

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

Committee changes: From January 2025, the IMS has a new President, Rachel Quinlan, and a new Vice President, Professor David Malone. Pádraig Ó Catháin (DCU) is a new Committee member of the IMS, having been elected at the AGM in Belfast on August 30, 2024. Congratulations also to Romina Gaburro and Professor Ann O'Shea who were re-elected to the Committee of the IMS at the AGM. The day before, at the IMS Committee meeting of August 29, Professor Peter Lynch (UCD) was co-opted to the Committee for 2024 to (among other things) assist with preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Society in 2026. Tom Carroll's term as Committee member came to an end, but fortunately he has agreed to take over as Editor of the Bulletin of the IMS and was formally appointed to this role at the Society's AGM in Belfast on August 30, 2024. This summer, Professor Tony O'Farrell wrote in the Bulletin of the IMS that he is stepping down as Editor of the Bulletin. Thanks to Tony for many years of service to the Society, including decades of service as committee member, and until this year as Editor of the Bulletin of the IMS. Tony has served as Secretary and President of the IMS, as well as Editor of the Bulletin for the last 14 years. Thank you Tony.

New members of the Society are always welcome, and I am pleased that we have had over 40 new members join the IMS in the last two years. I offer a particular welcome to Professor Boris Botvinnik of the University of Oregon. Professor Botvinnik was nominated for honorary membership of the Society by Professors David Wraith and Ann O'Shea, and myself. Professor Botvinnik was previously a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Maynooth University and maintains strong links with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in Maynooth. Professor Botvinnik was elected an Honorary Member of the Irish Mathematical Society at the AGM on 30th August 2024.

IMS Bulletin: Thanks to Tony O'Farrell for his many years of service to the IMS and in particular for his many years as Editor of the Bulletin of the IMS. Thanks also to Tom Carroll for agreeing to take up this role as Editor and to the Editorial Board of the Bulletin for their continuing work. The Bulletin is freely available online on the Society's homepage and, in printed form, from lulu.com. Institutional members now receive a complimentary printed copy of each issue.

IMS meetings: The ICEDIM Women in Mathematics Day 2024 took place on Friday 10 May 2024. This one-day conference was organised by the Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in Mathematics (ICEDIM) and took place in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Mathematics Application Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) at University of Limerick: [Link to Meeting Website](#).

The Society's annual 'September Meeting' was held at Queen's University Belfast on 29th and 30th August 2024. The meeting was well organised by Martin Mathieu, Thomas Hüttemann and Salissou Moutari. Tributes were paid to Professors Martin Mathieu and Tony O'Farrell at the meeting. At the AGM members elected new members of the Committee of the IMS, approved an honorary IMS membership, and voted on a proposed rule change on fees for IMS members aged 75+. The report on the 2024 IMS Annual Meeting and the draft Minutes of the 2024 IMS AGM are available elsewhere in the Bulletin. The IMS is very grateful to Martin Mathieu for many years of service to the society. Martin retired soon after the IMS meeting in Belfast. The next Annual Meeting of the IMS will take place in Maynooth University on 28th and 29th August 2025.

Other activities and news: The European Mathematical Society and International Mathematical Union issue calls for nominations for several prizes - see both EMS and this link for details. Members are welcome to nominate individuals or to contact Committee members of the IMS to suggest institutional nominations. I attended the Meeting of Presidents of the European Mathematical Society which took place online on 17th May. In July the IMS nominated two IMS members to be members of the EMS Young Academy - EMYA. Róisín Neururer (UCD) continues as chair of EMYA. I participated in the European Mathematical Society Council meeting in Granada on 13th and 14th July. The agenda, draft minutes and papers presented are available here: <https://euromathsoc.org/Council2024>

Much of the work of the IMS is done by the Editorial Board of the Bulletin and by the two subcommittees of the IMS: The Irish Committee for Mathematics Education (ICME) and The Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics (ICEDIM). The IMS Committee meets in person three times per year: it met on 18th December 2023 at Queen's University Belfast (the day of the IMS Christmas Lecture delivered by Prof. Chu); on 9th May 2024 at University of Limerick (the day before the ICEDIM Women in Mathematics Day); on 29th August 2024 at Queen's University Belfast (the day before the AGM); and on 16th December 2024 at Academy House, Dublin.

In December 2023, I received correspondence from the Residents' Association for Dominic Street in Dublin regarding the possible demolition of the birthplace of William Rowan Hamilton. It was determined that the property in question was not the actual birthplace. A new plaque was placed on the birthplace on Dominic St. in Dublin on 16th October 2024. I was pleased to attend this unveiling organized by Dublin City Council, as well as other Hamilton Day events in Dublin including the Hamilton Walk and events at the RIA (the Hamilton Lecture and the Hamilton Prize ceremony).

As President I was pleased to accept an invitation to the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association 60th Anniversary dinner on 23rd February.

The Astronomical Society of Ireland (ASI) contacted the Society in February regarding the Research and Innovation Bill 2024 which was due to be considered by the DFHERIS Oireachtas Committee (the Oireachtas Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science). The ASI had written a letter to the Oireachtas Committee highlighting a need for greater emphasis on funding for fundamental research in the Bill. The IMS Committee agreed that the IMS should add its voice to the discussion, and I sent a letter on 27th February 2024, to the Oireachtas Committee on behalf of the Society.

I attended The Irish Mathematical Trust Awards Ceremony in UCC on 25th May, and presented awards to secondary school teachers, as well as presenting the Fergus Gaines Cup to Fionn Kimber O'Shea. See this link for an account of the ceremony.

Each year mathematical conferences in Ireland are supported by the IMS and I attended one of these - the 22nd Galway Topology Colloquium on 4th and 5th June. I also took the opportunity to promote the IMS at seminars in Ireland, at events abroad (in Spain, Poland and Romania), and at RIA events.

Congratulations to Professor Jerome Sheahan of University of Galway who was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Science at a ceremony in August 2024 at University of Galway.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the IMS over the last seven years, as a committee member and then as Vice President and President. I am very grateful to all the volunteers who worked so hard for the Society, especially Michael Mackey for maintaining the IMS website; to Clifford Gilmore on social media; to Tom Carroll, Tony O'Farrell

and the editorial team at the Bulletin; to the IMS Committee, especially the Treasurer Conall Kelly and the Secretary Derek Kitson; to the chair Ann O'Shea and the members of the Irish Committee for Maths Education; and to the chair Romina Gaburro and the members of the Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics.

I wish the best of luck to the new President and Vice President, to the new IMS Committee member and the new Editor of the Bulletin, as well as the many other volunteers who do very important work in building a welcoming and inclusive community for mathematical research, education and applications in Ireland.

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