Message from Steering Co-chairs

We ended our message last year by inviting attendees and readers to join us in Rome for IPDPS 2009. Although we have made such memorable venues an expected feature of our conference to encourage attendance, our primary purpose is to promote international participation. Over 40 countries are represented among this year's attendees, so we believe we have accomplished our goal. And we trust you are enjoying your week in Rome.

This message is on behalf of the IPDPS Steering Committee who conducts careful discussions several years in advance, weighing all the opportunities and challenges presented in holding IPDPS outside the US. Key to their final decision is confidence in the host leadership and support team in place. As general chair and host of IPDPS 2009, Alessandro Mei has put on many hats, both technical and mundane, to bring together the resources needed to accommodate the unique requirements of our conference, including many months of almost daily contact with the Aurelia liaison Fabrizia Silvestri, our outstanding meeting manager and guide. We know that this has been a daunting year out of Alessandro's life and trust he understands how much we appreciate the job he has done. Bravo!

We are pleased to report that one of Alessandro's feats was to obtain support for our conference from his institution, Sapienza University of Rome, recognizing the international importance of IPDPS. Many details go into organizing this conference and several relate to making it possible for authors to travel to Rome. We want to express special thanks to Tiziana Calamoneri, a colleague of Alessandro whom he convinced to volunteer for the job of issuing invitation letters for visas, a critical step to assuring attendance by many authors. We also want to acknowledge TCPP Chair Sushil Prasad who made student travel support a priority and secured additional NSF funding to make it possible to cover almost all student requests for grants. He was aided and "abetted" in this by Manish Parashar who oversaw the process for a second year in a row.

Our continued gratitude to Alan Sussman (workshops) and Yuanyuan Yang (proceedings) for repeating in their chair positions, which makes life much easier for the general chair and program chair and others. We also commend Alan for cultivating a "chair-in-training" in the person of Umit Catalyurek. Our symposium tutorial chair Juergen Becker did an admirable job of recruiting a topic that would meet our demanding objectives. All of these contributions, along with the strong technical program developed by our program chair Per Stenstrom and his vice-chairs should assure us of a week of lively discussion and interaction. Our thanks to all, named and unnamed.

We conclude with two important announcements. Jumping ahead to IPDPS 2011, we note that this will be the quarter century mark for IPDPS (which started as IPPS, later joined by SPDP), and it will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, close to the North Pole and Russia (and surprisingly close to Europe as well as Asia)! We plan to make it a year to honor the pioneering and ongoing volunteers who have contributed to our success and hope you will plan to be there to celebrate and continue the important work of IPDPS; we welcome suggestions about people and milestones to remembered. Before that happens, we will be joining IPDPS 2010 General Chair David Bader from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta next April. We believe this "East Coast" venue will enable some new international attendance and provide a fresh destination to encourage family members to join us in Atlanta. We have used our photo space to picture David [in a common pose] with daughter Sadie in Atlanta and waiting at station in Berne, inviting you to IPDPS 2010 in Atlanta.

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