Preface

This issue of *Acta Cybernetica* contains six papers originally presented at the First Symposium of Young Scientists, entitled *Intelligent Systems 2006*. The Symposium was organised by the Artificial Intelligence Section of the *John von Neumann Computer Society* (JvNCS), the Hungarian member of the *European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence* (ECCAI). The Symposium was held in Budapest, on November 23, 2006, and included 11 talks and 14 poster presentations by young scientists. The Symposium also featured an invited talk "The mystery of intelligence, what is the solution?" by András Lõrincz, who was awarded the prestigious title of ECCAI Fellow in 2006. More information on the Symposium can be obtained from the home page: `http://sas.ilab.sztaki.hu/njszt-mi/szimpozium2006.htm`.

The Symposium was part of international celebrations of the golden anniversary of the 1956 Dartmouth Conference that marks the beginning of Artificial Intelligence as a research field (`http://www.eccai.org/50years.shtml`).

After the Symposium the authors of both standard and poster presentations were invited to submit papers to a Special Issue of *Acta Cybernetica*. Eleven papers were received and were then subjected to the normal refereeing process of the Journal. The six accepted papers cover a broad spectrum of topics, and report on progress both in the theory and in the practice of AI. The first three papers in this volume discuss advances in game theory (Melkó et al.), new techniques in image processing (Jankó et al.) and in signal processing (Szabó et al.). The other three articles describe AI applications: production planning utilising multiagent technology (Egri et al.), scheduling using Operation Research techniques (Hanák et al.), and extending Web browsers to support semantic technologies (Jeszenszky).

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The Second Symposium of Young Scientists, *Intelligent Systems 2007* is being held on November 23, 2007, and a similar Special Issue of Acta Cybernetica is scheduled for 2008.

László Csink	Edit Sántáné-Tóth	László Zsolt Varga
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Bálint Molnár	Zoltán Vámossy	

Guest Editors
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Artificial Intelligence Section of JvNCS