

## Candidate for Chair

Philip Wadler  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon, 1984, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Professor, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, 2003 – Present;  
Member of Technical Staff, Avaya Labs, Basking Ridge, NJ, 1999 – 2003;  
Member of Technical Staff, Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ, 1996 – 1999.

#### Professional Interest:

Programming Languages; Functional Programming; Types and Logic; Java; XML.

#### ACM Activities:

Member-at-large, Executive Board; SIGPLAN; 2003 – 2007;  
Program Chair, POPL, 2008;  
Program Chair, ICFP, 2000;  
Local Arrangements Co-chair, ICFP, 2009.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editor, Journal of Functional Programming, 1990 – 2004  
Member, UK Computing Research Committee, 2003 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

ACM: ACM Fellow, 2008; Most Influential POPL Paper (for 1993), 2003.  
Other: Fellow Royal Society of Edinburgh, 2005; Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award, 2004.

### **STATEMENT**

Programming languages stand poised to take centre stage, as the web and multicores push distributed and concurrent computing to the forefront.

SIGPLAN must promote the role of programming languages to industry, to government, and to educators. The time is ripe to bring language and hardware designers together, with additional conferences jointly sponsored by SIGPLAN and SIGARCH. Funding bodies increasingly prioritize research by economic need rather than the strength of the basic

science; SIGPLAN must elucidate the case for both fundamental and applied research in programming languages. SIGPLAN approached the Review Task Force for ACM/IEEE Computer Science Curriculum 2008, to recommend the addition of functional languages to the core curriculum; despite widespread support, this position was rejected in favor of a weaker recommendation; SIGPLAN must continue to press its case.

The core of SIGPLAN is conferences. One challenge we face is shifting to increased use of virtual presence for program committees and conferences themselves, in response to environmental and fiscal needs. Closer ties to India, China, and the rest of the world will become increasingly important.