# A Word from the Chair of SIGEVO

Welcome to the Proceedings of GECCO-2013, the fifteenth GECCO, and a "recombination" of the 22nd International Conference on Genetic Algorithms (ICGA) and the 18th Genetic Programming Conference (GP). This year, Enrique Alba has acted as General Chair of GECCO-2013 with great enthusiasm. Christian Blum, the Editor-in-Chief of GECCO-2013 has done a terrific job at "keeping the tracks on track", the reviewing process going and leading the effort to select papers for publication. Finally, Leonardo Vanneschi has served as Proceedings Chair, an important job tending to the details of this year's proceedings. The results before you speak for themselves.

GECCO is the premiere venue for presenting papers in the area of Genetic and Evolutionary Computation world-wide. The quality of papers submitted to GECCO is very high, and GECCO has a rigorous paper selection process. This means that the best and most important work in Evolutionary Computation and on related topics is presented at GECCO.

If you were not able to attend GECCO-2013 in person, the Proceedings are in the ACM Digital Library; they are globally accessible and readily found, which benefits both readers and authors.

## ACM SIGEVO

Members of ACM SIGEVO, sponsor of GECCO, continue to draw major benefits from joining ACM. First is a discount at SIGEVO sponsored conferences, at GECCO as much as $100 per registrant. Members have access to the ACM Digital Library, a large and continuously growing resource for research in computing. Another key benefit is the outstanding newsletter *SIGEVOlutions* produced by Pier Luca Lanzi and his excellent editorial board. If you are accessing these proceedings and are not a member of SIGEVO, please consider joining (for the low price of $25/year for non-students, and $10/year for student members). This will help us a lot in promoting our community.

## Involvement in ACM SIGEVO

SIGEVO became a *Special Interest Group (SIG)* of the ACM in 2005. ACM considers its SIGs as the lifeblood of the organization. We are governed by bylaws available on the SIGEVO web pages. There, you also find a list of members of the 18-member Executive Committee.

Since 2011, I serve as chair of SIGEVO, together with a team of officers: Una-May O'Reilly (Vice-Chair), Marc Schoenauer (Secretary), and Franz Rothlauf (Treasurer). The Executive, its Officers and I are dedicated to continuously improve our organization. If you have any suggestions how to make GECCO or SIGEVO better, please let us know.

**Wolfgang Banzhaf**
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*SIGEVO Chair*