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Dear GECCO attendees,

Welcome to the 2021 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), hosted from Lille, France. GECCO'21 is the second edition, after GECCO'20 in Cancún, México, to be held online due to the global coronavirus crisis. For most of 2020, the Organizing Committee was making preparations for a hybrid mode. However, as progress at fighting the pandemic was slower than we had hoped, in December 2020 the decision was made to go fully online.

GECCO is the premier peer-reviewed conference in the field of Evolutionary Computation, and the main conference of the Special Interest Group on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (SIGEVO) of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). To identify the most important and technically sound papers, the conference implements a rigorous and selective review process, conducted by two chairs per track in coordination with the Editor-in-Chief. The technical program is divided into 13 tracks reflecting all aspects of our field, including the new Neuroevolution track.

This year, we received 362 regular paper submissions and accepted 134 of them as oral presentations (37% acceptance rate) and 136 as posters. Besides the technical tracks, GECCO'21 offers 38 tutorials selected from 45 proposals, 22 workshops that cover important topics in our field, and a range of events: the Humies Awards ceremony, 13 competitions, Women@GECCO, Evolutionary Computation in Practice, a five-day SIGEVO Summer School preceding the conference, and more.

The highlights of the event are the keynotes given by three esteemed researchers: Joshua Tenenbaum of MIT, USA, Marc Mézard of École Normale Supérieure, France, and Melanie Mitchell of Santa Fe Institute, USA (SIGEVO keynote).

We are thankful to all authors, tutorial speakers, as well as workshop and competition organizers who contributed to GECCO despite the precarious pandemic conditions. We would also like to express our thanks to all organizers, in particular to all chairs: tracks, tutorials, workshops, publicity, competitions, late breaking abstracts, and hot-off-the-press. We also thank the organizers of the Humies, and of Women@GECCO, as well as to the members of our Program Committee. We sincerely appreciate all these efforts and contributions.

Some members of the organization team deserve particular recognition: Francisco Chicano, Editor-in-Chief; Bilel Derbel, Local Chair; Nadarajen Veerapen, Electronic Media Chair; Arnaud Liefooghe, Virtualization Chair; Aniko Ekart, Publicity Chair, and Alberto Tonda, Proceedings Chair. The effort of this core organizing team was essential for the success of GECCO'21. We also thank Ahmed Kheiri for optimizing the schedule of the conference, Brenda Ramirez and Roxane Rose of Executive Events who helped us with registrations and the logistics of the event, as well as Franz Rothlauf, Enrique Alba, Darrell Whitley and Peter Bosman from SIGEVO and the Business Committee for their valuable advice and guidance.

Last but not least, our gratitude goes to our generous business sponsors and institutional supporters: Cognizant, Google, eMapa, as well as University of Lille and Centre de Recherche en Informatique, Signal et Automatique de Lille (CRIStAL).

The Organizing Committee worked hard to provide diversified means for participating remotely in GECCO'21. To this aim, we engaged a few interlinked online platforms, which should facilitate not only listening to talks, but also more informal interaction in coffee breaks, poster sessions, and other events. We hope these arrangements will translate into a great experience for all attendees. Enjoy the conference!

Krzysztof Krawiec, GECCO 2021 General Chair
Poznan University of Technology, Poznań, Poland

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Theory	Frank Neumann, *The University of Adelaide* Andrew M. Sutton, *University of Minnesota Duluth*

