

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Enrique Alba  
Universidad de Malaga, Spain

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D. Computer Science, University of Malaga (Spain), 1999, Parallel Advanced GAs for Neural Network Design.

#### Professional Experience:

Full Professor, Universidad de Malaga, Spain, 2009 – Present;  
Associate Professor, Universidad de Malaga, Spain, 2001 – 2009;  
Assistant Professor, Universidad de Malaga, Spain, 1993 – 2001.

#### Professional Interest:

Intelligent Systems for Smart Cities; High Performance Computing for Artificial Intelligence; Software Engineering and Artificial Intelligence; Advanced Algorithms: Multiobjective, Hybrid, Dynamic Machine Learning, Search & Complex Optimization in Real Problems.

#### ACM Activities:

Executive Board Member, SIGEVO, 2014 – Present.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Commission, Spanish AI organization for National Master on AI, 2016 – 2018;  
ERC reviewer, Horizon 2020 evaluator, European Union, 2000 – Present;  
CLAIRE initiative for AI in Europe, European Union, 2018 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

Best papers at ACM GECCO MO Track and in INCoS 2016;  
Best Paper in Conference EVOCOP, 2007;  
Best Paper in Conference PPSN, 2006;  
National Award "Jose Garcia Santesmases" best Graduate Thesis, 1993.

### **STATEMENT**

I have been dealing with complex problems and different types of AI during all my 25 years of research. I hold links and active collaborations in all continents, working hard to promote Evolutionary Computing and related fields at graduate and postgraduate levels.

My intention is to help ACM SIGEVO by using my experience and network to endorse the main goals of this SIG throughout the world, both in research and in teaching. I would also like to stress the importance of transferring knowledge from academia to industry, to have a positive impact in the lives of people. Helping youngers, organizing events, publishing scientific stuff and the like are among my interests while respecting the guidelines and priorities of ACM at all times.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Hernán Aguirre  
Shinshu University, Nagano City, Japan

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Shinshu University, 2003, Evolutionary Computation.

#### Professional Experience:

Professor, Shinshu University, Nagano City, Japan, 2019 – Present;  
Associate Professor, Shinshu University, Nagano City, Japan, 2011 – 2018;  
Assistant Professor Tenure Track, Shinshu University, Nagano City, Japan, 2007 – 2010.

#### Professional Interest:

Evolutionary computation; Multi-objective optimization; Multi-disciplinary design optimization;  
Computational intelligence; Sustainability.

#### ACM Activities:

Editor in Chief, GECCO 2018, ACM SIGEVO, 2017 – 2018;  
ACM Recognition of Service Award for Editor in Chief GECCO 2018.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Committee Member, IEEE Japan Council, Shin-Etsu Section, 2017 – 2018;  
Secretary, IEEE Japan Council, Shin-Etsu Section, 2015 – 2016;  
Technical Program Chair, IEEE Japan Council, Shin-Etsu Section, 2011 – 2012.

#### Awards Received:

GECCO Best Paper Award, 2015;  
The Japanese Society for Evolutionary Computation, Paper Award, 2012;  
GECCO Best Paper Award, 2011.

### **STATEMENT**

I have been attending GECCO since its first edition and have benefitted from the rich scientific interactions it provides and the challenges it poses. Recently I had the honor of serving as the Editor in Chief for GECCO 2018, undoubtedly a rewarding experience.

Being a member of the SIGEVO board is, to me, an opportunity to serve our community. Besides supporting and refining the high academic level of SIGEVO conferences, activities, and associated journals, I consider equally relevant to:

- a) reach regions where evolutionary computation is diligently being pursued and nonetheless appear underrepresented in our main events,

- b) establish a relationship with other societies that share SIGEVO's interests or complement them,
- c) address the communities' evolving interests, so that they can flourish under SIGEVO to strengthen our society, and
- d) evolutionary computation is permeating most application domains and would likely continue to crossbreed with other related fields; we should design ways to increase the perceived impact of evolutionary computation.

If elected, I am committed to serve our community well and to help expand SIGEVO's role in leading the field of genetic and evolutionary computation.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Peter A.N. Bosman  
Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Utrecht University, 2003, Estimation of Distribution Algorithms.

