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Tribikram Kundu

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Introduction

In the year 2001 the SPIE conference on Health Monitoring of Structural and Biological Systems (SPIE Vol. 4335) brought engineers, materials scientists, medical doctors, and biologists together to exchange their ideas on this important issue. After having a positive experience at that conference, yearly conferences were organized on the same topic (SPIE Vol. 4702 (2002), SPIE Vol. 5047 (2003), SPIE Vol. 5394 (2004), SPIE Vol. 5768 (2005), and SPIE Vol. 6177 (2006)) and the next one has been planned for the year 2008. These proceedings, SPIE Vol. 6532, contain papers presented at the 2007 conference.

The emphasis of this conference is to recognize that nondestructive evaluation is an integral part of health monitoring of both structural and biological systems. It is my hope that biological and physical science communities are learning from each other by coming to this conference and exchanging ideas. Some of the recent advances in the science and technology of health monitoring techniques that go beyond the traditional nondestructive imaging of internal defects are presented in these proceedings. New diagnosis, prognosis, and rehabilitation techniques applied to engineering structures made of metal, concrete, and composites, as well as biological systems, such as animal and human body parts are presented. The papers published here cover a wide range of technologies. It is hoped that this conference will stimulate further interactions between physical and life science communities resulting in new developments of more innovative techniques for health monitoring applications.

I am thankful to the conference cochairs, program committee members, authors, session chairs, and the SPIE staff for putting together this excellent conference.

Tribikram Kundu

