Dear ISCA attendees,

Welcome to ISCA 2021! After organizing the first-ever virtual ISCA in 2020, we looked forward to the end of the lockdown and to finally welcoming you face-to-face in Valencia; however, the COVID-19 pandemic lasted for longer than initially anticipated, and again forced us to change plans and go virtual. This time around, we are trying a more visually appealing virtual conference platform, backed up by professional technical support. We are very excited by the appearance and features of the new virtual venue, which provides the atmosphere of a physical conference with its main hall, auditorium, exhibition hall, etc. This new platform also enables us to provide an opportunity for attendees to interact richly with each other and with our esteemed sponsors.

The lessons learned from ISCA 2020 proved very useful, and we worked together with the company providing the software infrastructure to incorporate all the desirable features we enjoyed last year. For example, we have reused, for the most part, the successful mixed format of pre-recorded videos and live streaming that we pioneered in ISCA 2020. We also wanted to make sure that the event would be enjoyable by a worldwide audience; thus, we kept the program structure used for ISCA 2020 in order to cater to different time zones. Finally, as in ISCA 2020, we prioritized ensuring high-quality, scalable delivery across the globe while at the same time keeping registration costs very low. We hope that the resulting conference will work to everyone’s satisfaction, and we look forward to your feedback on your experience, so that we may help make future events better, whether virtual or in person.

We would like to take a moment to thank the entire organizing committee, not just for their dedication, but also for their help and advice when we had to choose a virtual format again, and later move to a new infrastructure. It was such a pleasure to work with all of them. We would also like to thank SIGARCH and TCCA, who backed us up all the way. Thanks also to Lizy John, this year’s Program Chair, for putting together a great technical program with high-quality papers, top-notch keynote speakers, and a number of panels on exciting topics, including the one celebrating the 50th anniversary of the microprocessor. We are also grateful to Sean Lee for putting together the Industry Track session. Last but not least, we wish to thank all the authors and attendees, who are ultimately the protagonists of any conference.

We hope that you will all enjoy this second virtual ISCA, while we also hope to meet you all in person next year in New York.

Sincerely,

José Martínez, Cornell University
José Duato, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia

General Co-chairs