Preface

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In 2003 the first international conference on Permutation Patterns was held at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Subsequently the conference travelled to Canada (Malaspina University College), the USA (University of Florida), Iceland (Reykjavik University), and the United Kingdom (University of St Andrews). In June 2008 it returned to its birthplace. We are grateful to the editorial staff of the *Annals of Combinatorics* for this opportunity to present papers related to some of the presentations at Permutation Patterns 2008, as well as additional papers from this area of research.

The genesis of research into Permutation Patterns concerned enumeration problems, so it is appropriate that many of the papers in this collection continue to respect that theme. While the enumerative questions considered have widened considerably since the early studies in this area, they continue to expose many surprising and beautiful connections with classical combinatorial sequences.

We are particularly pleased with the number of young researchers choosing to investigate problems in Permutation Patterns, and this trend is reflected in the authorship of many of the papers presented here. With such keen interest, and a youthful community of researchers we feel confident that the area of Permutation Patterns research has a bright future ahead.

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