A number of joint diseases have a huge effect on the quality of life – and the majority of the world population will be affected by one of these at some point in the life. These diseases cause pain, swelling, inflammation and reduced range of motion. For many years, much clinical research has been devoted to understanding these diseases and to develop effective treatment beyond pain relief. Starting with traditional radiographs, radiology has been a source for analysis of the progress of these diseases, and this is increasing with the advances of modalities such as magnetic resonance imaging. However, in many areas, the image analysis is only now maturing and taking advantage of the advanced methodologies used in other fields of medical image analysis. The purpose of this workshop is to give excellent clinical, methodological, and theoretical researchers an opportunity to exchange views, ideas, and methods and to pave the way for increased collaboration. Researchers familiar with MICCAI should think of this as a workshop on research applied to the field of joint diseases. For researchers new to MICCAI, this means that the methodological focus is on (semi-)automated, quantitative approaches to computer aided diagnosis or analysis of disease progression within the scope of diseases that mainly affect the joints and the surrounding bones. Or in other words the sub-title: Quantitative Automated Musculoskeletal Analysis

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INVITED SPEAKER  The key note speaker at the workshop is Dr Felix Eckstein from the Institute of Anatomy and Musculoskeletal Research at Paracelsus Private Medical University in Salzburg, Austria.

His presentation will cover mile-stone research achievements from other groups as well as the most recent results from his own group. The preliminary title is: Quantitative MR Imaging of Synovial Joints in Health and Disease

MICCAI  The workshop is hosted in conjunction with the 9th international MICCAI (Medical Image Computing and Computer Aided Intervention) conference. For more information about MICCAI, see: www.miccai2006.dk

SUBMISSION  Submission is online at the workshop web site. Dual submissions to both the workshop and MICCAI are allowed following the MICCAI guidelines.

DATES
Submission deadline:  May 1, 2006
Notification of Acceptance:  June 15, 2006
MICCAI:  October 2-4, 2006
Workshop:  October 5, 2006

TOPICS  The workshop encourages submission of original work involving clinical, theoretical and methodological aspects of research focusing on osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, or inflammatory or musculoskeletal joint diseases in general including acute injuries such as cartilage lesions or meniscus/ligament tears. Methodologically, the focus can be on quantitative analysis, automatic or interactive methods, or performance evaluation. The clinical aim of the work can be diagnosis, clinical studies, or surgery. The lists given are not restrictive and related topics are most welcome.

FORMAT  Papers are to be submitted in the Springer LNCS format in order to allow for double submission with MICCAI (for details on the format, see the workshop web site). Papers can be up to 8 pages. It is completely acceptable to write shorter papers in the style of an extended abstract (like the one used at SPIE Medical or similar to the formats used at medical conferences).

PRESENTATIONS  Papers will be submitted to double review by members of the program committee and selected based on quality and originality. There will be both oral and poster presentations in the single day workshop.

PROCEEDINGS  Proceedings will be printed and ready for the workshop. Currently, we are arranging for selected papers to be published as a journal special issue. News on this will appear at the workshop web page.

VENUE  The workshop will be at the IT University of Copenhagen – located near the Copenhagen city center as well as the Copenhagen International Airport.

For additional information and updates, see www.itu.dk/image/JOINT