

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

The Irish Mathematical Society is now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, having been founded on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1976 in Trinity College Dublin. The society exists and continues to flourish because of the goodwill, energy and commitment of its members, who have maintained it and grown it as a community where people gather to do mathematics, and as a visible locus of mathematical scholarship in the island of Ireland.

A focus of attention for the Society at present is the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026. This occasion will bring opportunities to reflect on the vision and initiative of the founding members, and of everyone who has built over the years on those first steps. It also brings a chance to look to the future, at a time when higher education faces opportunities and challenges that were unimaginable in 1976. The argument for preserving and valuing and communicating the human experience of mathematical discovery is more urgent and more compelling than ever. The task of making that argument loudly and clearly is in the hands of communities like ours. I was three when the IMS was founded. There are little children around the world now who will benefit from and cherish the work of the IMS in 2076 and in the years until then. We have a moment in 2026 to look to their future and at our evolution to date, and to be proud of all that has been achieved through collective effort.

The year 2025 has been another eventful one for the IMS. Our 15 new (ordinary, life-time, student and reciprocity) members are warmly welcome. The Society supported seven conferences and workshops across a wide range of mathematical activities. These included the meeting of the European Mathematical Society Committee for Developing Countries, which was hosted in April at University College Cork. Members are encouraged to respond to the biannual calls for applications to the IMS Conference Support Fund. The level of support on offer is modest but it can make a difference, and the Committee tries to be as flexible and inclusive as possible in supporting diverse activities, in terms of location and subject matter.

The RIA-ICEDIM Women in the Mathematical Sciences Day took place at the University of Galway on May 12<sup>th</sup>, which is International Women in Mathematics Day. The event was co-organised by the Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics (an IMS committee) and the Royal Irish Academy. We welcome this partnership and thank the RIA for their financial support of the meeting, which had over 50 participants and a fascinating and diverse programme of talks including a public lecture. Thanks and congratulations to the local organisers Niall Madden and Nina Snigireva, and to all the members of ICEDIM and the organising team.

The annual meeting of the IMS took place over two days at the end of August, organised by Steve Buckley, Galatia Cleanthous, Christian Ketterer and Ollie Mason. It was a scientifically and socially stimulating event, with an extensive programme of excellent talks across a wide range of specialisms. A huge thank you to the organisers of both the Women in the Mathematical Sciences Day and the IMS annual meeting, and to everyone who contributed to both events by giving talks or presenting posters, or by taking the time and making the effort to attend and participate.

The IMS Christmas Lecture was delivered on December 15 by Robert Osburn, who was recently appointed to the George Boole Chair of Mathematics at University College Cork. The lecture, on *Unimodal sequences and mixed modularity*, was warmly appreciated by the audience. Thanks to Robert and to all who attended.

The nomination of David Conlon, Professor of Mathematics at the California Institute of Technology, for honorary membership was approved at the Annual General Meeting. David is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and the University of Cambridge, and a world leading expert in combinatorics, particularly in Ramsey theory. He has maintained his mathematical links to Ireland throughout his international career. We welcome David to the IMS. Members are reminded that nominations for honorary membership are welcome at all times. A nomination requires a proposal to the IMS Committee from three members.

The Fergus Gaines Cup was presented to Justin Ang Yang Li for the highest performance in the Irish Mathematical Olympiad (IrMO) in 2025. The IMS congratulates Justin and all participants in the IrMO.

The IMS has established a new award for Distinguished Service, as a mechanism for recognizing and celebrating extraordinary contributions. The award will be presented once every three years, for the first time in 2026. The nomination process will open on the IMS website in January 2026, with a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> March. The awardee will be announced at the 2026 annual meeting.

The IMS has enthusiastically endorsed the Glasgow ICM2030 bid to hold the 2030 International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in Glasgow and to hold the General Assembly (GA) of the International Mathematical Union in Dublin a few days before the Congress. The bid was formally submitted to the IMU in November 2025. The IMS commits to supporting the bidding process and the organisational effort (should the bid be successful) in all feasible ways. The decision on the venue for the 2030 ICM and GA will be made at the 2026 GA in New York City. The Glasgow/Dublin bid team is led by Professor Michael Wemyss of the University of Glasgow, and the Irish element is led by Professor David Wraith of Maynooth University.

The Summer 2026 issue of the IMS Bulletin will be a special one, dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Submissions are welcome on all topics relevant to the mathematical landscape in Ireland. These include articles on current research, history and biography, interviews, mathematical education, public engagement, student activities and the cultural role of mathematics. All members are strongly encouraged to submit articles on their interests to the special issue. The hope is that the issue will represent the diversity of mathematical activity in Ireland and showcase a scientifically and culturally engaged community that is open to interactions and active in all forms of mathematical expression.

The 2026 annual meeting will be hosted at Trinity College Dublin from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August. It will be the main focal point for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Many thanks to local organisers Tommaso Cremaschi, Marvin Anas Hahn, Nicolas Maschot, Tristan McLoughlin and Katrin Wendland for their commitment to this highly anticipated event. Please save the dates! It will be great to see as many members as possible on some or all of the three days of the meeting.

Finally, a note of appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the activities of the IMS in 2025. Thanks to all the committee members, especially to Ronan Flatley, Helena Šmigoc and Nina Snigireva whose terms conclude in December this year. Particular thanks to Cónall Kelly who leaves the committee at the end of 2025 after six years of outstanding service in the role of treasurer. Thanks to Tom Carroll and all the editorial team of the IMS Bulletin. Thanks to Romina Gaburro and Ann O'Shea for chairing the

ICEDIM and ICME respectively, and to all the members of those committees. Thanks to Michael Mackey for his dedication and initiative in maintaining the IMS website. Welcome to the new committee members, and to Ronan Flatley as the new chairperson of ICME from January 2026.

Rachel Quinlan  
December 2025

*E-mail address:* `president@irishmathsoc.org` and `rachel.quinlan@universityofgalway.ie`