

A message from the president



Photo by Jim Høyer,
University of Copenhagen.

I am entering the last half year of my presidency, and a new president will be elected in Lisbon by the EMS Council (June 26–28, 2026). I am looking forward to working with the new president-elect and the new EC to secure a smooth transition. I am proud to be leaving a healthy and thriving society to the next president.

I am particularly happy that EMS has finally succeeded in forming our two new policy groups, the internal and the external policy groups. You can find their composition on the EMS's webpage. I am convinced that they will play an important role in unifying the European mathematical community from within and in strengthening the perception of the importance of mathematics throughout Europe. We have also formed the Scientific Committee of the 10ECM which is to be held in Bologna in 2028. You can also see this committee on the EMS's webpage. It is an excellent committee, and I am confident that it will create a fantastic program for the 2028 ECM. I am particularly indebted to Professor András Stipsicz for having accepted the important task of chairing the committee.

The big news of the last few months was the announcement of the solution to the Erdős unit distance conjecture by an OpenAI model. While I had used LLMs for various tasks I clearly was not on top of the developments enough to see this coming and I must admit that it was an enormous surprise to me that it has already happened. Since then, I have already heard of several other exciting mathematical results obtained with the use of AI. This will of course mean that we have to rethink many aspects of mathematics

both as researchers and as educators. In education, publishing, research evaluations, hiring and prize committees AI will surely cause many headaches, and, of course, it does so already. There are good reasons for being concerned and pointing out the threats as done in the new Leiden Declaration on Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics.¹ I personally prefer to look at these developments with an open and positive mind. The use of AI will become an integral part of the toolbox that mathematicians use for research, and I believe we must learn to embrace it. It should strengthen and not undermine mathematics as a truly human activity. I am looking forward to seeing where this will go over the next years. While we should probably have done this long ago EMS will address these issues both in our committees and within our new policy groups. At the meeting of presidents held in Lisbon in July in connection with the council we had a session on the use of AI in research evaluations.

In a few weeks I will be going to New York for the general assembly of the IMU to present the activities of the EMS. The venue of the 2030 ICM will be selected at the general assembly, and I am excited to learn where it will be. I am looking forward to continuing from New York to Philadelphia to take part in the 2026 ICM. I am sure there will be a lot of wonderful science and surely also interesting discussions about AI. The EMS will have a shared booth with EMS Press and zbMATH Open, and we hope to showcase all our activities to the greater mathematical community.

For now, I wish you all a great summer break and a good start to the new academic year.

Jan Philip Solovej
President of the EMS

¹ <https://leidendeclaration.ai>

Brief words from the editor-in-chief



Dear readers of the EMS Magazine,

As usual in this issue of the Magazine you will find a wide range of articles on diverse topics, along with our regular columns on discussions, societies, education.

In celebration of the International Women in Mathematics Day – May 12, we are pleased to feature two special contributions. The first is a posthumous interview to Michèle Audin (1954–2025) by Claude Sabbah; the text draws on Michèle Audin's personal notes and is structured as an imagined interview. In addition, in the *Side by side* interview series, Raffaella Mulas speaks with Sylvie Benzoni-Gavage (professor at Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 and former director of the Henri Poincaré Institute) and Heather Harrington (professor at Oxford and director of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics).

I am very glad to announce that a new editor has joined the Editorial Board since the publication of the previous issue: Dorian Andrica, who will take care of the *Problem corner* section. A short biographical note about him can be found at the end of the issue.

I am also grateful to Dorin Andrica for accepting to devote part of his time to the Magazine and to a section that has been absent from recent issues. In this regard, I am pleased to report that the current issue once again includes several pages devoted to solved and unsolved problems. We warmly invite readers to contribute open problems, research problems, and proposed solutions.

Finally, you may have noticed that issues 135 and 139 of the EMS Magazine contained different, and sometimes contrasting, views on topics of interest to the history of mathematics community. I would like to emphasize that the EMS Magazine is open to a diversity of opinions and perspectives, which we are committed to publishing in a transparent and balanced manner. At the same time, the Magazine is not intended to serve as a forum for extended exchanges of replies and counter-replies. I would also like to stress that all those who contribute to the Magazine (members of the editorial board, authors of articles, book reviewers) are researchers whom we hold in high regard for their expertise and the robustness of their scientific work.

Donatella Donatelli
Editor-in-chief