#### Professional Experience:

Full Professor, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, 2018 – Present;  
Senior Researcher (tenured), Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2010 – Present;  
Postdoctoral researcher, Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2004 – 2010.

#### Professional Interest:

Model-based Evolutionary Algorithms; Evolutionary Multi-objective Optimization;  
Evolutionary Machine Learning; Automated Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning;  
Medical Image Analysis.

#### ACM Activities:

Business Committee, SIGEVO, 2020 – 2022;  
General Chair of GECCO conference, SIGEVO, 2017;  
Local Chair of GECCO conference, SIGEVO, 2013;  
Track Chair at GECCO conference (selected years, EDA/CO track), SIGEVO, 2006 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

Best Paper Award at GECCO conference (RWA track), 2015;  
Best Paper Award at GECCO conference (IGEC track), 2013;  
Best Paper Award at GECCO conference (EDA track), 2010;  
Best Paper Nominations (5 additional since 2006) at GECCO, 2006.

### **STATEMENT**

Since its inception in 1999, I have always supported GECCO and believed in its status as the premiere conference on genetic and evolutionary computation. As an active researcher in the field, having published almost 40 GECCO papers, and having previously had the privilege of being track chair, local chair, and general chair of GECCO, it would be my honor to serve on the executive committee and help ensure a bright future for GECCO, for SIGEVO, and for the field in general.

This includes many challenges. To me, a major one is ensuring that GEC researchers across the world are increasingly united for the sake of the future of our field. Achieving this includes

ensuring that near-future changes in open access policies will not divide, but rather unite researchers, as well as building ever better bridges with the CEC community, some of whom I am in good contact with. I believe that, especially through increasingly united efforts, we can better show applied and close-neighbor fields such as operations research, machine learning, and AI in general, that state-of-the-art methods and techniques from our field provide unique added value, warranting the need to also look to our field.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Anna Isabel Esparcia-Alcazar  
Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Glasgow, 1998, Engineering.

#### Professional Experience:

Head of Big Data Unit, Agencia Valenciana de la Innovacio, Valencia, Spain, 2018 – Present;  
Associate lecturer, Universitat Politecnica de Valencia, Spain, 2016 – Present;  
Senior researcher, ProS Research centre, Universitat Politecnica de Valencia, Spain, 2015 – 2017.

#### Professional Interest:

Applied computational intelligence; Big data and Data analytics; Control engineering;  
Cybersecurity; Software testing.

#### ACM Activities:

SIGEVO Summer School Co-organiser, SIGEVO, 2018 – Present;  
GECCO Real World Applications Track Co-Chair, SIGEVO, 2017 – 2018;  
GECCO General Chair, SIGEVO, 2014 – 2015;  
Executive Board Member, SIGEVO, 2009 – 2015.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Vice President, SPECIES Society, 2014 – Present;  
Coordinator of EvoStar conferences, SPECIES Society, 2018 – Present;  
Senior Member, IEEE, 2009 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

EvoStar Award for Outstanding Contribution to Evolutionary Computation in Europe, 2015.

### **STATEMENT**

I have been involved in Evolutionary Computation for over 25 years, both in industry and academia. As an engineer, I would like to see more of it applied in the “real world”, but I am aware of the great difficulty of “selling” EC to industry. Other technologies such as deep learning have succeeded in becoming known for their application in the real world, while EC is still largely unknown. A bigger effort (and a deep reflection) is needed to make EC known and valued both to industry and to students (who will become future EC users/researchers) and also to the media. Participation of companies in SIGEVO events should be sought and we should strive to give wide dissemination to success cases of application. The means should be put in place in order to get students involved in order to ensure continuity and a wider uptake of genetic and evolutionary computation; for this, support to the Summer School is key. The presence, or rather, absence, of women in the community is also an issue and I will struggle to foster their participation and visibility, and also deal with issues such as harassment, sexist language and other gender-related aspects.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Manuel López-Ibáñez  
University of Manchester, United Kingdom

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Edinburgh Napier University, 2009, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), University of Manchester, United Kingdom, 2018 – Present;  
Lecturer (Assistant Professor), University of Manchester, United Kingdom, 2015 – 2018;  
Postdoctoral research fellow, Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium, 2011 – 2015.

