PREFACE

This Special Issue of the *Journal of Control & Cybernetics* is dedicated to the Bellman Continuum, in memory of Richard Bellman for his pioneering work in pure and applied mathematics, for his leadership in the applications of mathematics to science, engineering, economics, and medicine, and for his long-lasting influence on students and researchers throughout the world. Richard Bellman is best known as the father of Dynamic Programming, a powerful tool of thought that provides a practical general approach to problem solving.

This Special Issue has as its emphasis computational aspects of DP, including the use of mathematical techniques (e.g., approximation and greedy algorithms) and of architectural techniques (e.g., Petri nets and distributed systems) to solve DP problems. We also include papers that describe the use of DP to solve problems in diverse areas of operations research and computer science, such as resource allocation, scheduling, and Petri nets.

Early versions of most of the papers included in this volume were presented at IFORS 2005, the 17th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operations Research Societies, held in Honolulu, Hawaii in July 2005. This conference, like many others, included many sessions related to DP. This provided us an excellent base from which to select contributions to this volume.

The editors wish to thank IFORS for providing a venue at which the authors were able to meet and discuss their research, and of course the *Journal of Control & Cybernetics* for its support of this project. We also gratefully acknowledge the anonymous referees for their assistance.

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Guest Editors