PREFACE

We welcome you to SIGdial '04, the fifth annual workshop of SIGdial, the Special Interest Group in Discourse and Dialogue, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This year's twenty-seven papers span the interests of SIGdial members and include topics in discourse and dialogue generation, tutorial dialogues, annotating corpora, spoken and multimodal dialogue systems, dialogue act tagging, discourse structure and topics in anaphora. We received 41 submissions, 30 long papers and eleven short ones. Thirteen long and seven short papers were accepted, nine long papers were accepted as short ones. Three papers were withdrawn during the review and acceptance process. The workshop is organized by SIGdial, which is sponsored jointly by the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) and the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA).

Our guest speaker, Professor Justine Cassell from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, USA, will be addressing issues in multi-media embodied conversational characters with her talk *Dialogue Systems that can Handle Face-to-Face Joint Reference to Actions in Space*.

A two-day workshop cannot take place without the collaboration and efforts of many people. We thank the members of the program committee for their serious and thoughtful reviewing for the papers for the workshop; Tomasz Marciniak, EML Research, for creating and maintaining the SIGdial '04 website together with online submission and reviewing facilities; Jim Glass and Marcia Davidson, MIT, for sponsoring SIGdial '04 at MIT and for much of the local arrangements planning; our student volunteers for work during the workshop; the authors of the papers and presenters of demos for reporting on new and exciting work; David Traum for budget planning and general advice; Laila Dybkjær for financial advice, the HLT/NAACL conference organizers for a myriad of assistance; Priscilla Rasmussen of the ACL office for workshop registration and extensive help in planning this meeting.

We have been fortunate to have the generous support of several institutions for SIGdial '04 and we wish to thank them for their contribution:

Klaus Tschira Foundation gGmbH
Microsoft Research
IBM Research
Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs

We hope these papers and the workshop website (http://sigdial04.eml-research.de) will provide a record of some of the discussion and activity of our two days in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Candy Sidner and Michael Strube
SIGdial '04 Co-chairs
March 2004

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