Candidate for Chair

Balaji Krishnapuram
Pinterest, San Francisco, CA, USA

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Academic Background:**

**Professional Experience:**
Head of Content Engineering, Pinterest, San Francisco, CA, 2019 – Present;
Director and Distinguished Engineer, IBM, Paoli, PA, 2015 – 2019;
Principal Engineer, Siemens, Malvern, PA, 2004 – 2015.

**Professional Interest:**
Machine Learning, Data Mining, Information Extraction, Natural Language Processing,
Computer Vision.

**ACM Activities:**
General Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference, 2015 – 2016;
Associate General Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference, 2009 – 2010;
Sponsorships Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference, 2017 – 2019;

**Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:**
Vice Chair of the Program Committee, ICDM, 2010 – 2011;
Sponsorships Chair, WWW, 2020 – Present;
Workshops Chair, SIAM Data Mining, 2012 – 2013.

**Awards Received:**
ACM SIGKDD Service Award, 2019;
ACM SIGKDD Data Mining Case Studies Award, 2009;
Best paper award - International Workshop on Digital Mammography, 2008.

**STATEMENT**

I am honored to run for the SIGKDD Chair position. The Board of the ACM SIGKDD traditionally appoints key office bearers or committees to run our conference, journals, and annual awards. However, due to the >100-fold growth in the number of data scientists world-wide over the last 10 years, we need to expand ACM SIGKDD’s role.
If elected, I propose to evolve ACM SIGKDD into a full-fledged professional body for data scientists, similar to the American Medical Association to help members:

1. Find jobs and increase your salary.
2. Grow your skills as a data scientist, allowing you to achieve greater impact.
3. Form professional networks that will help you get professional mentorship, career guidance, etc.
4. Eliminate misguided regulatory / legislative restrictions that reduce your ability to have a larger impact at your job and in society.
5. Promote the adoption of standards for all parts of the data analytics process.
6. Promote diversity in our community by broadening access and participation across race, gender, and nationality.

I hope to leverage my experience organizing >15 academic conferences & workshops and leading large R&D teams in the industry to help SIGKDD navigate this evolution.
Candidate for Chair

Wei Wang
University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:
Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1999, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:
Kleinrock Chair Professor, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, 2012 – Present;
Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2002 – 2012;
Research Staff Member, IBM Watson Research Center, Hawthorne, NY, 1999 – 2002.

Professional Interest:
Data Mining, Machine Learning, Bioinformatics, Computational Medicine, Natural
Language Processing.

ACM Activities:
KDD Program Committee Co-Chair, KDD, 2020;
Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics,
2015 – Present;
Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery in Data, 2015 – 2017;
KDD Program Committee Co-Chair, KDD, 2014.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Steering Committee Member, IEEE Big Data Conference, 2017 – Present;
Associate Editor, IEEE Transactions on Big Data, 2014 – 2018;
Associate Editor, Knowledge and Information Systems, 2007 – 2014.

Awards Received:
ACM Fellow, 2020;
ACM SIGKDD Service Award, 2016;
IEEE ICDM Outstanding Service Award, 2012;
ACM SIGKDD Best Research Paper Award, 2008.

STATEMENT

I am the Leonard Kleinrock Chair Professor in Computer Science at UCLA, and an ACM
fellow. I have made significant technical contributions to the foundations, principles and
applications of data mining with 300+ papers, 26,000 citations and an H-index of 72.
I have also contributed extraordinary services to the broad data mining community for over 20 years and was honored with the 2012 ICDM Outstanding Service Award and 2016 SIGKDD Service Award. I have served as the program committee chair for all major data mining conferences (including 2014 and 2020 KDD’s) and have been on the editorial boards of all premier journals of data mining.

