OBITUARY FOR ROLF NIEDERMEIER

With great sadness, we announce that Rolf Niedermeier recently passed away unexpectedly at the age of 55. Many readers know Rolf from his book "Invitation to Fixed-Parameter Algorithms", which gave a welcoming and smooth introduction to the research area of parameterized algorithms.

Rolf's journey into the world of computer science started at TU Munich in 1986, where he obtained a degree in computer science in 1991. He then continued at the University of Tübingen, where he earned his PhD degree in 1996 and, after spending one year as a postdoc at Charles University in Prague, started an independent research group on parameterized algorithms. He then joined the University of Jena in 2004, where he obtained his first position as a professor and, finally, TU Berlin in 2010 where he established and chaired the research group "Algorithmics and Computational Complexity".

During this time, he achieved several seminal contributions for example on the improvement of depth-bounded search trees, the establishment of kernelization as a framework for parameterized algorithms, and in the quest to turn parameterized algorithms into practical implementations. He was one of the leading researchers in parameterized algorithmics, and worked on the application of parameterized algorithms to problems from various fields such as computational social choice, computational biology, and temporal graph theory with tireless enthusiasm.

Over his academic lifetime, Rolf supervised thirty Doctoral and countless Bachelor and Master students, taught a variety of stimulating courses, and headed more than fifteen different DFG-funded research projects. He was also co-organizer of numerous Dagstuhl workshops, including the first two Dagstuhl seminars on Parameterized Algorithms in 2001 and 2003, "Adaptive, Output Sensitive, Online and Parameterized Algorithms" in 2009, "Application-Oriented Computational Social Choice" and "Algorithms and Complexity in Phylogenetics" in 2019, and "Temporal Graphs: Structure, Algorithms, Applications" in 2021. Moreover, he was the local organizer for the "Workshop on Graph-Theoretic Concepts in Computer Science" (WG 2007), the "Workshop on Challenges in Algorithmic Social Choice" (CASC 2014), and the "Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science" (STACS 2019). In addition, he tirelessly contributed to the research community in many different boards and committees (for example in the computer science review board of the DFG and in the review panel for ERC Starting Grants), as member of the steering committee for STACS, as dean of the faculty for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at TU Berlin, as speaker of the algorithms group of GI, and in various other capacities.

Beyond his unconditional dedication to academia, Rolf was known as a warm-hearted and caring person who was always in the mood for a witticism. He used these to skillfully bridge any distance between him and his students, since they always came with an implicit expectation to

be returned with an equally pointed retort.

Rolf always had a positive attitude and was very approachable. You could always come to his office and ask him about anything. He would probably offer you a cup of tea and definitely give you his full attention—no matter how large the pile of other, more urgent or important work on his desk was.

We mourn for an inspiring mentor, bright scientist, supportive colleague, and good friend. Even though his passing leaves a large void, his influence will live on in all those who worked with him.