Message from the MICRO 2020 General Chair

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the 53rd edition of the IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture 2020 (MICRO-53), the premier forum for presenting, discussing, and debating innovative microarchitecture ideas and techniques for advanced computing and communication systems. MICRO brings together researchers in fields related to microarchitecture, compilers, chips, and systems for technical exchange on traditional microarchitecture topics and emerging research areas.

This edition was planned to be a memorable in-person symposium in Athens; it is still going to be a memorable one but in a different way! Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, MICRO-53 was transformed from in-person to virtual and it takes place as a global online event. I would like to thank the MICRO Steering Committee, the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Microprogramming & Microarchitecture (TCuARCH) and the ACM Special Interest Group on Microarchitecture (SIGMICRO) for approving the transition to a virtual format and the re-scheduling of the Athens in-person event for 2021. All corporate sponsors also generously agreed to support this arrangement; I am thankful to them for their flexibility and invaluable support to MICRO. See the full list of corporate sponsors in the corresponding page of the proceedings as well as the symposium web site.

The global online format we prepared for the MICRO-53 attendees aims to maximize participation and engagement. The program has a dense format so that regardless of the time zone of participants everyone only needs to devote a well-defined period of the day to attend the symposium sessions. For uniformity and easier scheduling of everyone's daily agenda, all days of the symposium have a similar structure and almost the same total duration (about four hours). We sincerely hope that this approach will help most participants in joining the largest possible number of live sessions. Of course, the offline material (pre-recorded full paper presentations videos, lightning talks videos, proceedings, and live sessions recordings) will be available for watching at any time during and after the symposium.

The quality of the technical program of MICRO has its solid foundations on the hard work of students, academics, researchers and practitioners from around the globe that submit their best new research findings for publication, and also the attendees that present, listen, debate and interact during the event. The Steering, Organizing and Program Committees of MICRO thank them all very much.

The technical program of the symposium is the result of the huge and diligent effort of the MICRO-53 Program Co-Chairs Jun Yang and Mattan Erez and their Program Committee and External Review Committee. Mattan and Jun had to coordinate the review and selection process from an all-times record number of paper submissions and under unprecedented circumstances. I had a wonderful collaboration with them since the first discussion when we kicked off the plans for MICRO-53 till these last crazy days of putting all pieces in place for the global online event. I want to warmly thank them for everything! Please read the Program Chairs message for all details of the selection process and the symposium program. The workshops and tutorials program of the weekend before the regular symposium was prepared by our workshop/tutorial chairs Boris Grot and Dionisios Pnevmatikatos who had to prepare the schedule initially for an in-person setup and then redo it for the virtual one; thanks so much to both. Yasuko Eckert and Osman Unsal, the Student Research Competition (SRC) Co-Chairs and their review committee did a great job in preparing the first virtual edition of the ACM SRC competition which MICRO continues hosting despite the change in format.

The coordination of the global online activities of MICRO-53 would have been impossible without the dedication of Saugata Ghose and Stefano Di Carlo who devoted time and energy in synchronizing and populating the platforms with the online and offline pieces of the program. Saugata had the extra task of Web Chair which makes his contribution to the symposium invaluable; Stefano brought fresh ideas and his knowledge of virtual events organization from recent implementations. On the finances side, George Karakonstantis and Mihalis Maniatakos took the very demanding tasks of budget and registrations handling and I thank them both very much. The Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs Yanos Sazeides,

Christina Delimitrou and Koji Inoue did a wonderful work helping with corporate sponsorship despite the trouble imposed by the pandemic. Synchronization of the proceedings production process among the authors the IEEE is another demanding task that Stefanos Kaxiras and George Papadimitriou perfectly executed (George also did a great job supporting Saugata on the web site updates and revisions). I want to also thank the team of Publicity Co-Chairs Dimitrios Skarlatos, Jingwen Leng and Athanasios Chatzidimitriou for regularly broadcasting and posting the news and updates on MICRO-53. Omer Khan and Ashish Venkat spent valuable time during the early planning phases to secure the funding for the Travel Grants; hopefully the in-person edition next year will use the result of their efforts.

I am grateful to General Chairs of the last three editions of MICRO for the guidance they provided during the first planning phases of MICRO-53: Radu Teodorescu, Koji Inoue (and Masaaki Kondo, Finance Chair), Jaime Moreno (and Augusto Vega, Finance Chair), thanks for the support and advise. When MICRO was decided to turn into virtual format, I asked the help and guidance of José Duato and José Martínez, General Co-Chairs of ISCA 2020 which also ran virtually. When I was asking for their input on one point they were proactively answering many. When I was in need of a reply in a day, their reply was coming in moments; I am grateful.

A year ago, when the MICRO Steering Committee and the community decided to trust me and my team for the organization of the 2020 edition of the prestigious symposium in Athens, I received a huge number of messages full of enthusiasm. This enthusiasm was later reflected during on all aspect of MICRO: the record number of all types of technical submissions, the corporate sponsorships, etc. and it did not pause even when it became obvious that inevitably the symposium was going to run online. Let us all now keep this enthusiasm in this year's virtual edition of MICRO and take most of the technical depth of the symposium. Let us also keep this enthusiasm till the time we meet again in person in 2021 in Athens.

Enjoy MICRO-53!

Dimitris Gizopoulos

General Chair, MICRO-53