabilitation, anxiety, eating disorders, pain, and brain–computer interfaces. In addition, we focused on specialty areas of VR, including the concepts of presence and immersion.

Tomorrow’s leaders were rewarded once more with awards for today’s Outstanding Student Posters, sponsored this year by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., Publishers (publisher of *CyberPsychology & Behavior*), and Virtual Reality Medical Institute (publisher of *Journal of CyberTherapy & Rehabilitation*). The New Researcher Award was once again sponsored by Stéphane Bouchard’s lab at University of Quebec in Ottawa, and the Lifetime Achievement Award was sponsored by IMI. The list of winners can be found at the official conference site: www.interactivemediainstitute.com or www.e-therapy.info.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to all those who helped to make CT14 possible. First, I thank this year’s Co-Organizer and Conference Co-Chair, Professor Giuseppe Riva, for all of his hard work and dedication in making CT14 a reality. Many thanks to Professor Stéphane Bouchard for doing an excellent job as Workshop Chair. This year’s Scientific Chairs, Professors Luciano Gamberini, Sun Kim, Lamberto Piron, and Albert Rizzo, along with a prestigious Scientific Committee, have helped to create this year’s outstanding scientific program. Many thanks to Professor Mariano Alcaniz for serving as this year’s Cyberarium Chair and to CT14’s Conference Coordinators, Alessandra Gorini and Federica Pallavicini; Daniela Barzaghi for the beautiful artwork; and Cinzia Vigna for the Web site design. Finally, to the Istituto Auxologico, Virtual Reality Medical Center, and Virtual Reality Medical Institute teams, I extend my gratitude for their contributions of time and countless resources for all facets of the conference.

This conference would not be possible without generous support from our funding agencies, and I thank all of them for their belief in our mission. Specifically, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency/Defense Science Office (DARPA/DSO), European Commission, DGINFSO, Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Hanyang University, The Intrepid Project—IST 2002-507464, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., Publishers, the Virtual Reality Medical Center, and the Virtual Reality Medical Institute. Finally, I thank everyone who took the time to come to CT14. Their attendance and input were invaluable.

CyberTherapy & CyberPsychology 15 will held in Seoul, Korea, June 13–15, 2010. Please help us mark our 15th anniversary with your participation! Together we can play a part in designing the future of healthcare!

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