European Applications of Surface ElectroMyoGraphy
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PREFACE (1)
Surface EMG for Non Invasive Assessment of Muscles (SENIAM) is one of the concerted actions funded by the European Commission (EC). The aim of these concerted actions is to enhance international co-operation in a given field of interest. A mere fact that the EC has decided to fund this concerted action on Electromyography recorded with electrodes placed on the skin surface (SEMG), should be regarded as a real acknowledgement of the maturity and potential benefits of SEMG. SENIAM will enable scientists and clinicians working with SEMG to exchange knowledge and experience on basic and applied aspects of SEMG and will help in breaking down present barriers which prevent a useful exchange and a wide spread use of SEMG.

From June 12 till June 15, 1997 the second general workshop of SENIAM took place in Stockholm, Sweden. The goal of this second general workshop was to obtain a state of the art in the various fields of application. In addition, to learn from each other and to discuss the important aspects that jointly connect the various fields. For this purpose not only the 16 partners of the concerted action, from 9 different European countries were invited but also 13 experts in the various fields.

Looking back at the workshop I think we succeeded very well in achieving these goals. The discussions were even better than in the first workshop and are leading more and more to a common body of knowledge which enable a useful exchange of experience and clinical data in the near future.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to Göran Hägg for his perfect organisation of the workshop as well as his generous and warm hospitality.

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PREFACE (2)
The Second General Workshop of SENIAM has come to an end. As organiser and host of this workshop I write these lines with a satisfactory feeling that we together succeeded in bringing the SENIAM project a significant step further towards the ultimate goal of SENIAM. Scientific meetings in general tend to follow a wellknown pattern but when looking back on the SENIAM workshops so far, it is obvious that there is a certain "SENIAM-spirit" maturing which offers more to but also demands more from the participants. This spirit is characterised by openness and generosity to share individual knowledge and experience with all involved for the benefit of the project goals. This constitutes a firm base for the future success of SENIAM and hopefully this spirit will be apparent to the reader when reading the documentation of the workshop discussions in this book.
Being mainly a practitioner myself in the field of ergonomics it was also satisfying to be able to emphasise these issues at this occasion. This area has become a speciality of the Nordic countries, hence influencing the present list of invited speakers. In this context I would like to thank the more basically oriented participants for actively taking part also in these more applied sessions. Your contributions are most valuable for the future development of surface EMG applications. I would also like to extend this appreciation to all contributors making this successful workshop possible.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the stimulating and joyful co-operation with the project coordinators in Enschede, Hermie Hermens and Bart Freriks. They are doing a great job to carry out the SENIAM project. A final word of appreciation also to my secretary, Britt Lindqvist, to the staff of Vå Gård, Saltsjöbaden and to the weather gods who's efforts contributed to the success of the meeting to a great extent.

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