The 20th Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science (ICTCS 2019) was held on September 9–11, 2019, in Como, Italy, hosted by the University of Insubria. ICTCS is the annual conference of the Italian Chapter of the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (IC-EATCS). The purpose of the meeting is to foster the cross-fertilization of ideas stemming from different areas of theoretical computer science. In particular, it provides an ideal environment where junior researchers and PhD students can meet senior researchers. The topics of interest include agents, algorithms, argumentation, automata theory, complexity theory, computational logic, computational social choice, concurrency theory, cryptography, discrete mathematics, distributed computing, dynamical systems, formal methods, game theory, graph theory, knowledge representation, languages, model checking, process algebras, quantum computing, rewriting systems, security and trust, semantics, specification and verification, systems biology, theorem proving, and type theory.

ICTCS 2019 received 35 submissions (19 regular papers and 16 communications), of which 29 were accepted for presentation at the conference and then published on http://ceur-ws.org/ (16 regular papers and 13 communications). Each submission was assessed by at least 3 reviewers, for a total of 50 reviewers (36 program committee members plus 14 additional reviewers) producing 107 reviews overall. The authors of the accepted contributions mostly came from Italy. Foreign authors came from France (4), Iceland (4), Australia (2), China (1), New Zealand (1), Sweden (1), UAE (1) and UK (1).

ICTCS 2019 was attended by 66 people. In addition to the invited talks given by Filippo Bonchi (University of Pisa) and Giovanni Pighizzini (University of Milan) the conference included the IC-EATCS annual meeting, the award ceremony for the IC-EATCS best young researcher Emanuele Natale (who gave an invited talk too), the IC-EATCS best PhD thesis by Francesco Gavazzo and Cosimo Vinci, and the best MSc thesis by Michele Chiari. Moreover on the first day there was the presentation of the book “The Making of a New Science” by Giorgio Ausiello. Finally, on the second day there was a panel on past and future of theoretical computer science, chaired by Angelo Montanari (University of Udine, president of IC-EATCS), with panelists Amedeo Cesta (ISTC-CNR, Rome), Rocco De Nicola (IMT, Lucca), Emmanuela Merelli (University of Camerino), Filippo Mignosi (University of L’Aquila) and Pino Persiano (University of Salerno).

The organizing team was formed by Alessandra Cherubini and Achille Frigeri from the Polytechnic of Milan and Ruggero Lanotte, Paolo Massazza, Nicoletta Sabadini and Simone Tini from the University of Insubria.

We wish to thank the program committee members, the additional reviewers, the invited speakers, the authors, and all the participants. Special thanks go to Angelo Montanari for his suggestions during the organization of the conference, Fondazione Alessandro Volta for the logistic and administrative support, the University of Insubria which hosted us in the wonderful cloister of S. Abbondio Abbey, the Department of Human Sciences, Innovation and Territory (DiSUIT) of the University of Insubria for the financial support, Paolo Bernardini (head
of DiSUIT), who gave the opening speech, and Andrea Spiriti (DiSUIT), who organised and leaded the social event.

Como, October 2019,

Alessandra Cherubini, Nicoletta Sabadini and Simone Tini.