Foreword

This issue of *Pure Mathematics and Applications* is a very special one, for at least two reasons.

The first reason is that many of the articles contained in the present issue originates from research works presented at the conference *GASCom 2014*, held at the Centro Residenziale Universitario, Bertinoro (FC), Italy. The conference was mainly focused on random and exhaustive generation of combinatorial objects; in connection with this main theme, several related topics were represented, such as enumerative, algebraic and analytic combinatorics, as well as interactions with other areas of mathematics, computer science, physics and biology. The conference was attended by approximately 40 people. A total of 21 talks were presented, among which two very interesting and stimulating lectures, by Jeffrey Shallit and Gilles Schaeffer. As it is customary for the GASCom conferences, the atmosphere was very friendly and enjoyable; many exchanges of ideas among the participants were facilitated by such a pleasant and informal meeting.

The second reason is that this is the first issue of the section *Algebra and Theoretical Computer Science* to be published by De Gruyter Open. *Pure Mathematics and Applications* was born in 1990, and was jointly edited by the Departments of Mathematics of the University of Siena, Italy, and of the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary; also, it was published by SAAS Publishing. In 2005 the Department of Mathematics of Siena was replaced by the Systems and Computer Science Department of Firenze, Italy, and later, in 2013, by the Mathematics and Computer Science Department of Firenze. Starting from 2005, the journal appears online, and all the issue from 2005 to 2013 can be found at the webpage <http://puma.dimai.unifi.it/>. Now, the year 2015 inaugurates a new season for the journal. We are grateful to De Gruyter Open for the opportunity of publishing *Pure Mathematics and Applications* with a prestigious partner like De Gruyter. We hope to work together for a very long period, and we are certain that this collaboration will be fruitful for both partners.

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