

WELCOME to autumn in Southern California, and to the 9th IEEE International Conference on **Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems**. USC's Information Sciences Institute is pleased to be the official host of this year's conference, and we want to thank our sponsors for their support—the IEEE Biometrics Council, Microsoft Corporation (gold), Lambda Corporation (gold), and USC's Viterbi School of Engineering (silver). We also want to thank our honorary chairs, program chairs, general chairs, area chairs, and the multitude of reviewers and advisors who have so generously contributed their time, energy, and talent to make this conference a success.

BIOMETRICS continues to hold some of the most exciting advances in science related to human characteristics, both physical and behavioral. It is used as a form of identification and access control, as well as to identify individuals and groups for various applications. Physical identifiers include the recognition of face, fingerprint, iris and vein, as well as retina scanning, voice recognition and DNA matching. Behavioral identifiers include the unique ways in which individuals behave, including recognition of typing patterns, walking gait, head movements, hand gestures.

OUR PROGRAM offers exciting discussions with keynote speakers from IARPA and Palo Alto Research Center, and program-relevant special sessions and tutorials. The four days will also encompass oral and poster presentations with such attention-grabbing titles as *CrazyFaces: Unassisted Circumvention of Watchlist Face Identification*; *Fingerprint Match in Box*; and *Faking It, Making It*.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS continue to focus on state-of-the-art biometrics research and accomplishments from the best and brightest in academia and industry. This year's conference received a record-breaking 138 paper submissions with an acceptance rate of 37% percent.

THE VENUE for BTAS 2018 is located in the Torrance Marriott, Redondo Beach, close to the Los Angeles International Airport, beaches, restaurants and shopping areas. We hope that you enjoy your stay here, and find time to visit areas of culture and diversity—the Los Angeles Music Center for concerts and plays; the Norton Simon Museum of Art, Getty Museum and Getty Villa, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, etc. A diversity of culture can be experienced in Los Angeles's China Town, Korea Town, and Olvera Street, while fine dining can be found in a multiplicity of locales, including Beverly Hills, Westwood, and Santa Monica.

ON A LARGER SCALE, the entire Southern California environment is renowned for its educational and high-tech environments. It hosts many large UC system universities—Santa Barbara, Irvine, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. It is also home to many stellar private universities and colleges—USC, Loyola-Marymount, Pepperdine, Chapman, Occidental, Cal Poly and others. And here, high-tech industry abounds—including Lockheed-Martin, Northrop Grumman, Symantec, Oracle, IBM, Google, Amazon, etc.

IN CONCLUSION, let us again say **WELCOME**. We are so pleased that you have chosen to attend the 2018 BTAS conference, and are confident that you will find the program, speakers and presentations informative and exciting. We look forward to your company and conversation at Monday evening's reception (10/22) and Wednesday evening's cocktail hour and dinner (10/24).

GENERAL CHAIRS:

Prem Natarajan, USC Information Sciences Institute
Christoph Busch, Norwegian University of Science & Technology

PROGRAM CHAIRS:

Wael AbdAlmageed, USC Information Sciences Institute
Xiaoming Liu, Michigan State University
Terence Sim, National University of Singapore

