



# Preface

Welcome to the thirteenth international conference of the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS-2000)! This is the first year in the history of the conference that we have formally cooperated with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI).

The conference program includes four keynote speeches, seventy papers, two panels and one tutorial that cover a wide variety of AI topics. This year's participants truly reflect the international flavor of the conference. We have program committee members and authors from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. This diversity is what makes FLAIRS-2000 an exciting forum for the exchange of ideas within the global AI community.

The topic areas represented in the program include: AI applications, classification, data mining, genetic algorithms, information retrieval, intelligent agents, intelligent tutoring, knowledge representation, logic and reasoning, machine learning, natural language processing, neural networks, and verification and validation.

The technical program incorporates special tracks in the following areas: verification, validation and system certification, artificial intelligence in instructional software; spatiotemporal reasoning, neural networks; uncertain reasoning; knowledge management; and spacecraft autonomy. We are grateful to the track chairs for their hard work in collecting submissions, organizing reviews, and selecting the best papers for presentation.

It is our pleasure to have keynote presentations by the following distinguished speakers:

- Nicola Muscettola, NASA Ames Research Center, USA (Deploying Robust Autonomous Systems—Lessons from the Remote Agent Experiment)
- Subrata Dasgupta, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA (The Computer's Role in the Cognitive Revolution)
- James Hendler, University of Maryland and DARPA/ISO, USA (AI and the Web:

The Next Generation)

- Janet L. Kolodner, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA (Promoting Transfer the Case-Based Reasoning Way)

Additionally, there are two panels that address both practical and theoretical aspects of AI research:

- Funding Opportunities in AI
- Advantages and Limits of Using Formal Methods.

Finally, the program includes the tutorial: Formal Software Development in the Verification Support Environment (VSE)

There are 114 individuals, excluding authors, who have contributed their energy and technical expertise in the organization of this year's program. Their names are included in the following sections. We extend our warmest appreciation for their help and support.

We would like to recognize Avelino Gonzalez and Massood Towhidnejad for their leadership as general chairs and for taking care of most organizational aspects, so that we could focus on the technical program. We would like to thank Douglas Dankel and Martin Guidry for their design contributions to the conference website. Mike Hamilton at AAAI Press used his publishing expertise to put together these proceedings and keep us on schedule with printing deadlines. Amruth Kumar helped us considerably by coordinating the efforts of the special track chairs. Ingrid Russell coordinated the selection and organization of this year's interesting panels. Last but not least, Jean Gerber gracefully handled all details (and headaches) of registration and conference administration. It has been a pleasure working with them all.

We sincerely hope that you find FLAIRS-2000 to be interesting, useful, rewarding and fun! We look forward to meeting you.

– *Jim Etheredge and Bill Manaris*  
FLAIRS-2000 Program Cochairs