My experience and passion in serving the community make me a perfect candidate for the SIGKDD chair position, to lead SIGKDD to a new height by growing SIGKDD globally and promoting a culture of transparency and inclusion in the post-COVID era. If elected, I plan to (1) evaluate and optimize SIGKDD operation to warrant a smooth transition to the new normal in education and professional practice in the post-COVID era; (2) foster an environment to attract and engage new members to the SIGKDD community - the target population includes but is not limited to students who are starting to do research, professional groups who are currently underrepresented in SIGKDD, and members of interdisciplinary fields; (3) broaden connections with industry, focusing on professionals from start-ups and small businesses, especially those owned by females and minorities and those located in financially distressed regions; (4) promote international collaborations between academia and industry.
Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Hui Xiong
The State University of New Jersey, NJ, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:
Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2005, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:
Professor, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, NJ, USA, 2014 – Present;
Deputy Dean, Baidu Research Institute, Beijing, China, 2018 – 2019;
Associate Professor, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, NJ, USA, 2009 – 2014.

Professional Interest:
Data Mining, Artificial Intelligence, Mobile Computing, Business Intelligence
Machine Learning.

ACM Activities:
Research Track Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM KDD-2018;
Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data, 2015 – Present;
IDG Track Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM KDD-2012.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
General Co-Chair, IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, 2015;
Program Co-Chair, IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, 2013.

Awards Received:
AAAS Fellow, 2020;
IEEE Fellow, 2020;
ACM Distinguished Scientist, 2014;
IEEE ICDM Best Research Paper Award, 2011.

STATEMENT

I feel honored to be a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer and sincerely request your support as I venture to embrace the challenges to keep the continuous prosperity of the SIGKDD community.
I have served in various roles for the growth of SIGKDD, such as a Program Co-Chair of the research track for KDD-2018, several KDD Workshop Chairs, and a Program Co-Chair of the IDG Track for KDD-2012.

If elected, I would like to make efforts to strengthen the global impact of SIGKDD. There is a need to understand the needs and perspectives of our global community and boost the activities and attractiveness of SIGKDD in being a central data mining community. I will help deepen this adaptive global leadership mindset.

SIGKDD can do more for career development and growth for the students who would like to pursue the data analytic career. It is expected to have initiatives focused on early data analytic education and early professional career guidance.

It is critical to bridge the gap between academia and industry for the healthy development of impactful data science research. SIGKDD can be an ideal platform for facilitating research collaboration, data sharing, and funding support from the industry.
Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Michael Zeller
AI Strategy & Solutions, Temasek International, Singapore

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:
Ph.D., Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt, 1998, Physics.

Professional Experience:
Head, AI Strategy & Solutions, Temasek International, Singapore, 2020 – Present;
CEO, Dynam.AI, San Diego, 2019 – 2020;

Areas of Professional Interest:
Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing, IoT.

ACM Activities:
Secretary & Treasurer, Executive Committee Member, SIGKDD, 2013 – Present.

Awards Received:
ACM SIGKDD Service Award, 2020.

STATEMENT

Having served as SIGKDD Secretary-Treasurer since 2013 and previously as co-chair for the KDD Industry & Government Track in 2011 and 2012, it is my honor to apply for the re-election of SIGKDD Secretary-Treasurer.

We are seeing a surge in machine learning and artificial intelligence, driving a tremendous interest in datamining research as well as real-world applications across industry and government. As SIGKDD Secretary-Treasurer, I intend to contribute my fiscal experience in running a software company to wisely manage the SIGKDD budget. In addition to a special emphasis on interdisciplinary research, I believe that fostering a strong partnership between research institutions and industry organizations is the key for the continued success of our field. Not only will it help transition research results into business applications, but it will also inspire students through internship opportunities and guide universities in the education of the critical talent for machine learning applications.

As Secretary-Treasurer, I plan to continue my involvement with the organization of the annual KDD conference, intend to renew membership growth and increase the visibility of the ACM SIGKDD organization, with a special focus on industry relationships and data science standards.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Faisal Farooq
Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Head of Digital Health, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar, 2019 – Present;
Senior Manager, IBM, Yorktown Heights, NY, 2016 – 2019;

Professional Interest:
Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Healthcare AI, Precision Medicine, Digital Health.

ACM Activities:
Applied Invited Speaker Track Chair, SIGKDD Conference, 2019 – 2020;
Health Day Chair, SIGKDD Conference, 2018 – 2019;
General Chair, SIGKDD Conference, 2017 – 2018;
Recognition of Service Award, 2018.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

STATEMENT

I am honored to have been nominated to run for the SIGKDD EC. I have served the SIG in various capacities over a decade, with the utmost distinction being nominated GC of KDD 2018. I have also served as Chair ADS Track (2020), Chair Health Day (2019), Associate GC (2017) and Social Networking Chair (2016). In these roles I made lasting contributions. In 2016 I introduced short promotional videos and the Audience Appreciation Award now regular features of KDD and adopted by other conferences. In 2017, as AGC I was successful in making access to KDD papers in the ACM DL free. I also introduced the highly successful and now regular Deep Learning and Health Days. SIGKDD leadership has established KDD as a very unique venue driven by the industry applications. This has been the hallmark of KDD. I have tirelessly worked to enhance ADS and I will take this to the next level if elected. An important aspect close to my
heart is promoting diversity at KDD. I have been a strong proponent for balanced representation in the programs (all 3 keynotes in 2017 and 50% in Invited Track in 2020). I hope you will entrust me with your support.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Cynthia Rudin
Duke University, Durham NC, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Professor, Duke University, Durham NC, 2016 – Present;
Associate Professor, MIT, Cambridge MA, 2009 – 2016;

Professional Interest:

ACM Activities:

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Associate Director, The Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, 2018 – Present;
Chair, Committee to Choose EIC for INFORMS Data Science Journal, INFORMS, 2019 – 2020;

Awards Received:
INFORMS Innovative Appl. in Analytics Award: 2013, 2016 & 2019, 2019;
FICO Recognition Award, Explainable ML Challenge, 2018;
Finalist, Daniel H. Wagner Prize for Excellence in OR, INFORMS, 2017;

STATEMENT

I am pleased to be nominated for EC member. I have worked in data mining for 20+years and have given keynote/invited talks at KDD (twice), AISTATS, MLHC, FATML, and ECML-PKDD.
My whole career, I have been active in promoting diverse ideas in data mining in many communities. I am past chair of the INFORMS DM Section and SLDS section of the American Statistical Association. I served on committees for DARPA, AAAI, the National Academies, and the National Institute of Justice. I founded Triangle Machine Learning Day. I currently lead projects at the National Academies on AI and Criminal Justice, and availability of healthcare data. I co-organized a special issue in Machine Learning for Science and Society at a time when data science papers were difficult to publish, before data science journals existed.

Through the SIGKDD committee, I can further the following long-term goals:

(1) Have a top-tier publication venue for all high-quality scientific publications on data mining, without leaving out diverse ideas on what problems are important and encouraging work that is important for societal good.

(2) To ensure a high-quality review process, where well-matched reviewers use language constructive and welcoming to our community.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Johannes Gehrke
Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Managing Director, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, 2020 – Present;
Technical Fellow, Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2013 – 2020;
Professor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 1999 – 2015.

Professional Interest:
Data Mining, Data Science, Machine Learning, Database Systems,
Distributed Systems.

ACM Activities:
Member of the Board of Directors, ACM SIGKDD, 2009 – 2021;
Co-Chair for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity, ACM SIGKDD, 2021;
Co-Chair, Applied Data Science Invited Talks, ACM SIGKDD, 2018 – 2019;
Chair, Jim Gray Doctoral Dissertation Awards Committee, ACM SIGMOD,

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Program Co-Chair, ICDE 2015, IEEE, 2015;
Program Co-Chair, SOCC 2014, ACM, 2014;

Awards Received:
IEEE Fellow, 2020;
ACM Fellow, 2014;
IEEE Computer Society Technical Achievement Award, 2011;
Humboldt Research Award, 2010.

