

## Preface

The papers in these proceedings were presented at the 56th Annual IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science, which was held October 18-20, 2015 in Berkeley, California. The conference is sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Mathematical Foundations of Computing, in cooperation with the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory (SIGACT).

The call for papers sought original research papers in all areas of the theory of computation. The program committee met at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA during June 10-12, 2015 (following an intensive period of electronic discussion), and of the 314 submissions, 86 were selected for presentation at the conference, with two of those papers sharing a joint talk slot. In keeping with longstanding convention, the papers at the conference have not been formally refereed, and it is expected that extended versions of these papers (or at least most of them) will be published in journals.

The program committee and the local organizing committee would like to thank everyone involved in the conference, including all the authors who submitted papers for consideration; the many external researchers, listed separately, who helped to review the submitted papers; Carnegie Mellon University for hosting the program committee meeting; Shai Halevi for developing the software that was used during the program committee deliberations and for providing immediate support when needed; and Lisa O'Conner and Patrick Kellenberger of the IEEE Computer Society for their help in the production of this volume.

On behalf of all committee members, welcome to the conference!

Venkatesan Guruswami

**FOCS 2015 Program Committee Chair**