



This year, on 12 July 1997, one of the members of the Editorial Board of our journal **Prof. Janusz Kacprzyk** - celebrates his 50-th birthday. Therefore, he has lived through the first (we hope the shorter) half of his life. For this reason the present issue is devoted to him.

Janusz Kacprzyk graduated the Warsaw University of Technology in 1970 with a M.S. in computer science and automatic control. The same year he began working at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and since then he had been associated with various institutes of this Academy, now with the System Research Institute in Warsaw, where he is a Deputy Director for Research. In 1977 he received his Ph.D. degree for a dissertation dealing with the application of fuzzy logic for the optimisation of organisational structures. In 1990, he obtained his D.Sc. (habilitation) degree, and in 1997 he received his professorship from the President of the Republic of Poland. Simultaneously with all these events in his life, Prof. Kacprzyk spent more than 3 years as a visiting professor in the USA, Italy, and as an invited speaker at various top universities and research institutions in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and virtually all European countries. (We would like to discover that after a few days in everyone of these countries, Janusz starts speaking the corresponding language approximately as fluently as if it was his native language!) .

He had also been active in various societies and associations, including the International Fuzzy Systems Association (IFSA), where he served as a Vice-President responsible for meeting in 1991-1995. Now he is a member of the IFSA council responsible for individual members, and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

He has received many awards from the Polish Academy of Sciences, various universities and learned societies. In 1997 he was among the first 10 recipients of the title "Fellow" of IFSA.

The main research interests of Prof. Kacprzyk include various areas within soft computing, mainly those related to fuzzy and intuitionistic fuzzy sets, in particular in decision making and control, and information technology (databases, decision support and expert systems, etc.).

He has published fruitfully on the above topics, and has authored 4 books published by leading Polish and international publishers. He was the co-editor of more than 20 edited volumes published by Springer-Verlag, Kluwer, Wiley, etc., including 2 volumes co-edited with the founder of fuzzy sets theory, Prof. Lotfi Zadeh. Prof. Kacprzyk is the author of more than 200 papers in scientific journals, edited volumes and conference proceedings. He is a reviewer in virtually all leading scientific journals in the area of soft computing. He is the Editor-in-chief of the series "Studies in Fuzziness and Soft Computing", published by the Springer Verlag group, and the member of the editorial boards of 12 international scientific journals, including ours. From the beginning of the next year, he will be an Editor-in-chief of the journal, too.

Krassimir Atanassov
Humberto Bustince