STATEMENT

It is my honor to have the chance to continue to serve on the SIGKDD Board of
Directors. I have been in academia for 15 years and now in industry for seven,
and I have experienced the opportunities and challenges on both sides. In
academia, a major problem is the availability of data and compute and
associated real-world problems in the open domain. In industry, I see issues across scale, tooling, algorithms, data complexity, governance and access, fairness, bias, and responsibility, and keeping up with the rapid pace of the field.

What makes SIGKDD unique is that we connect academia and industry through our community, the SIGKDD Conference and the KDD Cup. If re-elected, I will:

(1) work towards further strengthening our role as bridging research and practice;

(2) establish an equity, diversity, and inclusion program for SIGKDD;

(3) strengthen our connections to the other research communities where I am also an active member;

(4) work on improving our international footprint and impact; and

(5) ensure that we use SIGKDD’s solid financial status to benefit our community.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Thorsten Joachims
Amazon, Seattle, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Amazon Scholar, Amazon, Seattle, WA, USA, 2018 – 2020;
Professor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, 2012 – 2020;
Assistant & Associate Professor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, 2001 – 2012.

Professional Interest:
Machine Learning and Data Mining, Fairness in Machine Learning, Recommender Systems, Information Retrieval.

ACM Activities:
Program Co-Chair KDD 2015, SIGKDD, 2015;
Best Paper Awards Chair KDD 2007, SIGKDD, 2007;
Student Awards Chair KDD 2006, SIGKDD, 2006;
KDD-Cup Co-Chair, SIGKDD, 2004.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Board Member, International Society for Machine Learning (IMLS), 2010.

Awards Received:
SIGKDD Innovations Award, 2020;
SIGIR 2020 Best Paper Award, 2020;
KDD 2017 Test of Time Award, 2017 ;
KDD 2015 Test of Time Award, 2015.

STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated for membership on the SIGKDD Executive Committee. Having interacted with the Executive Committee in many roles, starting with co-organizing the KDD Cup in 2004, all the way to being Program Co-Chair for KDD 2015, I feel vested in KDD and well-versed in its organizational structure. Over this time, KDD has managed to remain intellectually fresh and at the forefront of emergent research areas with tangible real-world impact. This has been key to KDD’s success and leadership role.
On the Executive Committee, I will work towards taking this track record of innovation into the future, making sure that KDD retains its lead role in an ever more crowded space of machine-learning and data-science conferences. I believe my dual role as faculty member at Cornell and working for Amazon provides a good background for identifying new initiatives that keep KDD exciting, recognizing KDD’s strength in embracing both academia and industry.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Geoff Webb
Monash Data Futures Institute, Melbourne, Australia

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Academic Background:**
Ph.D., La Trobe University, 1987, Computer Science.

**Professional Experience:**
Research Director, Monash Data Futures Institute, Melbourne, 2020 – Present;
Professor, Monash University, Melbourne, 2002 – Present;
Professor, Deakin University, Geelong, 1998 – 2002.

**Professional Interest:**
Data Science, Time Series Analytics, Machine Learning in the Context of Non-Stationary, Distributions, Bioinformatics, Earth Observation Analytics.

**ACM Activities:**
Member SIGKDD Executive, SIGKDD, 2017 – Present;
Program Committee Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2015;
Panels Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2014;
Panels Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2013.

**Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:**
General Chair, IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM 2012), 2012;
Program Committee Chair, IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM-2010), 2010;
Editor-in-Chief, Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery journal, 2005 – 2014.

**Awards Received:**
IEEE Fellow, 2015.

**STATEMENT**

SIGKDD is a vibrant leader in the field of data science. I have been actively involved in the SIGKDD community since my first KDD paper at KDD-2000 and have had the honor of serving as Program Committee Chair (2015), Panels Chair (2013, 2014) and as a Senior and Regular member of the Program Committee over many years. The
pandemic has been a trying time for SIGKDD and has thrown us numerous challenges. We learnt much from our experience holding KDD-2020. It would be a further honor to provide continuity, bringing all I have learnt in my term on the Executive Committee to serve SIGKDD over another term and to have the opportunity to continue to represent an Asia-Pacific perspective.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Mohammed J. Zaki
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Associate Dept Head, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, 2018 – Present;
Full Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, 2009 – Present;
Associate Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, 2003 – 2009.

