



**Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence**

## **AAAI Announces New President-Elect and New Executive Council Members for 2020**

**Palo Alto, CA, USA – June 24, 2020.** AAAI is pleased to announce that Francesca Rossi has been elected to serve as the next President-Elect. She will serve in that role for two years, beginning in July, and will then serve as President for two years, followed by two years as Past President.

When notified of her election, Rossi commented, *“I am deeply honored and grateful for being able to serve the AI community in this role. I look forward to working with the whole AAAI community to advance AI under a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach and to bring together academia and corporate environments, with the goal to foster a more inclusive, just, sustainable, and healthy society.”*

Bart Selman, who is the current President-Elect and who will take over as President in July, noted, *“It is very exciting for AAAI to welcome Francesca Rossi as our incoming President-Elect. Francesca is a world authority on AI Safety and Ethics and she will help AAAI in its mission to amplify the benefits AI can bring to society.”*

AAAI established the three stages of the Executive leadership to ensure continuity and support, even as the role of President changes every two years. The President acts as the principal executive officer of AAAI, with assistance from the Past President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Past President also presides over the Nominating Committee, the Fellows Committee, and several Awards Committees.

Rossi joins the AAAI Presidency with significant leadership experience at both AAAI and other AI organizations. Rossi is an IBM fellow and the IBM AI Ethics Global Leader at the T.J. Watson IBM Research Lab. Before joining IBM, she was a professor of computer science at the University of Padova, Italy. Her AI research interests focus on preferences, multi-agent systems, computational social choice, constraint reasoning, fairness, and value alignment. She has been president of IJCAI and ACP, an executive councilor of AAAI, the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of AI Research*, the program chair of CP 2003 and IJCAI-13, and the general chair of AAAI-20.

AAAI would also like to thank Subbarao Kambhampati – AAAI President 2016-2018 and Past President 2018-2020 – for his tremendous donation of time and energy during the last six years of service as an officer on the Executive Council.

Kambhampati said, *“Back in 2014, when I was elected to AAAI presidency, AI was just on the cusp of catching public imagination. It has been a singular honor to serve AAAI and the AI community during*

*these last six years of exciting technical advances as well as intense public interest and scrutiny in our field.”*

Regarding Rossi’s election, Kambhampati added, *“Having worked with Francesca in multiple capacities at AAI, IJCAI, PAI and AIES, I have great respect for her sustained and untiring service to the AI community, and eagerly look forward to her leadership of AAI.”*

In addition to the new President-Elect, AAI is pleased to announce the four incoming Councilors elected to three-year terms:

Edith Elkind (University of Oxford, UK)

Susan Epstein (The City University of New York: Hunter College, USA)

Laura Hiatt (US Naval Research Laboratory, USA)

Barry O’Sullivan (University College Cork, Ireland)

Yolanda Gil, who has served as AAI’s President since 2018 and who will now be transitioning to the role of Past President, commented on the new Executive Council, saying: *“AAI is the energetic organization that it is today because of the generosity of many who step up to become elected officers and do very important service for the community.”*

The new President-Elect and Councilors will be installed at the July meeting of the Executive Council. AAI congratulates all the new members of the AAI Executive Council.

Finally, we thank the four retiring Councilors for their dedicated service and generous donations of time: Eugene Freuder (University College Cork, Ireland), Claire Monteleoni (George Washington University, USA), Cynthia Rudin (Duke University, USA), and Matthijs Spaan (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands).

The eight councilors elected in 2018 and 2019 will continue their terms of service during the coming year. For a complete list of current officers and councilors, please refer to <http://www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php>.

### **About the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence**

Founded in 1979, the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAI) is a nonprofit scientific society devoted to advancing the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying thought and intelligent behavior and their embodiment in machines. AAI aims to promote research in, and responsible use of, artificial intelligence, and to increase public understanding of the field.

For more information, see <http://www.aaai.org>.

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