

# CLOSING REMARKS BY THE IMU PRESIDENT

The virtual ICM 2022 has come to an end. We have been very fortunate to be able to carry out in full this fantastic event despite the many obstacles that we have encountered along the way. After the IMU Executive Committee (EC) decided – in the wake of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine – to hold this ICM as a virtual event, we worked tirelessly to set up the virtual platform for the ICM, working with the K.I.T. Group based in Berlin. The opportunity to do so was only afforded to us thanks to the financial assistance we received from several sources. We are particularly indebted to the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation for their extremely generous contribution here. As was also planned by the EC at roughly the same time, the General Assembly (GA) of the IMU and the first ever IMU Award Ceremony, were carried out live and very successfully in Helsinki, Finland, on July 3–4 and July 5 respectively. We are extremely grateful to our Finnish colleagues and to the Council of Finnish Academies for their generous support.

The GA made very important decisions for the future of the IMU at its meeting. At the IMU Award Ceremony, we presented all the IMU awards (four Fields Medals, the IMU Abacus Medal, the Chern Medal Award, the Gauss Prize and the Leelavati Prize) and heard the laudations for the prizewinners. This beautiful event was attended in person by most of the award winners, and was opened by Mr Sauli Niinistö, the President of Finland. On July 6 we held the opening ceremony for the virtual ICM. The Fields Medal recipients, Hugo Duminil-Copin, June Huh, James Maynard and Maryna Viazovska, as well as the IMU Abacus Medal recipient, Mark Braverman, delivered their ICM plenary lectures in person in Helsinki. This was streamed live to the virtual ICM platform and also (fortunately) to the YouTube channel of the IMU. However, in the last few days before the virtual ICM launched, we experienced serious technical problems with the functionality of the virtual ICM platform that we had set up over several months with the K.I.T. Group. The K.I.T. Group, with the support of some members of the IMU EC, worked through the night of July 6 so that an alternative format

was available by the morning of July 7, namely streaming via the IMU YouTube channel. This allowed the entire program of the virtual ICM to proceed as originally scheduled.

The virtual ICM was a great success. The newest results in many areas of mathematics and its applications were presented by the world's leading experts to a global audience. The videos of the lectures and panels are now permanently available via the IMU's YouTube channel, with free access for all. The Proceedings, edited by Dmitry Beliaev and Stanislav Smirnov, will be finalized soon, and will be published by the European Mathematical Society – EMS – Publishing House GmbH, with open access in perpetuity.

I would like to warmly thank all the speakers and panelists of the virtual ICM for their great effort in providing excellent talks and panel discussions under very challenging circumstances. I would also like to warmly thank the IMU Manager, Scott Jung, the IMU Assistant, Vanessa Chung, our colleague Martin Hairer and the K.I.T. Group for their tremendous help with the organization of the virtual ICM. In addition, I also wish to thank Nalini Joshi and Paolo Piccione, from the IMU EC, for their very valuable contributions to the organization of this virtual ICM. Something else contributed greatly to the success of this virtual ICM, namely the many community-based initiatives (carried out independently of the IMU), which organized satellite overlay events, allowing for personal interactions. We are very grateful for that, and especially for the efforts of Alexei Borodin, Martin Hairer and Terence Tao, who organized and led the ICM Satellite Coordination Group. Finally, I would like to give my warmest thanks to Helge Holden, the Secretary General of the IMU, for his indefatigable efforts and his tireless dedication, without which this event would not have been possible.

Let me conclude by mentioning two of the many important decisions taken by the GA.

Firstly, the incoming President and Secretary General of the IMU will be Hiraku Nakajima (Japan) and Christoph Sorger (France), respectively. We wish them all the best in carrying on the work of the IMU.

Secondly, the next General Assembly and ICM will take place in 2026, in New York City and Philadelphia respectively.

See you all in Philadelphia in July 2026!

Carlos E. Kenig  
President of the IMU

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