The 2008 IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI 2008) was held on June 1-6, 2008 in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. As the premier conference on computational intelligence, WCCI 2008 marked the fifth milestone in this series with a glorious history from WCCI 1994 in Orlando, WCCI 1998 in Anchorage, WCCI 2002 in Honolulu, to WCCI 2006 in Vancouver. Sponsored by the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) and cosponsored by the International Neural Network Society (INNS), Evolutionary Programming Society (EPS), and the Institution of Engineering and Technology; WCCI 2008 was the joint event of 2008 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2008), 2008 IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE 2008), and 2008 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2008). WCCI 2008 featured state-of-the-art plenary and invited speeches, parallel regular sessions, focused special sessions, interactive poster sessions, moderated panel discussions, informative pre-congress tutorials, complementary post-congress workshops, and entertaining social functions:

- Five plenary speeches by world authorities and award recipients including Jim Bezdek, David B. Fogel, Teuvo Kohonen, Takeshi Yamakawa, and Christopher M. Bishop (on video).
- Nine pre-congress tutorials by leading researchers in the fields with nominal registration fees for widespread educational purposes.
- A record number of submissions with 2518 papers from authors of 76 countries across all six inhabitable continents.
- 1622 accepted papers, after peer reviews with at least two reviews per paper, with an overall acceptance rate of 64.4%.
- 228 parallel sessions in five days with diversified topics covering the whole spectrum of the fields.
- 80 advanced special sessions on focused topics proposed by domain specialists.
- Eleven moderated panels on a variety of topics with in-depth discussions and close interactions, including an unprecedented panel with ten CIS Pioneer Award recipients as the panelists.
- Ten competitions in four categories on games, navigation, data mining, and optimization.
- Three post-congress workshops on June 7-8 in Hong Kong and Macao with supplementary opportunities.

Entertainment performance during the award banquet.
As the first WCCI venue outside North America, Hong Kong is a modern metropolis situated on the southern coast of China, with a current population of about seven million people. WCCI 2008 brought together about 1500 participants from all over the globe to disseminate the latest research findings. In addition to the proceedings already included in the IEEE Xplore, an edited book was published by Springer in the series of Lecture Notes in Computer Science (volume 5050) with 18 chapters by the plenary and invited speakers. A CD version of the edited book was distributed to the participants along with the proceedings in DVD. WCCI 2008 provided a pleasant environment for the attendees to exchange information on emerging areas of research in the fields. Social events included welcome reception, award banquet, student/GOLD reception, WCI (Women in Computational Intelligence) reception, appreciation reception, and farewell party. The congress started with the well-received tutorials in the morning/afternoon on June 1 and followed by the welcome reception in the evening. In particular, the social highlight of the congress was the award banquet held at the Grand Hall of the Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the official Hong Kong Handover Ceremony between the British and Chinese Governments took place at the midnight of June 30/July 1, 1997. At the banquet, recognition was given to the recipients of the 2008 IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Award recipient, CIS Pioneer Awards, new IEEE Fellows, three transactions Outstanding Paper Awards, Outstanding Chapter Award, Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award, INNS Awards, new INNS College of Fellows, EPS Best Paper Awards, and WCCI2008 Best Paper Awards, followed by performances of Chinese dances, acrobat, and martial art.

The WCCI 2008 organizers made tremendous efforts to make this event successful. Numerous volunteers were involved in the WCCI 2008 Organizing Committee (45 individuals), Program Committees (total 232 members), Special Session Committees (total 197 members), or Technical Committees (total 2484 members). I would like to thank all the committee chairs and members for their hard work. WCCI 2008 would not have achieved such a success without the coordinated efforts of the dedicated volunteers and the generous supports of sponsoring societies/supporting organizations including CIS, INNS, EPS, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, K.C. Wong Education Foundation of Hong Kong, and IEEE Hong Kong Section. Finally, I would like to thank all the authors and attendees for their contribution and participation. I hope that WCCI 2008 left some memorable experiences for many of them and that we could meet again at WCCI 2010 in Barcelona!

Dr. Teuvo Kohonen accepted his IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Technical Field award from Division X Director, Dr. William Gruver.

2008 IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (CIBCB 2008)

The 2008 IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology was held at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho on September 15–17. The CIBCB symposium opened with the keynote lecture, “Computational Discovery of Noncoding RNA,” given by Professor Walter L. Ruzzo of the Computer Science and Engineering Department at the University of Washington. The lecture emphasized...