Introduction

It is a pleasure for me to present to you the 37th Annual Proceedings of the organization now known as "Computing in Cardiology", this being the first publication under the new title. The Board took a decision to change the name, given the view that 'computers' were so pervasive nowadays, being integral to almost every electronic device. Computing in Cardiology seemed subtly more appropriate. Irrespective of the title, the tried and trusted format of the meeting remained the same this year as does the format of the Proceedings.

Last year, there were concerns about the potential effect of swine flu and the economic situation on attendance at the meeting. This year, there were concerns about the continuing economic situation, as well as the ash cloud and strikes all potentially causing significant disruption to travel to the meeting in Belfast. Despite these worries, I am happy to say that this year, approximately 350 abstracts were submitted for consideration – and indeed approximately the same number of individuals registered for the meeting, including the local organizing committee. This is indeed a very healthy number of submissions and attendees, and the Board is extremely pleased that interest in participating in Computing in Cardiology remains high. One of the great features of the meeting is the networking which takes place throughout, whether this is at the scientific or social sessions!

Many of you will be aware that Bill Sanders decided to step down as Director of Information Systems after having loyally supported the conference organization for over 30 years. Bill has served as President and Secretary of the Board in the past. Throughout the years, he has been faithfully supported by his wife Gary, who similarly has put an enormous amount of work into the organization of the annual meeting. A special presentation was made to Bill and Gary at the closing plenary session to acknowledge the tremendous service which they have given to Computers in Cardiology as was, essentially since its inception. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank them once again for their unstinting efforts to promote Computers in Cardiology for over 30 years.

No conference could be arranged without the strong support of a local organizing committee. The Board would like to thank the Conference Co-Chairs Dewar Finlay and Chris Nugent and their many colleagues for the huge effort which they expended in organizing this year's very successful meeting in Belfast.

May I also thank the Editor of the Proceedings, Alan Murray, his assistant Cathie D'Amico and all of the Editorial Board for the work they do in producing these Proceedings. The uniform appearance is in no small measure due to their patience and attention to detail.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy these Proceedings and that that you will continue to support Computing in Cardiology in the future. Please keep in touch via our website www.cinc.org

Peter W Macfarlane
President, Computing in Cardiology