

## Foreword

Informatics and technology in general are curious endeavours in which to be involved. Working, researching or teaching within them, on a day to day basis, they seem to move quite slowly. Step back however and look a few years in the past and the pace of change can be staggering. And not just recent memory. It is a fair bet that this has been true for everyone reading this, whatever their age, country or time in their life when the statement might have been made.

Education also has its trends and its technologies. The internet, email and technology in general have brought new means of communication and access to information. The teaching of informatics has changed as new technologies are introduced, but so has the teaching of other subjects. Computers are no longer just for the specialist – they are basic tools.

The papers in this volume cover a range of topics. Some are specific to informatics but some are about education in general. Not just the way we are influencing it, but how it is influencing us. Government policies to educate all teachers and students, if not entire populaces, in what was not long ago not experienced by most. There are papers considering alternative ways of teaching informatics and getting students thinking about algorithms.

Papers on tasks and evaluation, looking at how (and indeed from where) we create quality tasks with a pedagogical benefit. Papers on communication and the sharing of resources. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic, if small, community.

The recent IOI workshop is briefly reported in this volume and longer papers will follow in the future.

The editorial board has been expanded and by bringing in individuals from outside the IOI we intend to enlarge the scope of the journal. Small steps perhaps, but step back in a few years time...

As always thanks are due to all those who have assisted with the current volume – authors, reviewers and editors – and it would be remiss not to thank those involved in arranging the workshop and encouraging research.

Particular thanks are due to the organisational committee for IOI'2010 in Canada without whose assistance we would be unable to hold the conference. Their assistance, during what is an already busy period, is gratefully received.

Editors

