

A message from the president



Photo by Jim Høyer,
University of Copenhagen.

It has been a very intense summer period for the EMS and the worldwide mathematical community in general. At the end of June, we had the EMS council meeting. The council is the governing body of the EMS. The EMS's activities are being reviewed, and the budget suggested by the Executive Committee for the next two years is approved. The most exciting item on the council this time was the election

of Professor Helge Holden as the new president of the EMS for the 2027–2030 period. Congratulations to Helge and to the EMS. Helge is well known to the EMS as he has previously served as the secretary of the society. He has also been secretary general of the IMU and until recently chair of the Abel Prize committee. It is wonderful news for the EMS to have such an experienced next president and also for me as outgoing president to know that I will leave the society in very good hands. I will work closely with Helge over the next few final months of my presidency to ensure a smooth transition. The council also elected Tuomo Kuusi as new treasurer replacing Samu Siltanen and Elena Celledoni as member at large of the Executive Committee. Adam Skalski who is already a member at large of the Executive Committee was elected as vice president replacing Jorge Buescu who will be retiring from the EC after having served there for many years. The new EC members will take on their positions from the beginning of 2027. It may be a little early, but I would still like to warmly welcome them to the EC. It is, however, too soon to say goodbye to the outgoing EC members. We still have work to do.

Immediately following the EMS council, we had a meeting of presidents. This is the opportunity for the EMS to engage with the presidents of our member societies and to discuss important issues. One item on the agenda that was proposed to us was the use of AI in evaluations, e.g., by funding agencies, and promotion and prize committees. The main questions were how funding agencies allow applicants and reviewers to use AI and how these policies are developing. Moreover, how are we going to evaluate research where AI plays an important and sometimes even decisive role. The discussion was kicked off by presentations from Kathryn Hess Bellwald representing the Swiss National Science Foundation, Maria Gonzalez representing the ERC, Olivia Mutham representing the Dutch NWO, and Frank Kiefer representing the German DFG. Finally, Alessio Figalli represented a personal view

on the issues and challenges AI raise for promotions and prize committees.

The next item on the busy mathematics summer program was the General Assembly of the IMU in New York. A lot of important issues were being discussed and new officers elected for various committees. I presented the activities of the EMS. The most important news for mathematics in Europe was, however, the election of Glasgow as the venue of the 2030 ICM. The 2030 IMU General Assembly will be in Dublin, so this will be a two-country (Ireland/Scotland) event. The EMS had endorsed the Glasgow/Dublin bid as the only bid from Europe, and I want to congratulate them on winning. I wish them good luck with all the hard work in store over the next four years. I am sure it will be a very successful congress. The next four years will see two large congresses in Europe. First our own ECM in Bologna in 2028 and then the ICM in Glasgow in 2030.

After the IMU General Assembly the next stop was the ICM in Philadelphia and the announcement of the Fields Medals and the other IMU prizes. I congratulate all the prize winners. Prizes are of course a great honor for the recipients, but it is also, and maybe equally important, a great opportunity to celebrate mathematics at large. It was therefore particularly encouraging from the celebration perspective that all the prize lectures were exceptionally outstanding.

Not surprisingly there was again a lot of focus at the ICM on AI. Here it was mostly on AI as a tool for research mathematicians both as a means for proving new mathematical results but also in a broader context as a tool in conjugation with LEAN to support the formalization and verification of mathematics. There were of course both positive and negative perspectives on what this will all mean for the future of our profession. Whatever it will be there is no doubt it will have a major impact. As I already said in my previous message, I am probably more curious than worried about the future except for one aspect and that is the lack of equal opportunity and equal access to these new tools. Access may be restricted by who and where you are and by your financial means. Access to the best LLMs is exceedingly expensive for good reasons given the enormous power consumption. Access may also be restricted for political and security reasons. Here is an area where societies like the EMS can possibly play a role. We may not be able to secure equal access, but it is our duty to make sure the equal opportunity issue is addressed.

One of the panels at the ICM discussed the recent Leiden declaration on AI. While we did not formally endorse the declaration EMS issued a statement about it on August 5.¹

¹ <https://euromathsoc.org/news/leiden-declaration-on-artificial-intelligence-and-mathematics-224>

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a recent update to the ERC descriptors for applications to the mathematics panel. The updated list can be seen on page 39 of the document.² There are now 18 descriptors, the previous list had 22. I am proud to say that the EMS, through its EMS-ERC working group, engaged closely with the ERC to update and modernize the list. We plan to publish a more detailed article in a later issue of the Magazine about this.

This has already been a particularly long message but let me just mention that EMS has added the South African Mathematical

Society (SAMS) and the Brazilian Mathematical Society to the list of societies with which we have reciprocity agreements. We have also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with SAMS and UMALCA (Unión Matemática de América Latina y el Caribe).

Finally, I wish all of you a great start to the new academic year and happy 100th anniversary to Jean-Pierre Serre.

Jan Philip Solovej
President of the EMS

Brief words from the editor-in-chief



Dear readers of the EMS Magazine,

After the summer break, I would like to begin this editorial by introducing the new editor who has joined the Editorial Board since the publication of our last issue: Raffaella Mulas. She will take care of the *Interviews and discussions* section of the Magazine. We already know her since she

is conducting the interview series “Side by side.”

A short biographical note of her can be found at the end of the issue. I thank Raffaella, and I am grateful to her for accepting to dedicate part of her time to our Magazine.

As the academic year begins again after the summer break, September brings with it a particularly remarkable anniversary: on September 15, Jean-Pierre Serre will celebrate his 100th birthday.

His work, recognized by some of the highest distinctions in mathematics, has inspired generations of mathematicians and continues to shape contemporary research.

It is particularly appropriate to celebrate this milestone at the beginning of a new academic year. Universities and mathematical communities are once again filled with lectures, seminars, discussions etc. Serre’s extraordinary career reminds us that mathematics is not only a body of knowledge, but a living body renewed through the exchange of ideas between generations.

For this reason, the September issue of the EMS Magazine is dedicated in part to celebrating Jean-Pierre Serre and his extraordinary contribution to mathematics.

Donatella Donatelli
Editor-in-chief

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf