FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Welcome!

Welcome to the 25th Annual M Technology Association Conference—the silver anniversary celebrating a technology that circles the globe. Our Conference theme "M Serves the World" says it in a nutshell—from its roots in Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, MUMPS has grown into M Technology and has spread to the four corners of the earth: San Francisco, Tokyo, Singapore, Cairo, London, and Moscow, for instance! From its origins as a research collaboration between Massachusetts General and M.I.T., M continues to flourish as a high-performance database and client/server language.

The worldwide M community gathers in Boston for a first-time experience this year — joining MTA's Conference with a major computer industry event, Database & Client/Server World. We do this for two reasons: to give M users an opportunity to simultaneously explore the best of M and M's connectivity with numerous other technologies, and to increase M's visibility.

This Conference is the exciting product of progressive action by MTA's Board of Directors under the leadership of Chair John Covin. Last year the Board made strategic decisions to propel M Technology into the future by bringing the technology and the M community into the open. And now we're here, taking a giant step forward by displaying our technology and our community in a well-known computer industry show.

The M community knows that M has quietly worked wonders for years—it's the secret weapon that many users and developers have wielded to efficiently solve computing problems in a long list of industries, including healthcare, banking and shipping. You name it, and M is probably there! Our community has gathered every year to share among ourselves the most recent accomplishments of M.

But times are changing. As M Technology is finding a critical role in the client/server environment, we're promoting its capabilities beyond our traditional community and giving current and potential M users the opportunity to see what it can do.

This year's MTA Conference brings you new M products, new exhibitors, new tutorials, and new discussion areas. Because we're setting forth in a new alliance venture, the Board appointed a Steering Committee, rather than the traditional Program Chair and Co-Chair, to guide the way. It's been hard but gratifying work—in a compressed time frame with the meeting occurring in March rather than June—to gather together the timeliest topics and the best presenters. With the help of the Program Committee volunteers, who have most generously shared their time and talents, we can offer you a 1996 Annual Conference that we believe will open new doors for all who attend.

Enjoy the conference—learn a lot—and let MTA know what you think of it! **M**

The 1996 Annual Conference Steering Committee

Dave Holbrook, Fred Kohun, Greg Kreis, Bob Mappes, Roger Partridge, Gail Penrod, Catherine Pfeil

---