Letter From the Editor in Chief

This is the first issue of the year 2000, but it is also the last issue of volume 6, of year 1999). Thus, the papers presented in this issue have been selected through two different procedures.

The first paper, by Fragoso, Costa, Rochol, Bampi and Reis, was selected as the best paper of the Brazilian Symposium on Integrated Circuit Design (SBCCI) of 1999. This selection was made by the Symposium program committee, based on relevance and originality criteria. It deals with the problem of designing and developing reusable hardware IP (Intellectual Property) modules for the Ethernet.

The two remaining papers were selected via the usual review process. The second paper, by Manouvrier, Jomier and Rukoz, treats the problem of image similarity in image databases. This is an area where there is much activity being done, and the approach presented is based on taking advantage of a standard indexing structure (quadtree) and modifying it to consider image evolution. Thus, at the same time one can process similarity queries, one can also estimate evolution of image features.

The third paper, by Kurtener and Badenko, is an example of the increasing application of Computer Science tecniques to solving problems in environmental research. The issue in question is that of land use management, and the solution combines techniques of Artificial Intelligence and mathematical modeling which are programmed into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

The wide spectrum of these papers, from hardware to application-oriented, shows that JBCS is open and willing to publish in all areas concerning Computer Science research.

I thank the authors for their patience and the reviewers for their careful work.

Claudia Bauzer Medeiros