



*Dear colleagues,*

*This is my last letter to you as president of the EATCS for the term which started on July 2016, continued after the elections on July 2018 and ends now.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the theoretical computer science community and I have been truly honoured to serve as the president of the association, to cooperate with the vice presidents, the members of the council and the board and with Ioannis Chatzigiannakis and Efi Chita at the EATCS Secretary Office. I have also had a very enjoyable and fruitful collaboration with Kazuo Iwama, the editor in chief of the Bulletin, under whose energetic leadership our flagship publication has consistently been of excellent quality. I have learned much from all of them.*

*Our association will benefit from an influx of fresh blood and new ideas and the new leadership of the EATCS (president and vice-presidents) will be announced officially at the General Assembly at ICALP 2020. I have no doubt that its members will make the EATCS more visible and influential than I have done. I will keep serving the EATCS as a loyal member and an interested observer.*

*At this time of the year, the theoretical computer science community is about to meet at ICALP, the flagship conference of our association. As you know, ICALP 2020 is co-located with LICS 2020, and due to Covid-19 it will take place virtually from July 8 to July 11, 2020. The conference was originally planned in Beijing, China,*



but the unclear situation in January 2020 led the Steering Committees of ICALP and LICS to move the organization to Europe. The colleagues in Saarbrücken, Germany, generously accepted to help and organize both conferences. ICALP-LICS 2020 is organized by the Saarland Informatics Campus, Saarbrücken, Germany, and the conference chair is Holger Hermanns (University of Saarbrücken).

ICALP 2020 received 470 submissions (347 for track A and 123 for track B). The number of accepted papers was 138 (102 for track A and 36 for track B), and the acceptance rate was 29,3 percent. The PCs for the three tracks, which were expertly led by Artur Czumaj (Track A) and Anuj Dawar (Track B), did an amazing job in selecting an exciting conference programme. The invited talks will be given this year by Andrew Yao (Tsinghua University, joint ICALP-LICS), Jerome Leroux (Bordeaux University, joint ICALP-LICS), Robert Krauthgammer (Weizmann Institute of Science), Virginia Vassilevska (MIT) and Stefan Kiefer (Oxford University).

The program of ICALP 2020 will also include presentation of the EATCS Award 2020 to Mihalis Yannakakis, the Presburger Award 2020 to Dmitriy Zhuk (Lomonosov Moscow State University), the Godel Prize 2020 Robin A. Moser and Gabor Tardos, and the EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Awards.

The best paper awards at ICALP 2020 will go to the following articles: Pawel Gawrychowski, Shay Mozes and Oren Weimann. Minimum cut in  $O(m \log^2 n)$  time (Track A), and David Barozzini, Lorenzo Clemente, Thomas Colcombet and Paweł Parys. Cost automata, safe schemes, and downward



closures (Track B).

The following papers will receive the best student paper awards: Aditya Potukuchi. A spectral bound on hypergraph discrepancy (Track A), and Erik Paul. Finite sequentiality of finitely ambiguous max-plus tree automata (Track B).

Congratulations to the authors of the award-receiving papers!

As usual, a report on the conference will be published in the October 2020 issue of the Bulletin.

Moreover, the EATCS Fellows class of 2020, who are -Pierpaolo Degano, Universita di Pisa, Italy: for his contributions in concurrency theory and applications in security and for biological systems.

-Mohammad Taghi Hajiaghayi, University of Maryland, USA: for his contributions to the theory of algorithms, in particular algorithmic graph theory, game theory, and distributed computing.

-Magnus Mar Halldorsson, Reyjavik University, Iceland: for his contributions to the theory of approximation and graph algorithms as well as to the study of wireless algorithmics.

Last, but not least, the EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee 2016 has selected the following three theses for the EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2019:

-Josh Alman: "Linear Algebraic Techniques in Algorithms and Complexity",

-Sándor Kisfaludi-Bak: "ETH-Tight Algorithms for Geometric Network Problems",

-Jakub Tarnawski: "New Graph Algorithms via Polyhedral Techniques".



*On behalf of the EATCS, I heartily thank the members of the award, dissertation 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 2020.*

*Even though ICALP 2020 has not taken place yet, we are already busy preparing future editions of the conference. ICALP 2021: The organization of the 49th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming is progressing well. ICALP 2021 will take place from July 12 to July 16, 2021, in Glasgow, UK. The conference chair will be Simon Gay from the University of Glasgow. The program chairs will be Nikhil Bansal (track A) and Ben Worrell (track B). In Saarbrücken, you will have the opportunity to see the first Call for Papers with the indication of the program committees.*

*The EATCS continues to be active on increasingly many fronts. We have also announced that the 2020 Alonzo Church Award for Outstanding Contributions to Logic and Computation will be given to Ronald Fagin, Phokion G. Kolaitis, Renee J. Miller, Lucian Popa, and Wang Chiew Tan for laying the logical foundations for data exchange. The Alonzo Church Award is a major prize in cooperation with ACM Special Interest Group on Logic and Computation, the European Association for Computer Science Logic and the Kurt Gödel Society.*

*As usual, let me remind you that, at least until the middle of July this year, you are 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 look forward to hearing from you.*

*Paul Spirakis, Liverpool, UK and  
Patras, Greece*

*June 2020*