

Chair's Message to ACM SIGMOD Members

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be communicating with all of you for the first time since my election as SIGMOD Chair. Together with Christian Jensen and Alex Labrinidis, I will make every effort to continue the great work of past chairs and serve the community, maintain the strengths of SIGMOD, and also push it in new directions. All three of us are busy learning about our new roles and the challenges & opportunities in front of SIGMOD and the ACM organization as a whole, and lay out our plans for the next four years.

Our efforts are supported by the remaining members of the SIGMOD Executive Committee, whose experience, dedication, and continuity across elections are instrumental to the smooth operation of the organization. These are the previous chair in the new role of chair of the Advisory Board (Raghu Ramakrishnan), the chair of the PODS Executive Committee (Jan Paredaens), the ACM SIG Services representative (Fran Spinola), the conference liaison (Lisa Singh), the information director (Jeffrey Xu Yu), the DiSC editor-in-chief (Curtis Dyreson), and the Sigmod Record editor-in-chief. The latter is a new, empowered role created in place of the earlier Sigmod Record editor, as part of restructuring the Record for improving its operation. I am pleased to announce that Ioana Manolescu has accepted to take on this role, replacing Alex Labrinidis, who has done such a wonderful job that made the said restructure necessary.

Regarding our main activity, i.e., the SIGMOD/PODS Conference, preparations for 2010 in Indianapolis are in full swing, and the general chairs, program chairs, and other officers are working hard to bring us another successful event. In parallel, several major decisions are being finalized for the 2011 conference in Athens, while discussions for choosing the hosting city for 2012 are well under way.

On the conference front, an exciting development is the new Symposium on Cloud Computing (SOCC), which SIGMOD is co-sponsoring together with SIGOPS. It will be co-located with SIGMOD/PODS next year in Indianapolis and with SOSR in 2011. We hope that SOCC 2010 will receive a great number of high-quality submissions (deadline is in mid January; see the CFP included in this issue for more details) and take off the ground in a solid fashion. Our involvement right from the beginning with the flagship ACM event in this emerging important area is the result of great insight and initiative of several members of our community who joined the SOCC steering committee. Such proactive spirit is vital for the development of our field and the maintenance of its scientific leadership. We invite all of you to come forth whenever you see similar opportunities and help us grow SIGMOD even further.

Christian, Alex, and I want to express our gratitude to Raghu Ramakrishnan and Mary Fernandez, the outgoing SIGMOD officers, for the wonderful work they have done in the past four years. I personally want to thank them in particular for making our collaboration a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. Raghu and Mary have done a superb job in bringing SIGMOD to its current position of financial stability and opening up its scientific horizons. They have put the bar pretty high and we hope to continue from where they left off and attempt to push it a little bit higher.

Sincerely,
Yannis Ioannidis