

Foreword

© Springer Nature B.V. 2018

For more than twenty-five years, *Applied Categorical Structures* has been a principal forum for researchers and practitioners of category theory. With the encouragement of many colleagues, but in fact single-handedly, Robert Lowen created a scientific journal which, since the appearance of its first volume in 1993, has grown to become the leading international printed periodical centred around category theory and its applications. As its founding Editor-in-Chief, until his resignation in 2016, Bob oversaw the publication of twenty-four volumes of the journal, boasting some 750 articles, printed on more than 15,000 pages.

Bob was instrumental in facilitating this success, also by making sure that the editorial board stayed abreast of any changes and new trends in the field, and he was superbly efficient in aligning them and the interests of the research community in the broad field category theory with the publisher's constraints, a task especially challenging in times of structural changes on the side of the publisher.

With this volume, its guest editors, authors and, in fact many others in the research community, say "Thank you" to Bob, for having had the vision to create *Applied Categorical Structures*, and for having devoted so much of his talents and energy to leading the journal to where it stands today. As authors of both the first volume of 1993 and this special volume, we look back in gratitude and extend our best wishes for the future to its founding editor.

Bernhard Banaschewski
Maria Manuel Clementino
Eva Colebunders
George Janelidze
Ross Street
Walter Tholen