WELCOME TO THE ACM TURING CENTENARY CELEBRATION!

Alan Turing's contributions to the foundations of our field are monumental—from fundamental contributions in computation, computing machinery, and artificial intelligence to seminal work in mathematics and mathematical logic, philosophy, and theoretical biology.

This year will see hundreds of events worldwide—large and small—celebrating the 100th anniversary of Alan Turing's birth and raising awareness of Turing, his contributions, and the fundamental importance of computing and computer science. At ACM we had a long discussion of how best to mark this special anniversary and serve the memory and significance of Alan Turing and celebrate our field. In the end, we decided to focus the ACM Turing Centenary Celebration on our most visible and relevant connection to Turing—the ACM Turing Award and its winners.

When I wrote to all living Turing Award winners about our idea of organizing ACM's celebration of Turing as a one-and-a-half day conference built around their views of the past and the future of computing, the response was overwhelming. Every one of the Turing Award winners loved the idea, and in the end, 34 agreed to participate.

With the support of ACM SIGs, an organizing committee was formed. Vint Cerf (2004 Turing Award Winner) agreed to serve as General Chair. Mike Schroeder (Microsoft Research), John Thomas (IBM Research), and Moshe Vardi (Rice University) volunteered to serve as Program Chairs. Vint, Mike, John, and Moshe did a remarkable job of working with the 34 Turing Award winners and the panel chairs to build a program that highlights the perspectives of these remarkable individuals on our chosen field.

The ACM Turing Centenary Celebration is underwritten by ACM and ACM SIGs. Google, Microsoft, and Intel are providing funding for 70 student scholarships. The event is being webcast live worldwide, and a video record of the Turing Centenary will be posted on the ACM website.

On behalf of ACM, welcome to the ACM Turing Centenary Celebration and to what everyone at ACM believes will be a unique and memorable experience.

JOHN R. WHITE

Chief Executive Officer

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY