

# Preface

Over nearly three decades since its foundation in 1987, the “FM” Symposium has become a central part of the intellectual and social life of the Formal Methods community. We are therefore delighted to present the proceedings of FM 2016, the 21<sup>st</sup> symposium in the series, held in Limassol, Cyprus, during November 9–11, 2016. Throughout these years, Springer has supported the symposium through its *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (LNCS) series. It is therefore with particular pleasure that we present this year’s proceedings as the first volume in the new LNCS subline on Formal Methods. The creation of this subline reflects the maturity and growing significance of the discipline.

The 2016 symposium received 162 submissions to the main track – the largest number of contributions to a regular symposium in the FM series to date. Review of each submission by at least three Program Committee members followed by a discussion phase led to the selection of 43 papers – an acceptance rate of 0.265. These proceedings also contain six papers selected by the Program Committee of the Industry Track chaired by Georgia Kapitsaki (University of Cyprus), Tiziana Margaria (University of Limerick and Lero, Ireland), and Marcel Verhoef (European Space Agency, The Netherlands).

We were honored that three of the most creative and respected members of our community – Manfred Broy (Technical University of Munich), Peter O’Hearn (University College London, and Facebook), and Jan Peleska (University of Bremen and Verified Software International) – accepted our invitation to give keynote presentations at the symposium. Also scheduled during FM 2016 were four workshops selected by the Workshop Chairs, Nearchos Paspallis (University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus) and Martin Steffen (University of Oslo), eight tutorials selected by the Tutorial Chairs, Dimitrios Kouzapas (Glasgow University) and Oleg Sokolsky (University of Pennsylvania), and eight papers to be presented at a Doctoral Symposium organized by Andrew Butterfield (Trinity College Dublin) and Matteo Rossi (Politecnico di Milano). The resulting FM 2016 program reflects the breadth and vibrancy of both research and practice in formal methods today.

As in previous years, FM 2016 attracted submissions from all over the world: 299 authors from 22 European countries, 126 authors from eight Asian countries, 64 authors from North America, 24 authors from five countries in South America, 16 authors from Australia and New Zealand, and five authors from two African countries, Algeria and Tunisia. The largest number of authors from a single country were from China (58), the second largest number of authors came from France (56), the third largest number of authors were from the UK (53), and the fourth largest number of authors were from the USA (45).

Last year, the FM community mourned the passing of Prof. Peter Lucas, a former chair of the FME Association and a founding figure of the formal methods discipline.

This year, as a symposium highlight, we celebrated Peter's achievements by presenting the first Lucas Award for a highly influential paper in formal methods.

We are grateful to all involved in FM 2016, particularly the Program Committee members, subreviewers, and other committee chairs. The excellent local organization and publicity groups, chaired by Yannis Dimopoulos, Chryssis Georgiou, and George Papadopoulos (University of Cyprus), deserve special thanks.

Much of the symposium's activity would be impossible without the support of our sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge the support of: Springer, the Cyprus Tourism Organization, the University of Cyprus, and DiffBlue.

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