Dear EATCS members,

I hope my letter finds you and your family safe and in good health. As you might know already, during the last ICALP 2020, I was elected by the EATCS Council as the new president of the association. First, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the prior leadership of EATCS: Paul Spirakis (President), Leslie Ann Goldberg, Antonín Kucera, and Giuseppe Persiano (Vice Presidents), and Ioannis Chatzigiannakis (Secretary). I am sure we will continue to rely on their advice and support. Special thanks go to Paul Spirakis, for the excellent work as the EATCS President he has done during the last four years; it will be a hard job to follow in his footsteps.
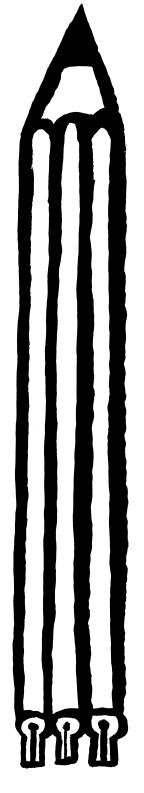
Becoming a new EATCS President is a great honor for me, but also it is a great responsibility, especially in the current, difficult times. I am thrilled to take on this challenge and to have the opportunity to lead the EATCS with the amazing team of two Vice-Presidents Anca Muscholl and Giuseppe F. Italiano, Emanuela Merelli (Secretary), Jean-Francois Raskin (Treasurer), Kazuo Iwama (Bulletin Editor), and Efi Chita at the EATCS Secretary Office. However, I am also all too well aware of the challenges facing the EATCS and the entire theory community. Still, I feel that, in these difficult times, the EATCS can play an even more important role in the development of theoretical computer science than ever. I have a number of goals that I would like to achieve during my term as president, but I welcome

proposals from all of you. Please contact me via email at president@eatcs.org, if you have any ideas that you would like the EATCS to do for the benefit of the theoretical computer science community, or if you would like to engage or contribute to EATCS initiatives.

This has been a difficult summer due to the coronavirus pandemic, with many research activities being canceled, postponed, or organized online. Not surprisingly, ICALP 2020, the EATCS flagship conference, co-located this year with LICS 2020, was moved to the online format, and so we had the first ever online ICALP. On behalf of the entire community and the EATCS I would like to thank the organizers at the Saarland Informatics Campus, Saarbrücken, led by Holger Hermanns, for their fantastic efforts that helped to make this conference a great success. Similarly, this year we have seen also for the first time in the online format three other partner conferences organized in cooperation with EATCS: MFCS 2020, ESA 2020, and DISC 2020. Running all these conferences online and with free or low registration fees led to the record numbers of participants and to the increase of visibility of research in these events. However, we have also seen various challenges of having online events, including less networking and research interaction, and limited exposure of students and early carrier researchers in the community. We will see in the next years how the coronavirus pandemic will impact our research environment, but I am optimistic that we will able to find our way through.

In this issue of the Bulletin, you will

find the calls for nominations for the EATCS Award, the Presburger Award, the EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Award, and the EATCS Fellows. As usual, we are lucky to have very strong committees for each of the awards, and I thank all the award committee members in advance for their important service. I strongly encourage you to send nomi- nations for these prestigious awards. I am aware of the fact that we are all very busy and that it takes time and efforts to prepare strong nominations, but our best researchers and best papers can only win awards if they are nominated. Moreover, awards put areas of, as well as inspirational figures in, theoretical computer sci- ence in the spotlight and can serve to inspire young researchers. I look forward to seeing who the award winners will be and to working with all of you to make the EATCS even more influential than it already is.

Artur Czumaj
University of Warwick, UK
President of EATCS
president@eatcs.org

October 2020