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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 20th Conference on Concurrency Theory (CONCUR 2009), held in Bologna, September 1–4, 2009. The purpose of the CONCUR conference is to bring together researchers, developers, and students in order to advance the theory of concurrency and promote its applications. This year the CONCUR conference was in its 20th edition, and to celebrate 20 years of CONCUR, the conference program included a special session organized by the IFIP Working Groups 1.8 "Concurrency Theory" and 2.2 "Formal Description of Programming Concepts" as well as an invited lecture given by Robin Milner, one of the fathers of the concurrency theory research area.

This edition of the conference attracted 129 submissions. We wish to thank all their authors for their interest in CONCUR 2009. After careful discussions, the Program Committee selected 37 papers for presentation at the conference. Each of them was accurately refereed by at least three reviewers (four reviewers for papers co-authored by members of the Program Committee), who delivered detailed and insightful comments and suggestions. The conference Chairs warmly thank all the members of the Program Committee and all their sub-referees for the excellent support they gave, as well as for the friendly and constructive discussions. We would also like to thank the authors for having revised their papers to address the comments and suggestions by the referees.

The conference program was enriched by the outstanding invited talks by Martin Abadi, Christel Baier, Corrado Priami and, as mentioned above, Robin Milner.

The conference this year was jointly organized with the 7th International Conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology (CMSB 2009) and the 6th International Workshop on Web Service and Formal Methods (WS-FM 2009) emphasizing, on the one hand, the close connections and similarities between concurrent, artificial systems, and biological, natural systems and, on the other hand, the current pervasiveness of concurrent, distributed and mobile computing technologies. The invited talk by Corrado Priami, held in conjunction with CMSB, and the one by Robin Milner, held in conjunction with WS-FM, were a witness of the commonalities of interests of these conferences and of the corresponding research communities. As additional co-located events, CONCUR 2009 included the following satellite workshops: 16th International Workshop on Expressiveness in Concurrency (EXPRESS), Second Interaction and Concurrency Experience (ICE), 11th International Workshop on Verification of Infinite-State Systems (INFINITY), Third Workshop on Membrane Computing and Biologically Inspired Process Calculi (MeCBIC), 7th International Workshop on Security Issues in Concurrency (SecCo), 6th Workshop on Structural Operational Semantics (SOS) and Young Researchers Workshop on Concurrency Theory (YR-CONCUR).

We would like to thank all the people who contributed to the organization of CONCUR 2009, and the generous support from the Alma Mater Studiorum – Università degli Studi di Bologna and from Microsoft Research Cambridge. We are also grateful to Andrei Voronkov, who allowed us to use the wonderful free conference software system EasyChair, which we used for the electronic submission of papers, the refereeing process and the Program Committee work.

September 2009

Mario Bravetti
Gianluigi Zavattaro

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