

Message from the General Chair



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS 2018), Vancouver, Canada.

Vancouver is named as one of the most livable cities in the world, and is the most ethnically and linguistically diverse city in Canada. It offers beaches, parks, and many outdoor activities in a mild and agreeable climate. Rising against a backdrop of majestic coastal mountains on Canada's Pacific Northwest coast, the JW Marriott parq Vancouver Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Vancouver's urban entertainment and resort complex. This is a newly built hotel with the state of the art meeting facilities. I hope that the attendees will enjoy the hotel and the city to the full extend.

IPDPS 2018 received 461 full submissions of which 24.5% are accepted (113 papers). All papers are evaluated under six re-defined areas and with a new review model. I thank the Program Chair and Vice Chair Anne Benoit and Umit V. Çatalyürek for implementing these key changes with the help of dedicated area chairs and vice-chairs Fredrik Manne and Ananth Kalyanaraman (Algorithms), Karen Devine and Christopher D. Carothers (Experiments), Albert Cohen and Cosmin Oancea (Programming models), Franck Cappello and Devesh Tiwari (System software), Mahmut Kandemir and Gokhan Memik (Architecture), and Daniel S. Katz and Wei Tan (Multidisciplinary). The 113 papers are organized carefully in 28 sessions, with four sessions in parallel and three to four papers in each sessions, with additional plenary session of four best paper nominees.

The conference offers three keynote talks from Michael Bender on Tuesday, Keren Bergman on Wednesday, and Bruce Hendrickson on Thursday. I thank the three speakers for having accepted to deliver the talks, and am looking forward to these talks. We have also a tutorial by Emu Technology. I incite all participants to join them for an architectural overview and tutorial covering Migratory Memory-Side Processing and how this breakthrough technology delivers order of magnitude reduction in data movement, energy and inter-processor communication on Tuesday evening.

IPDPS pays special attention to student participation. The student participation co-chairs Trilce Estrada and Jay Lofstead have been involved in this effort and were at the top of their games this year. They have selected 31 posters this year, and worked with the IEEE TCPP Chair Umit V. Çatalyürek and TCPP Travel Scholarship Chair Jaroslaw Zola for supporting international students. As in the previous years, there are workshops, social events and panel targeted to students. Additionally, HJ Siegel has kindly proposed a seminar on paper writing and presentation skills. Brewed with over 40 years of experience, this is a good opportunity for anyone interested, from students to recent graduates.

As usual, IPDPS 2018 has workshops held in Monday and Friday. This year's workshop chairs Erik Saule and Jaroslaw Zola evaluated the proposals with the help of Olivier Beaumont, Min Si, Ananth Kalyanaraman, Alan Sussman, Sunita Chandrasekaran, Cynthia Philips, Jesper Larsson Traff, Sivasankaran Rajamanickam, and CJ Newburn. I warmly thank them. This year's 22 workshops are essential part of the conference, and collect focused papers on select topics covering a wide range. There is a workshop for everyone. If not, consider developing yours for the upcoming years!

Sally Jelinek Westrom has been a tremendous help. She was involved with all parts of the conference related to the organization. She ensures that all fronts progress in a timely manner and without leaving any detail out. Having her constant help, no matter what, rendered this otherwise formidable task of being a general chair a complete pleasure. I am lucky to have worked with her. Finance Chair Bill Pitts and IEEE CS Society's conference planner Marie Trinh handled the planning part, including evaluation of the hotel, getting the equipment and the rooms up to IPDPS standards. Eric Aubanel acted as the role of Local Arrangements Chair. I am grateful to the Publicity Chair Francesco Silvestri, and the Vice-Chairs Lean Oder, Ana Varbanescu, and Hongzi Zhu for reaching out to the community and advertising the event on an international scale.

A big thank you goes to Anu Bourgeois as the Proceedings Chair, and Kyle Chard and Moustafa AbdelBaky as the Workshops Proceedings Chair and Vice-Chair. In a system where the 22 workshops manage their papers independently (IPDPS wants to give as much independence and support as possible to the workshops) and the main conference papers being evaluated at EasyChair while published by IEEE Conference Publishing Services, these three individuals verify everything about papers, authors, and affiliations. The process involves “eye-balling” the papers, titles, programs, and other lists for consistency. Both the authors and the organization owe them a great deal for their time and efforts.

I greatly appreciated the help and guidance of the members of the steering committee, chaired by Viktor Prasanna. Where feedback was required, they were always generous with their times to offer wise comments. It is a great pleasure to work with them. Starting a conference on a topic and taking care of it so that it becomes one at the caliber of IPDPS is a big task. I invite all participants, current, previous and future, to express our gratitude to the pioneers that made IPDPS possible starting from 1986.

In closing, I welcome you once again to Vancouver and trust that IPDPS 2018 will be an enriching experience for you whether you are a student, a recent graduate, or a senior member of the community. I also hope that you will enjoy the city.

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