

## Welcome Message to New SIGMOD Members

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee of ACM SIGMOD, it is a great pleasure for me to be writing to you for the first time since you have become members. As the Vice-Chair of this Special Interest Group (SIG) and responsible for members' issues, I will be in touch with you at regular intervals, informing you of any major developments, important activities, and new initiatives we may be undertaking. This will be happening by direct email on a periodic basis (roughly every three months) as well as through the quarterly issues of SIGMOD Record; at the same time, our website ([www.sigmod.org](http://www.sigmod.org)) will always be up to date with the latest information.

Your benefits are all analyzed in detail on the SIGMOD website. Regarding the content you receive as part of them, our general philosophy is for trying to provide as much as possible online, over the web, and avoid the expensive and environment-unfriendly media and paper printing and shipping. Current copyright difficulties, however, prevent us from making everything available in this fashion; hence, several levels of membership have been established that provide content on different media. We are in a continuous effort to strike agreements with all relevant copyright owners to increase what is provided online and we will be informing you on any developments on that front. Likewise, I would like to be hearing from you (MyFirstName @ di.uoa.gr) regarding any comments, ideas, or thoughts you might have about how we may improve your benefits as SIGMOD members.

SIGMOD is one of the largest SIGs within ACM. By joining it, you are becoming part of a group of over 2400 scientists from all across the globe, whose goal is to promote research and technological advancement in the field of data, information, and knowledge management. The future calls for a continuous move towards the so-called "information / knowledge societies"; SIGMOD has a critical role to play in facilitating and promoting the development of the appropriate technologies that would realize the positive aspects of such societies and protect against their negative aspects. This can only be achieved if all of us join forces and collectively steer relevant activities in fruitful directions, so your active involvement in SIGMOD is important. Especially if you are a student, we need your fresh ideas and hope for your regular participation in the SIGMOD-sponsored conferences and workshops.

I want to welcome you again to ACM SIGMOD and look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you at SIGMOD/PODS 2008 in Vancouver.

Sincerely,  
Yannis Ioannidis  
SIGMOD Vice-Chair