#### Professional Interest:

Mathematical Optimization; Automated Algorithm Configuration and Design; Machine Learning;  
Operations Research; Multi-criteria Decision Making.

#### ACM Activities:

Member, ACM, 2017 – Present;  
Member, SIGEVO, 2019.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editor-in-Chief, GECCO 2019, 2018 – 2019;  
Programme Chair, EvoCOP 2017/2018;  
Programme Chair, PPSN 2016.

### **STATEMENT**

Evolutionary Computation has become a foundational tool of many other fields and applications, including machine learning, robotics, modern art, videogames, biotechnology, operations research, business analytics, etc. Thanks to its history and the expertise of its membership, SIGEVO has the opportunity to set, through its communication and organisational efforts, the high scientific and scholarship standards required to maintain and increase the reputation and recognition of the field within and beyond computer science. My work as member of the SIGEVO Executive Committee will be guided by two principles. First, my work will be directed at increasing the reputation of Evolutionary Computation as a comprehensive field that influences the state of the art in other cutting-edge fields such as machine learning and robotics. Second, my intention is to engage practitioners and researchers from businesses, industry and governmental bodies, not only to make them aware of the latest research in Evolutionary Computation, but also to highlight the impact of our field on the real world.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Gisele Lobo Pappa  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Kent, 2007, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil,  
2009 – Present.

#### Professional Interest:

Evolutionary computation; Machine learning; Social media analysis; Health-related applications.

#### ACM Activities:

Workshop Chair, ACM GECCO, 2015 – 2016;  
Track Chair, ACM GECCO Self-\* Search Track, 2012 – 2013.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Committee, Brazilian Computational Intelligence Society, 2016 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

Best Paper Award, 7th ACM International Conference on Digital Health, 2017;  
Best Paper Award, ACM GECCO GP Track, 2016;  
Winner of the Visualizing Evolution Competition @GECCO, 2011.

### **STATEMENT**

For the past 10 years I have been an active member of the SIGEVO community. During this period, I served as a GECCO track chair and was the workshop sessions organiser in two different occasions. During this period, I met and learned a lot from the experienced people from the SIGEVO community, and I hope now I can give something back. As a member of the executive board, apart from the usual activities, one thing that I would like to work towards is bringing the machine learning community closer to ours. There are many common problems solved by both communities but there is still very few interaction between them. I also want to contribute to the Women@Gecco community, which is trying hard to encourage women in the area. I hope my previous experience in the executive committee of the Brazilian Computational Intelligence Society where I helped in organizing events and bringing together people with similar interests can help me in this new challenge.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Tea Tušar  
Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, 2014, Information and Communication Technologies.

#### Professional Experience:

Research Fellow, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2018 – Present;  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2016 – 2017;  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Inria, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, 2015 – 2016.

#### Professional Interest:

Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization; Algorithm Benchmarking; Solution Visualization;  
Real-World Optimization Problems.

#### ACM Activities:

Job Market Chair, ACM GECCO, 2017 – Present;  
Program Committee Member, ACM GECCO, 2014 – Present;  
Track Chair, ACM GECCO, 2017 – 2018;  
Students Chair, ACM GECCO, 2016.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, Slovenian Artificial Intelligence Society, 2004 – Present;  
Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 2012 – 2015.

#### Awards Received:

Silver award for excellence, 6th Slovenian Innovation Forum, 2011.

### **STATEMENT**

During the last few years I have had the privilege of undertaking various roles at GECCO, such as the EMO Track chair, Job Market initiator and chair, Students chair, workshop organizer and tutorial speaker. I have also been an active supporter of Women@GECCO, serving as one of the workshop's organizers, Science Slam presenter and mentor to ACM-W Scholarship recipients. All of these experiences brought me a deeper understanding of the workings of GECCO and an appreciation of the responsibilities of the SIGEVO Executive Committee. I would be honored to serve as one of its members.

If elected, I will collaborate with the other Executive Committee members to address the concerns of our community and support its initiatives. In particular, I will focus on:

- (i) Giving more visibility to the great achievements of Evolutionary Computation researchers and practitioners with the goal of expanding their reach and impact as well as increasing the general recognition of our field;
- (ii) Rethinking GECCO's heavily parallelized schedule and increasing fees in order to make it more easily accessible for participants; and
- (iii) Growing the SIGEVO membership with special consideration devoted to under-represented minorities.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Markus Wagner  
University of Adelaide, Australia

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Adelaide, 2013, Theory and Applications of Bio-Inspired Algorithms.

