

# Foreword

This volume contains the papers presented at the **3rd International Workshop on Randomization and Approximation Techniques in Computer Science** (RANDOM'99) and the **2nd International Workshop on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems** (APPROX'99), which took place concurrently at the University of California, Berkeley, from August 8–11, 1999. RANDOM'99 is concerned with applications of randomness to computational and combinatorial problems, and is the third workshop in the series following Bologna (1997) and Barcelona (1998). APPROX'99 focuses on algorithmic and complexity issues surrounding the development of efficient approximate solutions to computationally hard problems, and is the second in the series after Aalborg (1998).

The volume contains 24 contributed papers, selected by the two program committees from 44 submissions received in response to the call for papers, together with abstracts of invited lectures by Uri Feige (Weizmann Institute), Christos Papadimitriou (UC Berkeley), Madhu Sudan (MIT), and Avi Wigderson (Hebrew University and IAS Princeton). We would like to thank all of the authors who submitted papers, our invited speakers, the external referees we consulted and the members of the program committees, who were:

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