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CIT — "Continuous" Interaction Testing	Ryan E. Dougherty, *United States Military Academy* Xi (Chase) Jiang, *Colgate University*
BCSONO — Bound Constrained Single Objective Numerical Optimization	Ponnuthurai Suganthan, *NTU*
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Competition on the optimal camera placement problem (OCP) and the unicost set covering problem (USCP)	Mathieu Brévilliers, *Université de Haute-Alsace* Lhassane Idoumghar, *LMIA (EA 3993), Université de Haute-Alsace* Julien Lepagnot, *LMIA (EA 3993), Université de Haute-Alsace*
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AABOH — Analysing Algorithmic Behaviour of Optimisation Heuristics	Anna V Kononova, *LIACS, Leiden University* Hao Wang, *Leiden University* Thomas Weise, *Institute of Applied Optimization, School of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, Hefei University* Carola Doerr, *CNRS and Sorbonne University* Thomas Bäck, *LIACS, Leiden University* Fabio Caraffini, *Institute of Artificial Intelligence, De Montfort University* Johann Dreo, *Pasteur Institute and CNRS*
BBOB — Black Box Optimization Benchmarking	Anne Auger, *Inria* Peter A. N. Bosman, *Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science* Tobias Glasmachers, *Ruhr-Universität Bochum* Nikolaus Hansen, *Inria and Ecole Polytechnique* Petr Pošík, *Czech Technical University* Tea Tušar, *Jožef Stefan Institute* Dimo Brockhoff, *Inria and Ecole Polytechnique*
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EAHPC — Evolutionary Algorithms and HPC	Mark Coletti, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory* Robert Patton, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory* Catherine (Katie) Schuman, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory* Eric “Siggy” Scott, *MITRE* Kenneth De Jong, *George Mason University*
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EC+DM — Evolutionary Computation and Decision Making	Tinkle Chugh, *University of Exeter* Richard Allmendinger, *The University of Manchester* Jussi Hakanen, *University of Jyvaskyla*
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ECPERM — Evolutionary Computation for Permutation Problems	Valentino Santucci, *University for Foreigners of Perugia* Marco Baioletti, *University of Perugia* Josu Ceberio, *University of Basque Country* John McCall, *Robert Gordon University* Alfredo Milani, *University of Perugia*
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EVORL — Evolutionary Reinforcement Learning Workshop	Giuseppe Paolo, *Sorbonne Université - SoftbankRobotics Europe* Alex Coninx, *ISIR, Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris 6* Antoine Cully, *Imperial College London* Adam Gaier, *Autodesk Research*
EVOSOFT — Evolutionary Computation Software Systems	Stefan Wagner, *University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria* Michael Affenzeller, *University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria*
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NEWK — Neuroevolution at Work	Ernesto Tarantino, *Institute on High Performance Computing - National Research Council of Italy* De Falco Ivanoe, *Institute of High-Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR-CNR)* Della Cioppa Antonio, *Natural Computation Lab, DIEM, University of Salerno* Scafuri Umberto, *Institute of High-Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR-CNR)*
PDEIM — Parallel and Distributed Evolutionary Inspired Methods	Ernesto Tarantino, *Institute on High Performance Computing - National Research Council of Italy* De Falco Ivanoe, *Institute of High-Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR-CNR)* Della Cioppa Antonio, *Natural Computation Lab, DIEM, University of Salerno* Scafuri Umberto, *Institute of High-Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR-CNR)*

RWACMO — Real-World Applications of Continuous and Mixed-integer Optimization	Pramudita Palar, *Bandung Institute of Technology* Akira Oyama, *Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency* Hemant Kumar Singh, *University of New South Wales* Kazuhisa Chiba, *The University of Electro-Communications*
SAEOPT — Surrogate-Assisted Evolutionary Optimisation	Alma Rahat, *Swansea University* Richard Everson, *University of Exeter* Jonathan Fieldsend, *University of Exeter* Handing Wang, *Xidian University* Yaochu Jin, *University of Surrey*
SECDEF — Genetic and Evolutionary Computation in Defense, Security, and Risk Management	Erik Hemberg, *MIT CSAIL* Riyad Alshammari, *King Saud bin Abdulaziz University* Tokunbo Makanju, *New York Institute of Technology*
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SWINGA — Swarm Intelligence Algorithms: Foundations, Perspectives and Challenges	Roman Senkerik, *Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Faculty of Applied Informatics* Ivan Zelinka, *VSB - Technical University of Ostrava* Swagatam Das, *Indian Statistical Institute*
VIZGEC — Visualisation Methods in Genetic and Evolutionary Computation	David Walker, *University of Plymouth* Richard Everson, *University of Exeter* Rui Wang, *Uber AI* Neil Vaughan, *University of Exeter*

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