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As *Group Decision and Negotiation* enters its 26th year of publication, an opportunity arises to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our Journal over the years. I would like to offer word of gratitude to our readers, our contributors, and our Editorial Board for their support of the Journal and its mission. I would also like to express my appreciation to the editorial team at Springer: Stefan Einarson (Publishing Editor), Christopher Wilby (Assistant Editor), Ambiga Selvaraj (Production Editor), and Abdul Hakkim (Journal Editorial Office Assistant); they have all helped me learn about the Journal's operations and have been instrumental in making 2016 another successful year.

In the first six months of my tenure, as I reviewed submissions and worked with the Departmental Editors, Associate Editors, authors and reviewers, an emerging function of the GDN journal has become clearer to me. *Group Decision and Negotiation* has an important role to play in scholarly discourse. The Journal provides insights and tools into practice related to managing and resolving conflicts. It proposes theories grounded in empirical studies as well as models and procedures of decision-making by individuals and groups. Decisions are made in social-psychological settings within economic-technical systems and they affect decision-makers, stakeholders, and our environment. Articles published in the journal describe and analyze processes in which human and/or artificial agents participate, cooperate, and compete. Our interdisciplinary Journal publishes impactful papers that contribute to our understanding and improvement of organizational, social and political factors affecting group decisions and negotiation processes—this is exemplified by the first issue of 2017, which

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includes the Special Issue on Justice and Fairness in Negotiation, as well as the accompanying research articles.

#### **Editorial Board**

Group Decision and Negotiation is poised to become an even stronger and more widely recognized contributor to the broader group decision and negotiation discourse. Steps taken toward achieving this include broadening the Editorial Board. In 2016, the following eminent scholars committed to our Journal, joined the Editorial Board:

Fuad Aleskerov, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia

Francisco Chiclana, De Montfort University, UK

William Donohue, Michigan State University, USA

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Etiënne Rouwette, Radboud University, The Netherlands

Andrzej Skowron, University of Warsaw, Poland

Over the last months, I have had the pleasure in working with the new Associate Editors and am grateful for their support and cooperation. Their willingness to serve and to commit their time and effort to the Journal are greatly appreciated.

We would not be here if not for the hard work of the past Editor-in-Chief and the past Associate Editors. In the previous editorial (Kersten 2016a), I thanked them. At this time, I would like to recognize Akira Ishikawa from the Aoyama Gakuin University who recently passed away and whose contributions are acknowledged in Kersten (2016b, p. 1319). I also want to thank C. Michael Lewis from the University of Pittsburgh who recently retired from the Board. Over the years, Michael has generously offered his time and expertise as an author, reviewer and Associate Editor.

## **Recent and Future Changes**

The year of 2017 is special for our Journal as we are entering the second quarter of the century of publication. While the Journal has accomplished a lot to date, we can and must do more for its future growth and exposure to international scholars. To this end, we intend to create a special anniversary virtual issue comprising selected papers published over the last 25 years, each of which demonstrates the range of developments within the field. Springer will provide free online access to the entire issue. I invite readers, reviewers, authors, and the members of the Editorial Board



to send their recommendations to gdn\_editor@concordia.ca by March 1. The final selection of articles will be done jointly by the Editor-in-Chief and the Departmental Editors.

We are also planning to publish a series of "review and reflection articles," in which prominent contributors to Journal are asked to provide their perspective on significant changes in their fields of research over the past 25 years, discuss the current state-of-the-art, and offer a glimpse to the possible futures. The articles will set the stage for future research. They will be reviewed but an effort will be made to streamline the review process so that the first articles can appear within 2017 issues of the Journal. The articles are by invitation and they will be showcased and promoted.

There are also a few more mundane yet important projects for the Journal's operations. One such project is an update of the reviewer database so that searching by keywords and areas of interest yield relevant results. This will make the Associate Editors' work easier and it will help to ensure that manuscripts are reviewed by peers with substantive expertise who are well equipped to give authors and editors the best possible advice.

A recently completed activity, allows authors to suggest one or more Associate Editors to coordinate the reviewing process of their submission. This is thanks to the keywords that describe the Associate Editors' expertise and which are posted online.

We will, of course, also continue to search for high-quality manuscript submissions across topical areas and work with authors to ensure that their manuscripts maintain a sharp focus and clear implications for the field.

The submission turnaround has been shortened and efforts will be made to reduce it further. Almost all submissions that clearly do not fit the Journal's scope are returned within 10 days along with the rationale behind the rejection. In some cases, the authors of these papers are encouraged to use the Transfer Desk service provided by Springer to help them in resubmitting their manuscript to another suitable journal.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite our readers, contributing authors, and reviewers to provide me with any comments or suggestions for ways to further improve our Journal. I am open to ideas that would increase the quality and reach of the Journal, and will make every effort to work with the Board and the Publisher to implement those suggestions.

# **Appreciation to Reviewers**

The success of the Journal is due in a very large part to the many members of the scholarly community who act as reviewers. Every editor who is involved with the reviewing process is grateful and appreciative of the reviewers' hard work and contribution. Many thanks go to all the reviewers who generously provided time, expert counsel and guidance on a voluntary basis. Without their outstanding work in submitting timely, unbiased, and thoughtful reviews, the journal could not function.

The editors were asked to nominate the best reviewers using such criteria as timeliness, critical suggestions for revision, thoroughness, willingness to contribute, and enthusiasm in supporting the Journal. Based on the editors' recommendation, the ten recipients of the "Best 2016 Reviewer Award" are:



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Hannu Autto, University of Turku, Finland Suzana Dahler, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil Johannes Gettinger, Hohenheim University, Germany Miłosz Kadzinski, Poznań University of Technology, Poland Alexander Karpov, HSE, Russia Steffen Keck, University of Vienna, Austria Pasi Luukka, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland Jing Ma, University of Manitoba, Canada Alexander Mayer, University of Bayreuth, Germany Per van der Wijst, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Finally, the members of the Editorial Board and I wish to gratefully acknowledge all those who have generously given their time to review papers submitted to *Group Decision and Negotiation* in 2016. You helped the authors to improve their work and the editors to make informed decisions.

Hillie Aaldering, Universiteit van Amsterdam

James Alexander, Curtin University

Yasir Aljefri, University of Waterloo

Pavel Anselmo Álvarez-Carrillo, Universidad de Occidente

Mikel Alvarez-Mozos, Universitat de Barcelona

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Silvia Angilella, University of Catania

Marcin Anholcer, Pozna? University of Economics

Michal Araszkiewicz, Jagiellonian University

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Rachel Campagna, University of New Hampshire

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Grazia Concilio, Politecnico di Milano

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Fiorella De Cindio, University of Milan

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Viktor Dörfler, Strathclyde Business School

Lorna Doucet, Fudan University

Michael Doumpos, Technical University of Crete

Maria Teresa Escobar, University of Zaragoza

Michael Filzmoser, Technical University Wien

Alberto Franco, Loughborough University

Josep Freixas, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya

Ray Friedman, Vanderbilt University

Katsuhide Fujita, Nagoya Institute of Technology

Robert Fuller, Óbuda University

Amanda Garcia, University of Waterloo

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Liisa Horelli, Aalto University

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