

NIPS 2004 Call for Workshops

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CALL FOR WORKSHOPS ---- NIPS 2004

Neural Information Processing Systems ---- Natural and Synthetic

Friday, December 17 ---- Saturday, December 18, 2004

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

<http://nips.cc>

Deadline for Workshop Proposals: August 1, 2004

Following the regular program of the Neural Information Processing Systems 2004 Conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada, workshops on various current topics in Neural Information Processing will be held on December 17 and 18, 2004, in Whistler, BC, Canada. We invite researchers interested in chairing one of these workshops to submit proposals for possible workshops. The goal of the workshops is to provide an informal forum for researchers to discuss important research questions and challenges. Controversial issues, open problems, and comparisons of competing approaches are encouraged and preferred as workshop topics. Representation of alternative viewpoints and panel-style discussions are also particularly encouraged. Workshop topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Active Learning, Attention, Audition, Bayesian Networks, Bayesian Statistics, Benchmarking, Bioinformatics, Brain Imaging, Computational Complexity, Control, Genetic Algorithms, Graphical Models, Hippocampus and Memory, Human-Computer Interfaces, Hybrid Supervised/Unsupervised Learning, Implementations, Independent Component Analysis, Kernel Methods, Mean-Field Methods, Music, Network Dynamics, Neural Coding, Neural Plasticity, On-Line Learning, Optimization, Recurrent Nets, Robotics, Rule Extraction, Self-Organization, Sensory Biophysics, Signal Processing, Spike Timing, Speech, Time Series, Topological Maps, and Vision.

Detailed descriptions of previous workshops may be found at:

<http://nips.cc> under Previous Conferences.

There will be six hours of workshop meetings per day, split into morning and afternoon sessions, with free time between the sessions for ongoing individual exchange or outdoor activities. Selected workshops may be invited to submit proceedings for publication in the

post-NIPS workshops monographs series published by the MIT Press.

Workshop organizers have several responsibilities including:

- * Coordinating workshop participation and content, which includes arranging short informal presentations by experts, arranging for expert commentators to sit on a discussion panel, formulating a set of discussion topics, etc.
- * Moderating the discussion, and reporting its findings and conclusions to the group during the evening plenary sessions.
- * Writing a brief summary and/or coordinating submitted material for post-conference electronic dissemination.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Interested parties must submit a proposal for a workshop via email by August 1, 2004. Proposals should include a title, description of what the workshop is to address and accomplish, proposed workshop length (1 or 2 days), planned format (e.g., lectures, group discussions, panel discussion, combinations of the above, etc.), and proposed speakers. Names of potential invitees should be given where possible. Preference will be given to workshops that reserve a significant portion of time for open discussion or panel discussion, as opposed to a pure "mini-conference" format. An example format is:

- * Tutorial lecture providing background and introducing terminology relevant to the topic.
- * Discussion or panel presentation.
- * Short talks or panels alternating with discussion and question/answer sessions.
- * General discussion and wrap-up.

We suggest that organizers allocate at least 50 percent of the workshop schedule to questions, discussion, and breaks. Past experience suggests that workshops otherwise degrade into mini-conferences as talks begin to run over. For the same reason, we strongly recommend that each workshop include no more than 12 talks per day.

The proposal should state why the topic is of interest, why it should be discussed, and who the targeted group of participants is. It should also include a brief resume of the prospective workshop chair with a list of publications to establish scholarship in the field. We encourage workshops that build, continue, or arise from one or more workshops from previous years. Please mention any such connections.

NIPS does not provide travel funding for workshop speakers. In the past, some workshops have sought and received funding from external sources to bring in outside speakers. In addition, the organizers of each accepted workshop can name up to four people (six people for 2-day workshops) to receive discounted registration for the workshop program.

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Submissions should include the name, address, email address, phone and fax numbers for all organizers. If there is more than one organizer, please designate one organizer as the primary contact.

Proposals should be emailed as plain text to nips-prp@umich.edu (please do not use attachments, Word, postscript, html, or PDF files)

NIPS 2004 WORKSHOP CO-CHAIRS:

- * Satinder Singh, University of Michigan
- * Daniel D. Lee, University of Pennsylvania

Questions may be emailed to nips-adm@umich.edu

DEADLINE FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS: AUGUST 1, 2004
REMINDER: Deadline for Papers ---- June 4, 2004

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Submissions are acknowledged automatically.