



It is a pleasure and a privilege to write this first letter to you, the SIGMOD membership, in my newly-elected role of Chair. Mary Fernández, Yannis Ioannidis and I have been busy learning about ACM, SIGMOD, and our new jobs. A particular thank you is due to Tamer Özsu, Joachim Hammer and Marianne Winslett, the outgoing officers who have been generous with their time and experience in answering our numerous questions and helping out with timely advice.

Fortunately, much of the normal operation of SIGMOD is in the capable hands of a group of dedicated individuals who provide continuity across elections, so the transition has been smooth. This group, together with Mary, Yannis, myself, and Tamer (in his capacity as outgoing Chair), comprises the SIGMOD Executive Committee, and includes: Curtis Dyreson (SIGMOD Anthology Editor), Shahram Ghandeharizadeh (SIGMOD DiSC Editor), Georg Gottlob (PODS Liaison), Alex Labrinidis (Information Director), Mario Nascimento (SIGMOD Record Editor), and Jianwen Su (Conference Coordinator). Ginger Ignatoff is our ACM SIG liaison.

One of the first actions of the new Executive Committee was to invite several distinguished members of the community to serve on the SIGMOD Advisory Board, and I'm happy to announce that we now have a wonderful resource renewed. We will benefit greatly from their insight, institutional memory, and breadth of experience. The new board is:

Rakesh Agrawal, Phil Bernstein, Peter Buneman, David DeWitt, Hector Garcia-Molina, Jim Gray, Masaru Kitsuregawa, Jiawei Han, Alberto Laender, Tamer Ozsu (Chair), Krithi Ramamritham, Hans Schek, Rick Snodgrass, and Gerhard Weikum

I am also happy to announce that Beng-Chin Ooi has agreed to serve as the program committee chair of SIGMOD 2007, which will be held in Beijing from June 11 to 14. Jianwen Su and the general chairs, Tok Wang Ling and Lizhou Zhou have begun working on the arrangements for the conference. Meantime, arrangements are proceeding apace for SIGMOD 2006 as well.

Mary, Yannis and I are enjoying working together as a team, and I've invited them to share their thoughts with you as well.

Sincerely,
Raghu Ramakrishnan



Raghu, Yannis and I are off to a great start as your new SIGMOD officers, thanks to a lot of help from your former officers, the current executive committee, and the ACM staff. Luckily, all these capable people keep the SIGMOD SIG running smoothly while we learn how to do our jobs. We are supporting the organizing committees of the SIGMOD 2006, 2007, and even 2008 (!) conferences in their planning activities, and we are especially excited about our 2007 venue in Beijing, China. Once we are underway, I plan to propose that the SIGMOD EC establish a scholarship fund, possibly underwritten by industrial sponsors, to finance the attendance of professors and students at the SIGMOD/PODS conferences who would otherwise not be able to attend. Increasing the diversity of people and institutions involved in SIGMOD will help maintain its vibrance and relevance in the future.

Mary Fernández



The first few months of serving as SIGMOD Vice-Chair have been truly exciting. Working with Raghu and Mary, and surrounded by experienced colleagues in the Executive Committee, ACM, and soon the new Advisory Board, I feel the environment is ideal for continuing and further expanding the wonderful work of the former officers for the benefit of all SIGMOD members. The initial learning curve has been quite steep, but as things fall into place, our program is getting under way. Some of the first priorities are to strengthen the impact database research has on the rest of computer science and to increase the number of SIGMOD members. To serve both directions simultaneously, I intend to explore the possibility of clustering around SIGMOD various sister societies that are dedicated to specialized forms of data management, by forming strategic membership alliances with them and co-locating or even merging of future conferences.

Yannis Ioannidis