

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Press Contacts at ICT2010**

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and ACM Europe - Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

**Zone E: Information Booths, Stand number: E06**

### **Press Contact person at ACM**

Virginia Gold, [vgold@acm.org](mailto:vgold@acm.org), tel: +1 212-625-0505

## **ACM Europe AT ICT2010 27-29 SEPTEMBER 2010, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM -**

### ***Illuminating The Role of Computing in the Digital Age in Europe and Globally***

**BRUSSELS, 28 September 2010** – As the vision of a digitally-driven Europe takes centre stage at ICT2010, running from 27 to 29 September at Brussels Expo, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM – [www.acm.org](http://www.acm.org)), the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, is set to showcase the critical role of computer science and computer science education in the 21st century. The ACM Europe (<http://europe.acm.org/>) Exhibition Stand in Zone E: Information Booths (Stand number: E06 [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3116](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3116)) brings together members of the ACM European Council of leading European computer scientists spearheading ACM's expansion in Europe and key ACM representatives to engage with computing educators, researchers and professionals and inspire dialogue on current achievements and new challenges facing the field with European priorities firmly in mind.

*“As a French citizen living in Canada, the first French ACM President and its second European President, I have the honor and privilege to support ACM Europe at ICT2010. ACM Europe is a real opportunity to focus on specific domains and challenges that are important to computer science professionals and researchers living and working in Europe. Our expansion in Europe perfectly complements similar initiatives in China and India, demonstrating that we are a truly international association, acting globally to address key challenges in the field. This global outreach will be key in addressing the pressing need to fill educational gaps as we face sea changes in the IT world over the next decade. We want to ensure that our community gets all the resources and services it needs to stay abreast of the latest developments in the field”,* said Alain Chesnais, ACM President for 2010-2012 and Founder of Visual Transitions.

This thought leadership is echoed by Dr Fabrizio Gagliardi, Director of External Research for Europe, Middle East and Asia at Microsoft Research and Chair of the ACM Europe Council. *“ACM is the oldest and most respected computing professional association world-wide. Very much inspired by the former ACM president Professor Dame Wendy Hall, an ACM European Council was launched one year ago to make ACM more prominent and relevant to European computer scientists and practitioners while increasing the role and visibility of Europeans in ACM world-wide. Among its various aims, ACM Europe seeks to increase visibility and collaboration with initiatives promoted by the EU whenever appropriate. Participating in ICT2010 is an obvious starting point.”*

One of the areas where ACM Europe will play a key leadership role is in ensuring Europe acquires a stronger collective voice for its 15,000 members in a fast-evolving landscape by fostering more collaborative work on common goals to inspire innovation across the board. In the view of Mateo Valero, Technical University of Catalonia, *“Most computing grand challenges require the most skilled people working together, pushing towards common goals. Enabling this to happen is the objective and the reality of ACM Europe, a unique community where European computer professionals share their knowledge and invent the future of computer applications in order to enhance people's lives.”*

Avi Mendelson, Microsoft R&D Israel, underscores the fundamental role ACM Europe and its International counterparts play in strongly supporting practitioners and researchers as new career opportunities for the profession expand globally over the next ten years in recognition of the need to urgently address educational gaps in the field. *“ACM Europe is a key professional anchor. As a student, it helps you create your professional community in Europe and around the world. If you are a young scientist, it provides you the best platform to present your work, strength your collaborations and enhance your professional community. If you are a senior, ACM and particularly ACM Europe enable you to make a real impact on your community, and it also allows the community to celebrate key achievements in the field”*, said Avi Mendelson.

In addition to the leading experts cited here, Exhibition Stand visitors can also interact with European Council members Gabriele Kotsis, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria; Paul Spirakis, University of Patras and the Greek Computer Technologies Institute, Greece; Marc Shapiro, INRIA and LIP6, France and Gerhard Schimpf, Chair, German ACM Chapter, Pforzheim, Germany, as well as ACM representatives John White, Patricia Ryan and Lillian Israel. In addition to key insights and discussions at the Stand, pertinent visitors also have the chance to win an iPad.

A related activity at ICT2010 is the Networking Session on 28 September, 14:00-15:30 in Room T004 – “ICT Professional Societies: Which Opportunities for Europe?” ([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3120](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3120)), jointly organized by ACM Europe and the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM), with the aim of exchanging views among all interested ICT professionals. A first step is to prioritize a list of expected functions for European professional societies, which may lead to a structural model for professional ICT societies in Europe.

### **About ACM and ACM Europe**

ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery <http://www.acm.org>, is the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field’s challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession’s collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

ACM Europe is playing a key role in strengthening Europe's collective voice and expanding ACM's high-quality activities to meet the needs of European computing professionals. ACM Europe is committed to offering real opportunities for members to cross company and university boundaries, learn from the leaders, share research results, celebrate key achievements, and help develop career paths.

ACM Europe Council Members:

Fabrizio Gagliardi, Director of External Research Programs, Microsoft Research Europe (Chair)

Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Universite Paris-Sud, France

Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK (and ACM President)

Thomas Hofmann, Google EMEA, Zurich, Switzerland

Gabriele Kotsis, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria

Jan van Leeuwen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Andrew McGettrick, University of Strathclyde, Scotland

Avi Mendelson, Microsoft Research, Israel

Bertrand Meyer, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Burkhard Neidecker-Lutz, Research Division, SAP AG, Germany

Gerhard Schimpf, Chair, German ACM Chapter, Pforzheim, Germany

Marc Shapiro, INRIA and LIP6, France

Paul Spirakis, University of Patras and the Greek Computer Technologies Institute, Greece

Mateo Valero, Technical University of Catalonia, Spain

Alexander Wolf, Department of Computing, Imperial College London, UK