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Foreword

The Workshop on *Randomization and Approximation Techniques in Computer Science*, **Random '97**, focuses on algorithmic and complexity aspects arising in the development of efficient randomized solutions to computationally difficult problems. It aims, in particular, at fostering the cooperation among practitioners and theoreticians and among algorithmic and complexity researchers in the field. **RANDOM'97**, held at the University of Bologna, Italy, on July 11–12, 1997, co-locates with **ICALP'97**. We would like to thank the organizers of **ICALP**, Roberto Gorrieri, Pierpaolo Degano, and Alberto Marchetti-Spaccamela for this opportunity.

The scientific program of **Random '97** consists of four sessions, namely, Approximation, Randomness, Algorithms, and Complexity. The number of papers submitted was 37. Only 14 were selected. This volume contains the selected papers plus papers by invited speakers. All papers published in the workshop proceedings were selected by the program committee on the basis of referee reports. Each paper was reviewed by at least three referees who judged the papers for originality, quality, and consistency with the themes of the conference.

We would like to thank all of the authors who responded to the call for papers, our invited speakers: S. Arora, P. Crescenzi, R. Impagliazzo, and M. Karpinski, the members of the program committee:

- A. Andreev, Moscow U.
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