

PROCEEDINGS  
of the 7th European Congress for Stereology  
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## FOREWORD

We are pleased that a first set of the proceedings of 7<sup>th</sup> European Congress for Stereology (Amsterdam, 1998) is being published.

It was the aim of the organizers of this congress to focus on future developments in stereology, in view of the many technological advancements in this field, which is why we chose the title "Trends and Challenges in Stereology; the impact of new developments for 3D image analysis". The keynote speakers were explicitly asked to address this issue in their presentations.

Looking back at the congress, and at the very intense discussions during and after, it is evident to us that the goal, a creative and productive interaction between stereology *sensu strictu* and 3D image analysis, has yet to be achieved. However, we hope that the 7<sup>th</sup> ECS has contributed to this interaction, and thus to our multidisciplinary society.

We would like to mention one of the many discussions here. Jean Serra, who also aims at a fruitful interaction of stereology and image analysis, asked whether or not our society should move towards a new identity, incorporating stereology *sensu strictu* and 3D (image) analysis techniques. He suggested making this manifest to the outside world by adopting a new name, such as the "Society for Quantitative Morphology" aiming at promoting quantitative morphology by mutual multidisciplinary interactions of life scientists, material scientists, statisticians, mathematicians, image analysis scientists, etc. etc., in order to prevent a subdivision of our society into two parts. We all strive for an inspirational society, and fortunately we have many good, inspiring, creative scientists as members of our society.

It was our pleasure to have organized this congress, and we would like to conclude by wishing Prof. Bertram and his organizing committee the best of luck with his putting together a successful, inspiring International Congress for Stereology in Melbourne in 1999.

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