Professional Interest:
Data Mining; Machine Learning; Personal Health Informatics; Knowledge Graphs;
Text Mining.

ACM Activities:
SIGKDD Executive Committee, SIGKDD, 2013 – Present;
Program Chair, ACM CIKM Conference, SIGIR/SIGMOD/SIGWEB, 2018 – 2018;
Program Chair, ACM CIKM Conference, SIGIR/SIGMOD/SIGWEB, 2012 – 2012;
Program Chair, ACM SIGKDD Conference, SIGKDD, 2009 – 2009.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Program Chair, IEEE Big Data Conf, IEEE/Computer Society, 2015;
Program Chair, IEEE Data Mining Conf, IEEE/Computer Society, 2012;
Program Chair, SIAM Data Mining Conf, SIAM, 2008.

Awards Received:
IEEE Fellow, 2017;

STATEMENT

The field of data mining and learning is entering an era of unprecedented growth; it is
set to revolutionize all aspects of human activity from how we conduct science, how we
govern and interact, to health and wellness, how/what we buy, and so on. With
opportunities also come responsibilities -- to temper the rapid and exciting advances
with fair and ethical uses of the emerging technologies.
As a member of the Executive Committee, I will strive to advocate for things we care about -- supporting cutting edge research, championing diversity and inclusion, developing educational and dissemination activities, and initiating new directions for a strong and vibrant community of students, researchers, and practitioners. SIGKDD has tremendous potential for enabling fundamental advances in science, humanities, medicine, and business, and for enabling social good. I look forward to the opportunity of serving the SIGKDD community, to help realize its full promise as a part of the Executive Committee.
Candidate for Executive Committee

Zhi-Hua Zhou
Nanjing University, Nanjing, China

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:
Ph.D., Nanjing University, 2000, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:
Head of CS Dept. & Dean of School of AI, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, 2018 – Present;
Standing Deputy Director, National Key Lab for Novel Software Technology, Nanjing, China, 2010 – Present;
Professor, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, 2003 – Present.

Professional Interest:
Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Mining.

ACM Activities:
Vice Chair, SIGKDD China, 2016 – Present;
Associate Editor, ACM Trans. KDD, 2018 – Present;
Workshop Chair, KDD 2016, KDD 2012, 2012 – 2016;

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Trustee, IJCAI, 2019 – Present;
Steering Committee member, IEEE ICDM, 2016 – Present;
Steering Committee member, PAKDD, 2007 – Present.

Awards Received:
IEEE CS Edward J. McCluskey Technical Achievement Award, 2019;
IEEE ICDM Outstanding Service Award, 2016;
ACM Fellow, 2016;
AAAI Fellow, 2016.

STATEMENT

I am honored to have been asked to run for the SIGKDD Executive Committee position. I have been a member and active ACM volunteer for more than a decade, including serving for ACM SIGKDD China, ACM Transactions, and ACM conferences such as KDD, CIKM, etc. I have been an active volunteer for the data mining community, such
as serving as SPC or various chairs for KDD since 2010, Program Chair for IEEE ICDM, SDM and PAKDD, and General Chair for IEEE ICDM, PAKDD and ADMA. My experience in these varied volunteer positions has prepared me well for serving you, and ACM SIGKDD, as Executive Committee member.

SIGKDD must continue to develop its strategy to encourage growth in new regions while providing clear benefits to existing members. This requires a better understanding of diverse cultural, educational, and professional contexts and better connectivity with local communities. Besides, it is important to build great connections with related communities, particularly the AI and machine learning communities in the AI booming age.

If elected as Executive Committee member, I will work with each and every active group member to ensure that ACM SIGKDD remains the leading special interest group on data mining.