This special section of *Optical Engineering* is dedicated to optical pattern recognition, which is one of the most important applications of optics in information technologies. Fourteen papers appear in this special section.

The first paper covers the application of optical pattern recognition to security recognition and verification. The second paper discusses filter fusion for object detection.

Several papers on nonlinear techniques in optical pattern recognition appear in this special section. Four papers discuss binary and ternary correlation filters, followed by three papers that discuss nonlinear joint transform correlators and phase encoding in the input of correlators.

The next two papers describe the application of synthetic discriminant function filters. The following paper discusses binary correlation using pyramidal processing. The remaining two papers cover document analysis and synthetic aperture radar.

We would like to thank the authors who contributed to this special section and the reviewers for their comments and suggestions.

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