

Meet the Editors

SELIM G. AKL



Selim G. Akl received his Ph.D. degree from McGill University in Montreal. He is a Professor of Computing at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, where he serves as Director of the School of Computing since July 2007. Throughout Dr. Akl's career, his academic interests spanned five distinct areas of computer science, namely, design and analysis of combinatorial algorithms, computational geometry, cryptography and data security, parallel computing, and unconventional computation. In each of these areas, he achieved an international leadership position.

Selim Akl has a record of sustained research, scholarship and mentoring, and is the author of two encyclopedia articles, over 170 journal papers, and over 180 conference papers in his field, as well as being the contributor of chapters in 22 books. He has also written four seminal and well known monographs on the design and analysis of parallel algorithms. Dr. Akl's books have been translated into several other languages, including Spanish, Japanese and

Italian. His contributions to the international scientific community include serving as editor of eight journals in computing and as founding editorial board member of two such publications.

Dr. Akl was an International Fellow at the Stanford Research Institute (Menlo Park, California), an NSERC Senior Industrial Fellow at MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates (Richmond, British Columbia), and a holder of the prestigious *Chaire Louis Néel* at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (Lyon, France). Recent work by Dr. Akl has uncovered general ground-breaking computational paradigms which have disproved certain conjectures in computing, hitherto widely believed to be true. One of his important contributions to the discipline has been to prove that no model of computation that performs a finite number of operations per time unit can be universal. Other contributions include building a DNA computer with error resistance, designing state of the art cryptographic algorithms for access control in a hierarchy, and the invention of quantum chess, the latter gaining significant publicity in the media. In 2005, Dr. Akl received the Queen's University Prize for Excellence in Research, and in 2012 the Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision.

Selim Akl has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at McGill University, Queen's University, and Simon Fraser University, in Canada, at the University of California, Berkeley, Kent State University, and Clarkson University, in the United States, at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Mayagüez, in Puerto Rico, and at the Universidad del Bío- Bío, in Chile. He has supervised more than 40 undergraduate students, and more than 60 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. In 2004, and again in 2007, the students in the Queen's School of Computing selected Dr. Akl to receive the Howard Staveley Teaching Award In Recognition of Teaching Excellence.

Shortly after arriving in Kingston, Selim Akl founded the French speaking theatre company *Les Tréteaux de Kingston*, now in its thirty-sixth consecutive season. Since 2005, his photography work appears on the cover of the monthly magazine *Vista*.

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