but is common to all medical image analysis software development. It is particularly complicated for medical images, because very often you do not have an ultimate ground truth, as you have in metrology for instance. So, part of the goals of international challenges is also to promote the debate about better validation techniques.

We asked organizer Professor **Emanuele Trucco** to tell us his view on the future of the initiative:

Emanuele Trucco is
NRP Chair of Computational Vision
and VAMPIRE Project Director
School of Science and Engineering
University of Dundee

"As far as we know, there are no other challenges for software for retinal or eye image analysis. My personal view is that this should be treated the same way as challenges in computer vision.

Like the famous Middlebury Stereo Vision challenge, many years ago, where a web site is organized not only as a means of reporting results, but also to accept software in a certain format and evaluate results automatically. This means that people can asynchronously load up their software, run it and check immediately how it fares compared with the other ones having been submitted. So, the ReTOUCH challenge becomes both a means of advancing the field and a publicity vehicle for it."

Challenge

OMIA workshop is organized by Xinjian Chen (Soochow University, China), Mona Garvin (University of Iowa, USA), Emanuele Trucco (University of Dundee, UK), Frank XU (A-STAR, Singapore).

ReTOUCH challenge is organized by Hrvoje Bogunovic, Sophie Klimscha, Sebastian M. Waldstein, Bianca S. Gerendas, Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth (Medical University of Vienna, Austria), and (Freerk Venhuizen, Clarisa Sánchez, Caroline Klaver (Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, The Netherlands).

Frank Zu and Hrvoje Bogunovic sit on both organizing committees to guarantee coordination of the two events.

After the results are known and declared at the OMIA workshop at MICCAI, the plan is to publish them on a web site so that they can be communicated to the wider community.