

## FOCS 2016 Preface

The papers in these proceedings were presented at the 57th Annual IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science, which was held October 9–11, 2016, in New Brunswick, NJ. The conference is sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Mathematical Foundations of Computing, in cooperation with the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory (SIGACT).

The call for papers sought original research papers in all areas of the theory of computation. The program committee met at Columbia University in New York, NY, during June 15–17, 2016 (following an intensive period of electronic discussion), and of the 307 submissions, 85 were selected for presentation at the conference, with two pairs of those papers sharing a joint talk slot. In keeping with long-standing convention, the papers at the conference have not been formally refereed, and it is expected that extended versions of these papers (or at least most of them) will be published in journals.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the authors who submitted their work to our conference. This also includes the authors of many excellent papers we were not able to include in the proceedings, but we still learned a lot from reading them and are grateful for the authors' efforts. I would like to thank the program committee members for their hard and intense work. The committee is grateful to the many external researchers, listed below, who helped us review the submitted papers and/or provided us with short opinions or pointers to related literature that greatly helped our review process. I am grateful to the general chair, Rafail Ostrovsky, and to the local arrangements co-chairs, Rebecca Wright and Lisa Zhang, for their work and their input. Many other people helped me or gave me advice during this process—I am grateful to them all. In particular, I would like to thank Yishay Mansour (the STOC 2016 PC chair), on whom I relied for much advice throughout the process.

Thanks to Rocco Servedio and Columbia University for the local organization of the program committee meeting. Thanks to Eddie Kohler for developing hotcrp—the software we used—and to Amir Gonen and the rest of the Weizmann staff for hosting it and providing immediate support when needed. Thanks to Hadar Dveer Benyamini for scripting and Excel support, among other things. Finally, I thank Randall Bilof of the IEEE Computer Society for his help in the production of this volume.

On behalf of all committee members, welcome to the conference!

**Irit Dinur**

*FOCS 2016 Program Committee Chair*