Introduction

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you our annual scientific proceedings of Computers in Cardiology. This was the 35th year that the meeting has provided a forum for clinicians, engineers, computer scientists, physiologists and technologists from various disciplines to discuss important developments and challenges in the application of computer technology to cardiology and cardiovascular research.

This year we met in Bologna, Italy. Italy has been a major contributor to Computers in Cardiology since its inception. The participation and support of the Italians over the years has been important to the conference. This was truly an Italian conference, which this year included individuals from many research institutes around Italy to help with the organization of the conference.

Bologna is a true city of art with marked medieval and Renaissance aspects. I'm aware that Bologna has many nicknames. Some that are relevant to our conference such as: "the learned one" for the University of Bologna, one of the world's oldest universities and "the fat one" for its rich cuisine that represents an Italian gastronomic center. This reflects the important role that intellectual exchange in a social atmosphere plays in our meeting.

The University of Bologna and its engineering faculty hosted this year's meeting and we are especially grateful to Claudio Lamberti and the extensive Local Organizing Committee for their remarkable efforts in organizing the largest scientific program to date. We received the most abstracts ever and, unfortunately, had to reject more papers than in the past. However this allowed us to look forward to even more exciting scientific presentations this year. Coupled with the social program, we experienced a wonderful and memorable event.

Sadly, we mourned the loss this year of two colleagues, Harry Hayman and Solange Akselrod. Both contributed much to Computers in Cardiology, but in different ways. Harry Hayman, in his role as the first executive director of the IEEE Computer Society, was instrumental in starting Computers in Cardiology in the early 70's and supported the conference for many years until it could continue on its own. Solange Akselrod was on the Board of Directors for many years and a valued scientific contributor to the conference and friend for even more years. Through her own work and the students she nurtured, she made a significant impact on the biomedical community in general, and specifically, Computers in Cardiology.

Harold Ostrow
President, Computers in Cardiology