

Medical Imaging 2007

Visualization and Image-Guided Procedures

Kevin R. Cleary
Michael I. Miga
Editors

18–20 February 2007
San Diego, California, USA

Sponsored and Published by
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Volume 6509



The International Society
for Optical Engineering

Proceedings of SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering, 9780819466273, v. 6509

SPIE is an international technical society dedicated to advancing engineering and scientific applications of optical, photonic, imaging, electronic, and optoelectronic technologies.

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Medical Imaging 2007: Visualization and Image-Guided Procedures*, edited by Kevin R. Cleary, Michael I. Miga, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 6509 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2007) Article CID Number.

ISSN 1605-7422
ISBN 9780819466273

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone 1 360/676-3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax 1 360/647-1445
<http://www.spie.org>

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2007 edition of the SPIE Visualization and Image-Guided Procedures conference proceedings. The conference has evolved into a premier venue for our field, where one can see the latest advances as well as catch up with old friends. The conference is also an ideal venue for students to gain an understanding of the research community, and student participation has always been strong. This year we received approximately 125 abstract submissions and we were able to showcase 56 oral presentations and 49 posters.

Going forward, we plan to expand the conference next year to include a modeling component and the new name will be "Visualization, Image-Guided Procedures, and Modeling". The conference has always evolved to meet the needs of the research community, and the incorporation of models for medical procedures is becoming increasingly important. We are looking to increase the number of abstracts submitted and encourage active participation, from academic research groups to government labs to private industry.

It would not be possible to run this conference without the first-rate support of the SPIE staff members, including the office staff, management, and the editors. They make our job easier and allow us to focus on the technical content. We would also like to thank our committee members who help review abstracts and judge posters. The committee names are listed on the preceeding page. Finally, we would like to thank all the attendees who come to give talks, present posters, and participate in the meeting. We look forward to seeing you next year and for many years to come as we continue to collectively develop this technology toward the ultimate goal of improved patient care.

Kevin R. Cleary
Michael I. Miga

