Chair's Message

By the time you read this, the technical program for SIGMOD'99, to be held in Philadelphia on June 1–3, will have been decided. As all members have access to the full offerings on SIGMOD Online at <`http://www.acm.org/sigmod`>, I urge you to check out the papers that will be presented at that conference, which should appear at our web site by the end of the month. The idea is that discussion of these papers, both in the halls and during the presentations, might be more fruitful if participants had a chance to read the papers that interested them before attending the conference.

As you have probably heard by now, Jim Gray will be awarded our profession's most prestigious honor, the Turing Award, at the ACM Awards Banquet at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on May 15. I'm very pleased that Jim has been accorded this honor, for his seminal contributions to our discipline. He will present his Turing Address at the SIGMOD conference, providing yet another incentive to attend this year. Warm congratulations, Jim, for recognition so richly deserved!

You may also know that SIGMOD'00 will be held in Dallas, Texas. As incredible as it may seem, planning is already commencing for SIGMOD'01, which will be somewhere on the west coast (recall that the conference cycles east-central-west). If you would like the conference to come to your city, please get in contact with me. I welcome short proposals from people willing to participate in putting on this important annual meeting.

As always, if you have other suggestions for ways that SIGMOD can better meet your needs, or if you have ideas for SIGMOD initiatives, I encourage you to contact me or anyone of the people listed on the first page of this *SIGMOD Record*.

Rick Snodgrass
January, 1999