Foreword

These are the proceedings of the First International Workshop on *Formal Biomedical Knowledge Representation* (KR-MED 2004), held in Whistler (British Columbia, Canada) on the 1st of June 2004. It is the first of this kind, organized by the recently founded Special Interest Group *Formal (Bio-)Medical Knowledge Representation* of the *American Medical Informatics Association* (AMIA). This workshop is collocated with KR 2004, the Ninth International Conference on the *Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*.

The engineering of large-scale domain knowledge, mostly in form of controlled vocabularies, taxonomies, and classification systems constitutes an important branch of activities in the field of Medical Informatics. The recent growth of interest in genomics and molecular biology has set another focus on the organization of the fast growing terminological knowledge in this domain. Despite recent advances in using formal languages for biomedical concept representation, many fundamental issues (ontological basis, expressivity, scalability) remain unresolved. Hence, it seemed to us as a natural move to discuss the challenges and requirements we have to offer directly with the KR community.

As the chairman of the programme committee I had the pleasure to collaborate with the following members of the PC:

- Olivier Bodenreider, NLM, USA
- James Cimino, Columbia University, USA
- Peter Elkin, Mayo Clinic, USA
- John Gennari, University of Washington, USA
- Ian Horrocks, University of Manchester, U.K.
- Mark Musen, Stanford University, USA
- Domenico Pisanelli, CNR, Italy
- Alan Rector, University of Manchester, U.K.
- Cornelius Rosse, University of Washington, USA
- Barry Smith, Leipzig University, Germany
- Chris Welty, IBM Research, USA

They have done a great job in reviewing the submitted papers, five on the average, in due time. Thank you all! For this workshop, we had 28 submissions out of which we selected 12 papers for presentation at the workshop. While 43% acceptance rate may be rather low for a a kick-off workshop, this may also guarantee a high level of quality of the papers that made it. Hence, we plan to publish a selection of the best papers to appear in a special issue of *Artificial Intelligence in Medicine*. So, stay tuned.

I also want to extend my thanks to the members of the Organizing Committee, *viz.* Stefan Schulz, Freiburg University Hospital, Germany, and Ronald Cornet, Amsterdam Academic Medical Center, The Netherlands. Their work was mainly behind the scene, but so important for the success of the whole enterprise.

Let us enjoy our workshop!

Udo Hahn, Freiburg University, Germany,
Chair of the KR-MED 2004 Programme Committee