



Dear colleagues,

As usual, the June issue of the Bulletin will be available just before ICALP, the flagship conference of the EATCS, which hosts the annual meeting of the council of our association and its general assembly. I hope that many of you will be at ICALP 2014, which has a mouth-watering scientific programme and an exciting collection of cultural and social events to boot. Thore Husfeldt and his team at the IT University in Copenhagen are working very hard on the final details of the organization of the 41st ICALP, which I am sure will be truly memorable.

Apart from the invited and contributed talks, ICALP 2014 will feature the presentation of the EATCS Award 2014 to Gordon Plotkin, of the Presburger Award 2014 to David Woodruff and of the Gödel Prize 2014 to Ronald Fagin, Amnon Lotem, and Moni Naor. Moreover, during the conference, we will honour the first group of EATCS Fellows, consisting of

- Susanne Albers (Technische Universität München, Germany) for “her contributions to the design and analysis of algorithms, especially online algorithms, approximation algorithms, algorithmic game theory and algorithm engineering”;
- Giorgio Ausiello (Università di Roma La Sapienza, Italy) for “the impact of his scientific work in the field of algorithms and computational complexity and for his service to the scientific community”;



- the late *Wilfried Brauer* (*Technische Universität München, Germany*) for “outstanding contributions to the foundation and organization of the European TCS community”;
- *Herbert Edelsbrunner* (*Institute of Science and Technology Austria and Duke University, USA*) for “his tremendous impact on the field of computational geometry”;
- *Mike Fellows* (*Charles Darwin University, Australia*) for “his role in founding the field of parameterized complexity theory, which has become a major subfield of research in theoretical computer science, and for being a leader in computer science education”;
- *Yuri Gurevich* (*Microsoft Research, USA*) for “his development of abstract state machines and for outstanding contributions to algebra, logic, game theory, complexity theory and software engineering”;
- *Monika Henzinger* (*University of Vienna, Austria*) for “being one of the pioneers of web algorithms, algorithms that deal with problems of the world wide web”;
- *Jean-Eric Pin* (*LIAFA, CNRS and University Paris Diderot, France*) for “outstanding contributions to the algebraic theory of automata and languages in connection with logic, topology, and combinatorics and service to the European TCS community”;
- *Paul Spirakis* (*University of Liverpool, UK, and University of Patras, Greece*)



for “seminal papers on Random Graphs and Population Protocols, Algorithmic Game Theory, as well as Robust Parallel Distributed Computing”; and

- *Wolfgang Thomas (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) for “foundational contributions to the development of automata theory as a framework for modelling, analyzing, verifying and synthesizing information processing systems.”*



I thank the members of the award and fellow committees for their work in the selection of this stellar set of award recipients and fellows. It will be a great honour to celebrate the work of these colleagues during ICALP 2014.

The number of submissions for ICALP 2014 was a record 484 (319 for Track A, 106 for Track B and 59 for Track C). The number of submissions for Track A also set a new record for that track. The PCs for the three tracks, which were chaired by Elias Koutsoupias (Track A), Javier Esparza (Track B) and Pierre Fraigniaud (Track C), did a sterling job in the selection of the contributed papers for the conference and in the selection of the best papers and best student papers.

The invited talks and the talks by the award recipients at ICALP 2014 will be recorded and will be streamed live during the conference. For the first time, the general assembly of the EATCS will also be streamed live on the net and there will be a live Twitter feed, which will enable our members who are unable to attend the conference to take an active part in the event. I look forward to seeing the result of this experiment, which I do believe is worth trying for the sake of inclusiveness and openness.

Since the February issue of the Bulletin was published, our community has lost Georgy Maximovich Adelson-Velsky (1922-2014)), Alberto Bertoni (1946-2014), Wilfried Brauer (1937-2014) and Robert McNaughton. Adelson-Velsky is best known for being the co-inventor of the AVL tree, which was the first known balanced binary



search tree data structure, in 1962. Bertoni was one of the fathers of theoretical computer science in Italy, a member of the council of the EATCS and one of the early founders, and former president, of the Italian Chapter of the EATCS. Brauer was one of the former presidents of the EATCS and one of the first authors in the emerging field of theoretical computer science in the 1960s and early 1970s. McNaughton was a pioneer and master of the field of automata and formal language theory. The community will miss them.

Apart from ICALP, the EATCS is involved in many initiatives and uses its (limited, alas) financial resources to support young researchers and meritorious activities in Theoretical Computer Science. By way of example, I remind you that the EATCS Young Researcher School Series, will kick off this year with a school on Automata, Logic and Games organized by Tony Kucera.

Moreover, soon after ICALP 2014, we will issue the first call for nominations for the EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Awards, which will be presented to two outstanding doctoral theses in theoretical computer science starting from 2015.

Finally, the EATCS Council has decided to provide some modest financial support to the Conference on Computational Complexity (CCC), which, after an open discussion involving the members of the CCC community, recently decided to leave IEEE and to become an independent event.

The above-mentioned activities are just a sample of the increasingly many ones in which the EATCS is involved. In addition, we are also strengthening our ties with other sister organizations (such as the



European Association for Computer Science Logic and the recently established ACM's Special Interest Group on Logic and Computation). In particular, we are working on stipulating reciprocity agreements with those organizations and on the establishment of new joint prizes. As usual, let me remind you that you are always most welcome to send me your comments, criticisms and suggestions for improving the impact of the EATCS on the theoretical-computer-science community at president@eatcs.org.

I hope that you will appreciate the steps that the council of the EATCS has taken on several fronts, even though there is still much more that we could do if we had suitable resources. I am truly grateful to our institutional sponsors and to our members for their support over the years.

If you are not already a member, I hope that you will join the EATCS and encourage your colleagues and students to do so. The EATCS membership fee is low and, by becoming a member, you will contribute to the activities of our organization and will support the development of theoretical computer science, broadly construed.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Copenhagen for ICALP 2014 and to discussing ways of improving the impact of the EATCS within the theoretical-computer-science community at the general assembly.

Luca Aceto, Reykjavik, Iceland

June 2014