The RITS Conference: A Major Event of Biomedical Engineering in France
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Editorial

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Research in Imaging and HealTh TechnologieS (RITS) is a French scientific meeting dedicated to  
Biomedical Engineering. This biennial event has given rise to four special issues of IRBM since 2009.  
The present issue collects some research works presented by young researchers (first author being  
less than 32 years old). All of them submitted a full paper (instead of a long abstract) to the  
meeting in order to participate in the SFGBM competition. All the published papers followed the  
standard reviewing process.

The 2015 RITS conference was organized by the French Society of BioMedical Engineering, the  
SFGBM (Société Française de Génie Biologique et Médical). It took place in Dourdan from March 25th  
to March 27th. To address the necessity to work in an open scientific environment, the SFGBM  
invited some French scientific societies to co-organize special sessions and had the great pleasure  
to welcome the French Society of Biomechanics (SB) and the French Society of Nuclear Medicine  
(SFMN). In addition, the conference was associated with a colloquium dedicated to the projects that  
have been selected in 2011 by the TecSan ANR committee, TecSan being a program dedicated to  
health technologies. This was the opportunity to make the assessment of the funded projects  
public, and this meeting completed the special issue dedicated to this program that was recently  
published in IRBM [1].

This new edition of RITS was a large success with more than 150 participants. For the opening of the  
conference, Professor Catherine Marque gave a fascinating talk dedicated to one major (but still  
unknown) event in our life: childbirth. She gave a comprehensive review of her research works  
dedicated to the investigation and the modeling of labor, and we can refer interested readers to  
er her recent works [2-7] for further details.

During these three days, five special sessions were also organized: 1) Nanomedicine (organizer: Marc  
Lamy de la Chapelle, guest speaker: Igor Chourpa); 2) Genetic Imaging (organizer: Vincent Frouin,  
guest speaker: Roberto Toro); 3) Genotypic and Phenotypic Imaging (organizers: Laurence  
Bordenave and Elif Hindie from the SFMN, guest speakers: Caroline Rousseau, Philippe Fernandez,  
and David Taieb); 4) Biomechanics and Medical Imaging (organizers: Frédéric Marin and Jacques  
Ohayon from the SB, guest speakers: Jacques Ohayon, Yohan Payan, Stéphane Avril, Frédéric Marin,  
Patrick Clarysse and Wafa Skalli); 5) Imaging and Therapy using Ultrasound (organizer: Ayache  
Bouakaz, guest speaker: François Tranquat).

Of course conventional oral and poster scientific sessions were also defined. The repartition  
between oral and poster was done according multiple criteria, including referee advice,  
homogeneity of sessions to favor fruitful discussions, equilibrium between the different research  
fields. To highlight poster presentation, a short oral talk (two minutes long) was given by poster  
presenters at the beginning of each session. Following the acceptance of authors, most of the  
presented communications have been made available at http://www.hal.inserm.fr/RITS2015.

As stated before, the RITS conference was also the occasion to give SFGBM awards to young  
researchers. The SFGBM jury attributes three prizes, shared equally, to Wojciech Kwiecinski (oral
presentation) [8], Mahmoud Hassan (oral presentation) [9] and Sophie Collin (poster presentation) [10].

Another key point of the conference was the “Prix de Thèse en Génie Biologique et Médical” that are the annual awards for the best PhDs in Biomedical Engineering. This 2015 edition was open to candidates having defended their PhD in 2014. The prizes were sponsored by the SFGBM, the IEEE EMBS France chapter, and the AGBM (Association pour le Génie Biologique et Médical). The Research Award was attributed to Doctor Hanna Becker, while accessit was attributed to Doctor Helena Felgueiras. The Innovation Award, for encouraging technology transfer of innovative medical technologies to industry, was attributed to Doctor Clement Papadacci while accessit was attributed to Doctor Guillaume Kazmitcheff.

Finally, Professor Christian Roux received the Claude Fourcade Award (the SFGBM senior distinction) in recognition for his high contribution to Biomedical Engineering and his exceptional commitment, at national and international levels.

On behalf of the organization and scientific committees, we would like to thank all the committee members, all the reviewers and all the participants who actually contributed to the success of the 2015 RITS conference.

References


