

Chair's Message

It has been a satisfying and challenging four years, serving on the SIGMOD EC, and I could not have asked for better colleagues in arms than Mary Fernandez as Treasurer and Yannis Ioannidis as Vice-Chair, not to mention the many, many people on the extended EC who collectively run all aspects of ACM SIGMOD, from the conferences to DISC, to the SIGMOD Record.

As I look back, there are some accomplishments I'm proud of. We've had a vibrant series of SIGMOD/PODS conferences; we've a strong competition for the best doctoral dissertation in database management; we've sound, self-renewing processes in place to identify members of the community for recognition through awards, and to select representative papers to nominate to CACM; we've explored innovative reviewing and publishing models such as rollover of papers and experimental repeatability; we've revamped our membership levels and continue to provide unique member services such as DISC and support for undergraduate research and travel to conferences; and we've a new travelling researcher program in place. Most importantly in these difficult economic times, we're in sound financial shape, with the funds to continue to carry forth our charter to support and disseminate database research and education.

Many challenges remain. We continue to struggle with the increase in the number of papers being submitted and the corresponding increase and geographical spread of our conference reviewing committees. We need to understand the right balance between a culture of conference publication and archival journal publication, and engage with our colleagues at VLDB on programs like the conference-journal hybrid they are developing, as and when this is appropriate. We need to find ways to use our reach to improve member services further, and in particular, to provide improved mentoring for the younger people in the field.

It is time, however, for the old order to change, and yield place to new. In other words, it's election time. I'm grateful to Tamer Ozsu for leading the effort to assemble the slate for the elections. I'm excited to see just how strong it is—SIGMOD will be in very good hands indeed! Just which hands, however, is up to you, the members. Please take a moment to consider the backgrounds and statements of the candidates, and cast your ballot. And thank you—it was a privilege to serve as Chair of SIGMOD and to see all the work and the many people who make it such a great organization.

Sincerely,
Raghu Ramakrishnan

