The IPDPS PhD Forum was initiated by the IEEE Computer Society's Technical Committee on Parallel Processing as part of its mission to promote parallel processing research and education, especially at the PhD level. Under the leadership of the TCPP chair Sushil K. Prasad, the first PhD Forum took place at IPDPS 2008 in Miami. Based on the supportive reception that year, it was repeated last year in Rome, with Yves Robert serving as chair. His prior experience as a program chair for the IPDPS conference program helped to formulate a technical framework for making the PhD Forum a regular part of IPDPS events, and we have appreciated being able to work from his template in organizing the PhD Forum as part of the IPDPS 2010 program. Thus, our first thanks go to Sushil and Yves for setting the foundation for this event and an additional thanks to Sushil for his commitment to finding new and "richer" resources for student travel support to enable participation in the Forum.

The IPDPS PhD Forum offers students an opportunity to present a research poster describing their ongoing dissertation research to the entire IPDPS conference audience, to discuss their research with experts from academia and industry during the conference, and to make useful contacts with prospective employers as they enter the job market. A key objective of the PhD Forum is to help students receive expert feedback on their research thrusts, and at the same time give representatives from industry and academia a preview of the upcoming developments in parallel and distributed processing and related technologies.

The PhD Forum submissions included a 4-page paper describing the student's dissertation proposal and preliminary results. The authors were required to make explicit the number of years enrolled and the studies completed in the PhD program, so that the reviewers could take into account this additional information. Also, a supportive commitment letter from the PhD advisor was required.

A scientific committee chaired by Luc Bougé evaluated 42 submissions and selected 21 for presentation at IPDPS 2010 in Atlanta. The top submissions will receive travel awards sponsored by TCPP. An innovation to the review process was instituted this year. Because today's PhD Forum submitters are most likely to be tomorrow's IPDPS conference authors, it was therefore natural to also have their submissions reviewed by members of the regular IPDPS Program Committee. A call for volunteers was issued to the IPDPS PC members, and a substantial number accepted, lightening the load for all. We would specifically like to thank all these colleagues for their contribution to building the IPDPS community of tomorrow.

Another innovation this year is to have the selected submissions published as individual contributions along with the proceedings of the IPDPS Workshops, which will be available through the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library. We are grateful to Yuanyuan Yang & Xin Yuan, publications co-chairs, for supporting and facilitating this opportunity for PhD Forum student authors.

We hope that IPDPS attendees will take time to review the student posters here in Atlanta during the two days of the Forum and also to discuss the research with the student presenters on Wednesday evening. A special thanks goes to general chair David Bader who organized the conference space and program to give strong coverage to the PhD Forum. We really appreciate his support, as well as all the help from the local arrangements co-chair Anu Bourgeois, who saw to all the practical details associated with the poster presentations. We also want to give
honorable mention to the publicity team of Michela Taufer, Gudula Rünger, and Zhihui Du and organizers Susamma Barua and Sally Jelinek. It has been a pleasure to be part of the IPDPS team, who made it very easy to do our job.

There are many members of the IPDPS community – too many to name without missing someone important – whose encouragement and advice have been critical to this venture, and we thank the steering co-chairs Viktor Prasanna and George Westrom for their leadership. Of course, the students who submitted their research, as well as all of the reviewers who with great dedication gave their time and expertise to select the posters, have our greatest gratitude – you are to be credited with producing a solid PhD Forum for IPDPS 2010. Many thanks to all!

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