Preface

Thematic issue dedicated to Professor Jan Kusiak

The authors of the papers in this thematic issue would like to dedicate these two fascinating volumes on the applications of machine learning to Professor Jan Kusiak. In this way, we would like to celebrate nearly 50 years of the Professor's work on the popularization of numerical methods, optimization methods and, above all, artificial intelligence methods in materials engineering applications. Professor Kusiak is a co-founder of the Department of Computer Modeling of Metallurgical Processes, currently known as the Department of Applied Computer Science and Modeling at the Faculty of Metals Engineering and Industrial Computer Science of the AGH University of Science and Technology. He was the founder and organizer of the successful "Applied Computer Science" undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the Faculty. He has served as the long-term director of the University E-Learning Centre at AGH (and was essentially its creator) but first and foremost he is a recognized scientist, a respected professor, an appreciated educator, a demanding review-er, a committed supervisor and, perhaps most importantly, a brilliant, kind and devoted colleague, always ready to advise and help. For years, Professor Kusiak has been organizing and co-organizing numerous conferences, including KomPlasTech, MetalForming, and Numiform. For us, however, a particularly important one has been the NeuroMet seminar series, an event which over the years has become a tremendous forum to meet people involved in the development of artificial intelligence-related methods in materials engineering and the wider industry. Professor Kusiak was the creator of this seminar series and it has been a highlight for the community over the last 25 years. We would like to say thank you for this opportunity to meet, discuss and exchange ideas, something which would not have taken place had it not been for his efforts.

Thank you Professor!

Krzysztof Regulski,
on behalf of all the Authors