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*Workshop on Membrane Computing, WMC-2003
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Foreword

The present volume includes almost all papers accepted for presentation at the fourth edition of the **Workshop on Membrane Computing**, held in Tarragona, Spain, from 17 to 22 of July 2003. The series started 2000 with the **Workshop on Multiset Processing WMP-CdeA 2000**, and followed in 2001 and 2002 by the **Workshop on Membrane Computing WMC-CdeA 2001** and **WMC-CdeA 2002**.

As it was the case for all editions, the workshop is primarily meant to be a place of interaction, a framework for enhancing cooperation among researchers in membrane computing. Also the present pre-proceedings volume has a similar goal, of offering a basis for discussion during the meeting. The “final volume” will be published after the workshop, in the Springer series *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*.

The workshop is organized by the Research Group on Mathematical Linguistics from Rovira i Virgili University, Tarragona, under the auspices of the European Molecular Computing Consortium, as a meeting of MolCoNet (Molecular Computing Network, a project funded by the EU commission in the fifth framework programme Information Society Technologies, project number IST-2001-32008).

The program committee of the workshop is composed of Carlos Martín-Vide (Tarragona, Spain), Giancarlo Mauri (Milano, Italy), Gheorghe Păun (Bucharest, Romania, and Tarragona, Spain) – Chair, Grzegorz Rozenberg (Leiden, The Netherlands), and Arto Salomaa (Turku, Finland), while the organizing committee is led by Carlos Martín-Vide (Tarragona), and also contains Matteo Cavaliere (Tarragona), Victor Mitrana and Gheorghe Păun (Bucharest and Tarragona), Leonor Becerra-Bonache (Tarragona).

The pre-proceedings volumes of the previous workshops (as well as comprehensive information about the state of the art of the membrane computing area) can be found at the web address <http://psystems.disco.unimib.it>.

The Editors
Tarragona, June 25, 2003

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