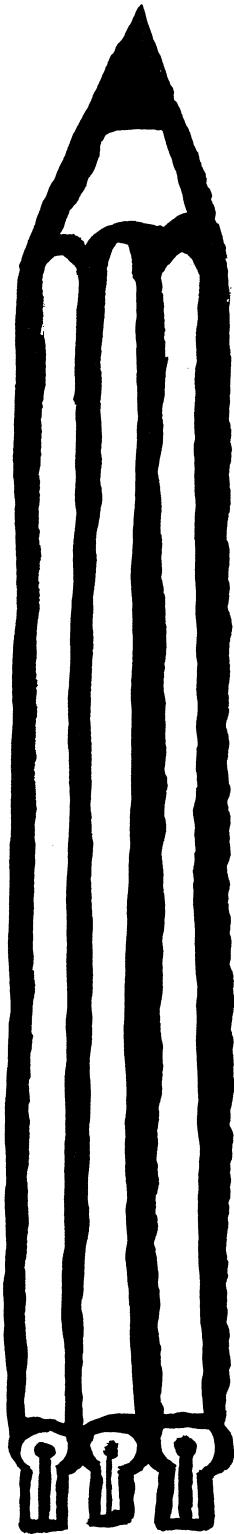Dear EATCS members,

I hope my letter finds you and your family safe and in good health.

First of all, let me wish you a happy 2021. I hope that this will be a healthy and fruitful year for all of you, better than the previous one, and I look forward to working together with all of you in order to continue promoting the development of theoretical computer science.

As the previous year, 2021 is expected to be a challenging year marked by a global coronavirus pandemic, which clearly has a major impact on our lives and our scientific activities. In the last months we have seen many research activities being canceled, postponed, or organized online, and it seems that we will continue this trend in the next many months. While the current situation is a significant challenge for our community, on a positive side, our community has been developing some new initiatives: we see more online seminars and workshops, and for many of us free or low-cost online conferences provide a great opportunity for broader participation and the increase of visibility of our research through these events. And maybe most importantly, we still see some fantastic research done by our community; and so I take the opportunity to wish you all the best and much success for your work.

At the end of the last year, we received the sad news that Lars Arge died of cancer. Lars was renowned for his research in algorithms and computational geometry, one
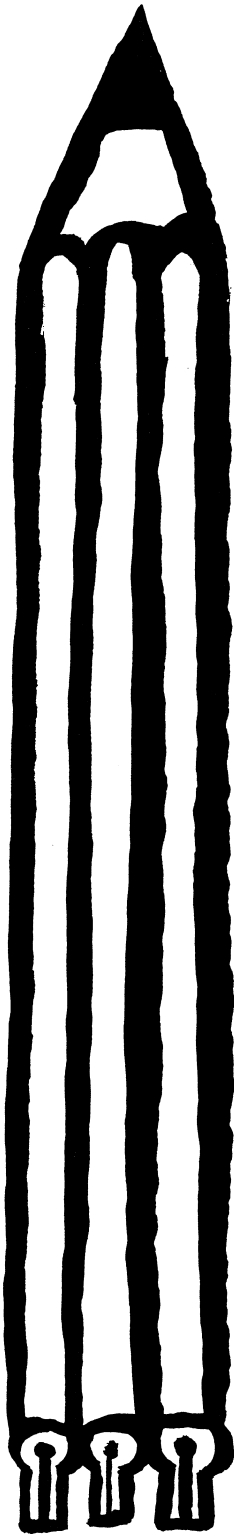
of the pioneers of algorithms for massive data, founder of the Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (MADALGO) in Aarhus, and a very active member of the TCS community (including being the current EATCS Council member). You can read an obituary for Lars in this issue of the Bulletin.

Then, at the beginning of the year, we received another sad news that Alan Selman passed away. Alas was one of the early leaders in structural complexity, a giant in this area, and the co-founder and first chair of what is now the Computational Complexity Conference. As one of the leaders in the complexity theory, Alan was also quite involved with various activities in the EATCS. You can read an obituary for Alan in this issue of the Bulletin too.

The 48th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2021), the EATCS flagship conference, will be held virtually in Glasgow, July 12-16, 2021 (conference web page: http://easyconferences.eu/icalp2021/). As in 2020, the conference will take place fully online, with Simon Gay as the conference chair, and PC chairs Nikhil Bansal (track A) and James Worrell (track B). ICALP 2021 will feature six invited talks delivered by Christel Baier (Technical University of Dresden, Germany), Andrei Bulatov (Simon Fraser University, Canada), Keren Censor-Hillel (Technion, Israel), Toniann Pitassi (University of Toronto, Canada), Adi Shamir (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel), and David Woodruff (Carnegie Mellon University, USA). I hope that many of you have submitted your best work to ICALP 2021.

Also, please allow me to remind you that

MFCS 2021, the 46th International Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science, will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, August 23-27, 2021 (conference web page: https://compose.ioc.ee/mfcs/). Abstract submission deadline is on April 30, 2021 (AoE), and paper submission deadline is on May 3, 2021 (AoE).

I also hope to see numerous submissions to two other EATCS affiliated conferences, the 29th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA 2021) and the 34th International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC 2021).

As usual, let me close this letter by reminding 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. We will consider all your suggestions and criticisms carefully.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

February 2021