PREFACE

This special issue of Logical Methods in Computer Science was initiated on the occasion of the retirement of Jos Baeten. By means of the articles published in this special issue, a number of his scientific colleagues, covering most eras of his career, express their gratitude for the many contributions of Jos to science as well as to the academic scene in a much broader sense. Most papers include a personal tribute.

Jos, a mathematician by training, has made important scientific contributions to the discipline of concurrency theory in general, and to the field of process algebra in particular. Next to his many highly cited research articles, he co-wrote influential textbooks. He had a keen eye for industrial applications of his theoretical work, for instance in the form of verifying communication protocols or generating supervisory control software. In his capacity as a full professor, both at Eindhoven University of Technology and at the University of Amsterdam, he was scientific advisor and inspirator of many young researchers, and acted as promotor of 31 PhD students, including the editors of this volume. He also supervised the theses of countless master students.

Already from an early point in his career, Jos aspired to stimulate and influence the scientific field, as initiator along with his important service in administrative and executive roles. For many years he was the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at Eindhoven University of Technology. In the final part of his career, from 2011 onward, he acted as the general director of the CWI, the national research institute for mathematics and computer science in Amsterdam. At his retirement, in recognition of his great contributions to CWI, he was appointed CWI fellow. He is moreover a member of the prestigious Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities. Jos initiated the annual conference series on concurrency theory that goes under the acronym CONCUR (first edition in Amsterdam in 1990), which is currently considered one of the main international conferences in the area of theoretical computer science. He played a pivotal role in structuring the Dutch computer science research community, in particular as founding father of a national research school called IPA, a scientific as well as social meeting place for PhD students and research staff in programming and algorithmic research.

Originally, a workshop dedicated to his retirement was scheduled to take place at CWI on October 1, 2020. The speakers included four of his former PhD students. Sadly, the workshop had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but luckily the presentation of Jos himself, entitled *The computer and me*, could still be integrated into the celebration of the 75th anniversary of CWI on February 11, 2021. This talk is dedicated largely to his latest research passion, reactive Turing machines, which encompass a process-theoretical notion of interaction. At the latter event, Jos was moreover honoured with a royal decoration, as Officer in the order of Oranje-Nassau, for his contributions to society at large.

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