

Welcome Message from the ICNP 2020 General Chair

Madrid is an amazing city with its eclectic architecture, sophisticated cultural scene, and vibrant nightlife. Equally amazing are the difficulties of hosting a major event in the city. Just ask the four teams who have bid to organize Summer Olympics in Madrid. Aware of the challenges, the ICNP 2020 Organizing Committee (OC) started its work early and progressed steadily. A number of arrangements were already in place when the coronavirus epidemic struck. Since February 2020, the OC have been actively monitoring the situation, obtaining feedback from the ICNP community, and adjusting the conference format. The adjustments are continuing as we speak.

ICNP 2020 proceeds as a hybrid conference. The hybrid format does not constitute a novelty in itself. Over the years, many conferences in our field allowed some of their participants to attend remotely due to visa constraints or health issues. However, the pandemic turned the exception into a rule. After the calm of June and July, the second wave of infections has arrived to Spain and made travel complicated, to say the least. Consequently, most of the ICNP 2020 participants will attend through telepresence only, with the in-person participation limited to a handful of local attendees.

In dealing with the uncertainty and transition from the predominantly in-person to predominantly online format, it was my great pleasure and privilege to rely on the hard-working OC. *K. K. Ramakrishnan* not only provided guidance and institutional memory as the chair of the ICNP Steering Committee but also secured substantial and much needed financial support by *Futurewei*, *Juniper*, and *Cisco* as the OC Sponsorship chair. Serving as the Treasurer, *Ignacio Castro* prepared two very different budgets, one for the originally envisioned in-person conference and the other with dramatically reduced registration fees for the final hybrid format. Registration chairs *Claudio Fiandrino* and *Yasaman Keshkarjahromi* also successfully handled the increased load in their tasks such as configuring the registration website, VAT-compliant invoicing, and badging. *Antonio Fernandez Anta* and *Andres Garcia-Saavedra* chaired Local Arrangements thoughtfully and engaged a spectacular venue at the Spanish Engineering Institute headquarters, which we were unfortunately unable to utilize at the end due to the format change. *George Iosifidis* and *Chen Qian* also faced the unexpected in their chairing of Travel Grants; we hope that the generous grant obtained by Chen and George from the U.S. National Science Foundation will support travel to the 2021 edition of ICNP. Throughout the conference-organization effort, our Web chair *Jiachen Chen* demonstrated admirable reliability, responsiveness, and creativity in building and maintaining the ICNP 2020 website. In response to the format change, *Guillermo Suarez-Tangil* and *Qing Wang* joined the ongoing effort as the first-ever chairs of Conference Virtualization and pioneered the usage of *Whova* and *Zoom* to support online interactions and live streaming for the virtual component of ICNP 2020. Publicity chairs *Ruben Cuevas Rumin*, *Israat Haque*, and *Dan Pei* spread the word about the event via mailing lists and social media in research communities around the world.

The aforementioned preparations set up the stage for an exciting technical program that spans four days. The main conference meets on October 14 through 16 and follows three full-day AIMCOM², HDR-Nets, and NIPAA workshops on October 13. A noteworthy highlight is the main-conference keynote by *Adrian Perrig* on experiencing a new Internet architecture. *Roch Guérin* and *Peter Steenkiste* formed and skillfully led the Technical Program Committee (TPC) to select 30 high-quality papers for the main conference. While the online TPC meeting is a long-standing ICNP tradition, its ICNP 2020 edition stood out due to the broad active participation by the TPC members. Almost all accepted papers went through thorough shepherding that confirmed the acceptance only after the revision resolved the reviewers' concerns. Poster/Demo chairs *Arash Asadi*, *Toru Hasegawa*, and *Vincenzo Mancuso* developed a new virtual format for the event and selected 12 posters and 2 demos to be presented in 5 parallel tracks during the afternoon session on October 15. *Fernando Kuipers* and *Gábor Rétvári* chaired the PhD Forum, with its initial concept centered strongly on in-person participation; after a careful exploration of alternative formats for the event in the predominantly virtual settings, we decided to cancel it. Workshop chairs *Marco Chiesa* and *Zhi-Li Zhang* selected the AIMCOM², HDR-Nets, and NIPAA workshops among the submitted proposals and coordinated with the organizers of each individual workshop. Publication chairs *István Gódor* and *Suresh Subramaniam* most efficiently interfaced with the authors, respective chairs, and IEEE to produce the single integrated proceedings for all published contributions of ICNP 2020. Last but not least, HotCRP chairs *Lars Almon* and *Steve Uhlig* greatly helped the conference by hosting management sites for the original and camera-ready submissions.

On behalf of the entire OC, I welcome you to this unusual 2020 edition of the ICNP conference. Not in our wildest fantasies could we have foreseen the experiences we had since agreeing about a year ago to organize ICNP 2020 in Madrid. At the outset, each position on the OC was judiciously filled so that the balanced mix of energy and experience on the committee would result in an exemplarily organized event. However, life never ceases to surprise. We kept finding ourselves in situations without precedents or standards for judgement. Given the circumstances, we gave our best to organizing the conference and hope that you will find positives in its heavily virtualized format. While we sincerely regret our inability to greet most of you personally in Madrid this October, we wish you sound health and invite you to discover the Spanish capital and its wonders after the coronavirus pandemic goes away.

Sergey Gorinsky (IMDEA Networks Institute, Spain)
ICNP 2020 General Chair