Interdisciplinary Nature of Information Processing Special Issue Dedicated to Giancarlo Mauri on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday

Preface

This special issue is dedicated to Giancarlo Mauri on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Giancarlo is a well-known prolific scientist, he has published over 350 papers. Characteristic for his research is its broad scope, covering both foundational and applied research, and a genuinely interdisciplinary character. Research topics covered in his papers range from challenging problems in theoretical computer science at the one end to relevant applied issues in cancer research on the other.

The directions of his past and current research include: automata and formal language theory, cellular automata and dynamical systems theory, neural networks, machine learning, DNA computing, membrane computing, computational biology, stochastic modeling and simulation of biological systems, systems biology, bioinformatics, and natural computing.

He is a friendly, reliable, and inspiring scientific collaborator. In fact, the count of co-authors on the list of his publications is very impressive. The combination of his kind, modest, and very humane personality has earned him the name of *gentleman scientist*.

Giancarlo contributed greatly to the functioning of the European and especially the Italian computer science community. He was instrumental in the organization and functioning of many prestigious scientific events and research projects.

He is very dedicated to his department. As a faculty member and chair, he had great influence on the development of both his current department at the University of Milano-Bicocca and his previous department at the University of Milano. He instigated research in his department in a number of important directions and established the team that enjoys a broad international reputation and is involved in a large number of national and international collaborations.

Giancarlo is well-recognized by the scientific community, which was also demonstrated by the overhelming response to our invitation to contribute to this special issue. For the years to come we wish Giancarlo (also on behalf of contributors to this volume) happiness and satisfaction in both his personal and scientific life.

We thank the authors and the referees for their efforts to produce this special issue. We are grateful to the editor-in-chief of *Fundamenta Informaticae*, Professor Damian Niwiński, for the help and support during the editorial process.