PROCEEDINGS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYBERNETICS AND SOCIETY

September 19-21, 1977

Sponsored by:

IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society
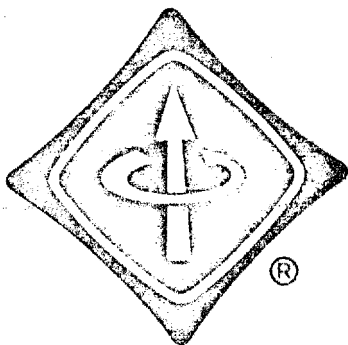
With the cooperation of:

College of American Pathologists
Human Factors Society
IEEE Computer Society
IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With this conference we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of this Society, even though our current name has been with us only for the past seven years. Our worldwide membership of about 5000 members represent many disciplines all brought together by the unifying thread of the "systems" approach to problem solving.

In this regard, we are indeed pleased to present John Warfield with our Outstanding Contribution Award. John spent the past several years grappling with a methodology for coping with complexity. His concepts associated with Interpretive Structural Modeling have been tested and proven as demonstrated by the session organized by Raymond Fitz on this subject.

I feel it necessary to note that we have departed slightly from the conventional in this conference and have introduced two sessions which, to some of our readers, may appear controversial.

The first is the session, *Scientific Studies of Acupuncture*. Acupuncture, as you know, originated thousands of years ago in the orient and only recently received serious attention by Western medical scientists. Did you know that acupuncture flourished in the U.S. from 1820 to 1850? According to a researcher at the National Library of Medicine, acupuncture had been introduced to the U.S. from Europe and a substantial number of articles appeared on this subject in the U.S. medical literature of the period; however, interest waned as he found only six articles for the period 1850–1900. Today, the situation has changed. Western medicine now agrees there is something to acupuncture. Its analgesic properties are recognized but not understood. Bruce Pomeranz of the University of Toronto, whose article appears here, recently received international attention on his discovery of a possible mechanism that describes why acupuncture works. Stephen Kim, trained in both Eastern and Western medicine, is a trained acupuncturist. He departs from traditional methods by making use of an electronic device for locating acupuncture points. His paper reports striking success over the traditional methods. The session is rounded out by recent research by other investigators: Lee, Clifford and Mau. Clearly, acupuncture has now become a valid research subject for biocyberneticists.

Our second unconventional area is *Research in Psychoenergetics*, organized by Hal Puthoff of SRI. The presentation of this session is the outgrowth of the spectacular luncheon talk by Hal and Russ Targ at last year's conference for which they received our Franklyn V. Taylor Best Presentation Award. Recognizing that their professional integrity was at stake, they have gone to great lengths to assure impeccability of their work; nevertheless, a reviewer of their original paper which appeared in the *IEEE Proceedings* last year stated, "This is the sort of thing I would not believe in even if it were true." Notwithstanding such emotional reactions, psychic phenomena are a reality, and Hal Puthoff's session of first-rate carefully selected papers is worthy of your consideration.

Finally, among the unusual presentations, I commend your reading Bill Gevarter's excellent summary, "A Wiring Diagram of the Human Brain as a Model for Artificial Intelligence."

William H. von Alven
Chairman

*Not available at time of publication.