

Candidate for Secretary

Mathew J. Palakal
Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, IN, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Concordia University, Montreal, 1988, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Programs, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, IN, 2006 – 2009;

Chair, Computer Science Department, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, IN, 1997 – 2006;

Director, Informatics Research Institute, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, IN, 2004 – 2009.

Professional Interest:

Data and Text Mining; Bioinformatics; Knowledge discovery and representation; Network analysis.

ACM Activities:

Bioinformatics Track Chair, SAC, 2003 – 2009; Poster Chair, SAC, 2004 – 2008; eConference Management Chair, SAC, 2008 – 2009.

STATEMENT

I started my involvement with SAC in 2002 as a paper presenter. In 2003, I started my active involvement by becoming the Track Chair for Bioinformatics, that I continue to do till now.

At a SAC Business meeting in 2003, I proposed the idea of starting a Poster Session at SAC Meetings and it was approved. At the 2004 SAC Meeting in Cyprus, the first Poster Session was held with approximately 40 posters presenting. The Poster Session has now grown close to 100 posters. This has led to greater SAC participation, and more importantly, provided the opportunity for graduate students to come and present.

Serving as a Track Chair for Bioinformatics, I realized that SAC was not using any electronic conference management systems. By understanding the complexity of SAC's Track-based system, I spear headed developing an electronic conference management system called, eCMS. eCMS is currently in use and it is heavily customized for SAC.

In a nut shell, I am an idea maker and problem solver. In my capacity, if elected as the Secretary, I will explore the current state of the organization and suggest solutions for any problems that exist and bring ideas for improvement and innovation.