



Dear EATCS members,

I hope my letter finds you and your family safe and in good health. While the global coronavirus pandemic still has a major impact on our lives and limits some of our scientific activities, I see many positive signs that there are brighter days ahead of us. Indeed, the pandemic situation seems to be getting normalized in many places of the world and I hope that with the progress in global vaccination we will soon be seeing better times. And so, even though in the last year and a half almost all scientific activities have been run in the online setting, we now see more and more activities taking places in the hybrid setting or even as physical events. I see also active plans for the return of in-person research collaborations and in-place workshops and conferences.

While the current situation is a major challenge for our scientific community, it is great to see that our community has been developing many new and exciting initiatives: we see more online seminars and workshops, a lot of remote collaborative research, 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 most importantly, we 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.

ICALP 2021, the EATCS flagship conference, was run in the online format again. As



always though, the conference had an impressive scientific program highlighting the strength of the research across many areas within theoretical computer science. On behalf of the entire community and the EATCS I would like to thank the Programme Committee led by the chairs Nikhil Bansal and James Worrell, the organizers at the University of Glasgow, led by Simon Gay, and especially - all the participants, for their fantastic efforts that helped to make the ICALP 2021 conference a great success. We plan to have a detailed report of ICALP 2021 in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We also had very successful three EATCS partner conferences: ESA 2021, MFCS 2021, and DISC 2021. While ESA ran fully online, MFCS and DISC had been organized in a hybrid format, with some local participants - a very welcomed feature that we hope to see more and more in the months to come. Running all these four conferences in the online or the hybrid setting allowed to ensure free or low registration fees, and this led to very good numbers of participants and to the increase of visibility of research in these events.

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 nominations 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 science 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.

As usual, the October issue of the Bulletin has the first Call for Papers for ICALP 2022, the flagship conference of the EATCS and an important meeting of the theoretical computer science community world-wide. The 49th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2021), will be held on July 4-8, 2022 in Paris, France, and online. The conference is planned to be in the hybrid format, though we hope the talks to be mostly delivered in person and we hope for a very good in-place audience. We have a great list of invited speaker and expect a fantastic scientific program selected by the PCs led by the chairs David Woodruff and Mikołaj Bojańczyk. Furthermore, ICALP 2022 edition will be the occasion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both EATCS and the first ICALP, which was first held in 1972 in Rocquencourt, in the Paris area. I will write more details about the planned activities in the next issue of the Bulletin, but as for now: please pencil these dates in your diary and I hope to see many of you joining us in these celebrations.

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 seeing many of you around, online or maybe even in person (hopefully we will be able to attend conferences and workshops, or to conduct research visits), and to discussing ways of improving the impact of the EATCS within the theoretical computer science community.

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