Introduction

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Volume 15 of *Genetic Programming and Evolvable Machines*.

The state of the journal as it enters its 15th year is strong, with an improving impact factor, solid numbers of submissions and downloads, and a continuing record of publishing work that is among the best and most exciting in the field.

In Volume 14 we published sixteen original research articles, including articles for a special issue on biologically inspired music, sound, art and design (thanks to Guest Editors Juan Romero, Penousal Machado, and Adrian Carballal) and a special section on the best results of EuroGP/EvoBio (thanks to Area Editor for Life Sciences James A. Foster). Volume 14 also included four book reviews, handled with skill and dedication, as always, by Resource Review Editor William B. Langdon.

Volume 15 will include, in this first issue, a new feature for the journal: a “peer commentary” special section. An explanation of the purpose of this new feature, and of the procedure that we followed in developing it (and which we aim to follow for future peer commentary special sections) is provided in the special section’s editorial introduction. We also expect to Volume 15 to include the delayed special issue on *Evolvability and Robustness in Artificial Evolving Systems* (thanks to Guest Editor Lee Altenberg), and a special issue on competitions from the 2013 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO, thanks to Guest Editor Daniele Loiacono and Area Editor for Games Moshe Sipper). Of course, we also expect to provide a full menu of regular research articles and resource reviews.

Aside from the peer commentary special section, the present issue includes two regular research articles and two book reviews. The research articles are “Contrasting meta-learning and hyper-heuristic research: the role of evolutionary algorithms,” by Gisele L. Pappa, Gabriela Ochoa, Matthew R. Hyde, Alex A.

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Freitas, John Woodward, and Jerry Swan, and “GP-induced and explicit bloating of the seeds in incremental GP improves evolutionary success” by Ivan Tanev, Tüze Kuyucu, and Katsunori Shimohara. The reviews are Daniele Loiacono’s review of Gene I. Sher’s *Handbook of neuroevolution through Erlang* and Elena Popovici’s review of *Theory of randomized search heuristics: foundations and recent developments*, which was edited by Anne Auger and Benjamin Doerr.

I hope that you will find this issue, and indeed all of Volume 15 of *Genetic Programming and Evolvable Machines*, to be both stimulating and informative.

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