#### Professional Experience:

Senior Lecturer, University of Adelaide, Australia, 2017 – Present;  
ARC DECRA Fellow, Australian Research Council, Adelaide, Australia, 2016 – 2018;  
Lecturer, University of Adelaide, Australia, 2013 – 2016.

#### Professional Interest:

Theory of heuristic optimization; Theory-motivated design of evolutionary algorithms  
Problems with interacting components; Optimisation in search-based software engineering;  
Applications in wind and wave energy.

#### ACM Activities:

Competitions Chair, GECCO, SIGEVO, 2018 – 2019;  
Workshops Chair, GECCO, SIGEVO, 2016 – 2017.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

CIS University Curricula Chair, IEEE, 2016 – 2017;  
CIS Educational Material Chair, IEEE, 2014 – 2015;  
Founding Chair of the Task Force on CI in the Energy Domain, IEEE, 2014 – 2015.

#### Awards Received:

University Doctoral Research Medal (1st time for Computer Science), 2013;  
Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, 2016;  
3rd at Many-Objective Optimisation Competition at CEC 2017;  
CSIRO ON Prime Pre-Accelerator Program Performance Bonus, 2017.

### **STATEMENT**

My intention is to represent the Australasian SIGEVO community, which comprises of academics at over two dozen universities. Within this sector, I am already coordinating a community-bid to bring GECCO to Australia in the very near future.

I seek to bring geographical diversity to the SIGEVO board, as it currently does not include anyone from Asia or Australia/New Zealand. I see the recent opening up of SIGEVO to the north-east Asian community as a very positive, but also necessary, first step to reach out to highly active parts of the research community. This is a massive opportunity to speed up the dissemination of challenges and break-throughs, and also to reduce the mean distance in the collaboration networks -- for the greater good of the field.

It's the networks between people and research groups that I plan to focus on if elected; by improving inter-society conversations and coordination of events. I am well-connected internationally and across professional societies, with coauthors in many sub-communities and on six of our seven continents.

## Candidate for Executive Committee

Bing Xue  
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Victoria University of Wellington, 2013, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2019 – Present;  
Senior Lecture, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2017 – 2019;  
Lecture, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2015 – 2016.

#### Professional Interest:

Evolutionary Computation; Machine Learning; Data Mining; Image Analysis;  
Genetic Programming.

#### ACM Activities:

EML Track Chair of SIGEVO GECCO conference, 2018 – Present;  
Chair of Women@GECCO, SIGEVO, 2017 – 2018;  
Tutorial Speaker in GECCO conference, SIGEVO, 2018;  
Tutorial Speaker in GECCO conference, SIGEVO, 2016.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Chair of Technical Committee on Big Data, IEEE Computational Intelligence Society,  
2019 – Present;  
Chair of Graduate Student Research Grant, IEEE Computational Intelligence Society,  
2017 – 2018;  
Finance Chair of CEC 2019, IEEE CEC conference, 2016 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

Supervisor Award, Victoria University of Wellington, 2018;  
Earlier Career Research Award, Victoria University of Wellington, 2017;  
Best Paper Award from SEAL 2017;  
Best Student Paper Award from IES2016.

### **STATEMENT**

ACM SIGEVO has been doing very well with publications, conferences, and technical activities, all of which are regarded as flagships in the area of genetic and evolutionary computation. We need to maintain our status and reputation, and find room for improvement in order to provide our members with a better experience and meet the needs of the ever growing community.

The SIGEVO supported conference (GECCO) has been the leading event in the evolutionary computation area. We should aim to maintain and further improve the quality of the conference to make it highly recognised in the big AI research area in the near future.

SIGEVO members include a variety of people, including academic and industrial researchers, educators, practitioners, and students. Along with the advances of AI and evolutionary machine learning, real-world applications of evolutionary computation will increase in the future, so the development of more industry members would significantly contribute to SIGEVO's mission.

SIGEVO has been very supportive to females through its support of ACM-Women, student activities, educational efforts and sponsors. I believe we should continue this tradition to provide more benefits to members and the community, especially within the minority groups.