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## Welcome Message from the General Chair of IEEE SSCI'15

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Dear SSCI'2015 Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Mother City of South Africa, Cape Town, for the 2015 IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence. For most of you, it had been a very long, tiring flight to Cape Town. However, I am sure that you will soon forget the long flights and enjoy what Cape Town and South Africa have to offer.

This year, the event has brought together 30 symposiums with a focus on Computational Intelligence (CI) research. We have 15 free tutorials presented by experts in the field, three very exciting plenary talks, and 15 keynote speakers. In addition to these, we have two panel discussions, one on problem niches for CI, and the other on how to ensure repeatable and reliable CI. In total, 256 papers will be presented during the three days of this symposium series. The papers presented are part of the 261 papers which were accepted after a rigorous peer-review by experts in the field. In total, 429 papers were submitted for review, resulting in an acceptance rate of 60.84%. Note that a decision on acceptance or rejection of a paper were made after at least three reviews were received. The technical program committee of the 2015 IEEE SSCI consists of the program committee members of all of the symposiums, totalling 590 experts. The reviews of all conflict of interest papers were handled by the conflicts of interest program chair. Only the conflict of interest chair, and the reviewers of these papers, were allowed access to the reviews, review scores, and the final decisions on these papers.

The proceedings of the 2015 IEEE SSCI contains papers covering a wide range of CI topics, applications, and issues. These papers will be of interest to graduate students, the CI research community, and CI practitioners.

The authors of accepted papers span over five regions, with 488 (61.0%) of the authors from Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. A total of 291 (23.9%) of the authors are from Asia/Pacific, 87 (10.0%) are from the United States, 20 (2.5%) from Canada, and 14 (1.8%) from Latin America. The 800 authors of accepted papers are from 45 countries, with demographics as below:

Country	Authors	%	Papers 1st		Country	Authors	%	Papers 1st	
			Author	%				Author	%
USA	87	10.9	30	11.5	Thailand	8	1.0	3	1.1
Germany	69	8.6	20	7.7	Turkey	7	0.9	2	0.8
United Kingdom	65	8.1	22	8.4	Slovenia	7	0.9	1	0.4
South Africa	53	6.6	23	8.8	Sweden	6	0.8	2	0.8
P.R. China	43	5.4	14	5.4	Russia	5	0.6	2	0.8
India	41	5.1	14	5.4	Taiwan	5	0.6	2	0.8
Italy	38	4.8	7	2.7	Chile	4	0.5	1	0.4
Japan	36	4.5	11	4.2	Brazil	4	0.5	2	0.8
The Netherlands	30	3.8	9	3.4	Serbia	4	0.5	2	0.8
Spain	28	3.5	8	3.1	Morocco	4	0.5	2	0.8
Czech Republic	26	3.2	9	3.4	Saudi Arabia	4	0.5	2	0.8
Poland	22	2.8	8	3.1	Israel	3	0.4	1	0.4
Singapore	21	2.6	7	2.7	Austria	3	0.4	0	0.0
Belgium	21	2.6	6	2.3	Norway	3	0.4	1	0.4
Australia	20	2.5	5	1.9	Colombia	3	0.4	1	0.4
Canada	20	2.5	9	3.4	Switzerland	3	0.4	1	0.4
Portugal	17	2.1	5	1.9	Lebanon	3	0.4	1	0.4
Finland	15	1.9	7	2.7	Bangladesh	3	0.4	1	0.4
Greece	15	1.9	4	1.5	Mexico	3	0.4	1	0.4
France	13	1.6	5	1.9	Ethiopia	2	0.2	1	0.4
Malaysia	13	1.6	4	1.5	Iceland	2	0.2	1	0.4
Cyprus	10	1.2	2	0.8	Indonesia	1	0.1	0	0.0
Denmark	10	1.2	2	0.8					

Putting together a conference that consists of so many symposiums is quite a challenge. It would not have been possible to have done this without the help of the many volunteers involved, including the organizing committee, our technical program committee, our conference organizer (Grosvenor Tours), and the support of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society. The conference had to be planned under severe budget constraints, and therefore the tutorial presenters are specially thanked for presenting their tutorials without receiving any financial support. Also, a big thanks to the Big Data Institute for sponsoring the CIDM'15 keynote speaker and the conference bags.

I hope that you will have a rewarding experience, and that your stay in Cape Town will be one to remember.

Andries Engelbrecht

General Chair  
IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence