Candidate for President
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Elisa Bertino
Samuel Conte Distinguished Professor of Computer Science
Computer Science Department, Purdue University
West Lafayette IN
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Elisa Bertino is a Samuel Conte Distinguished Professor of Computer Science at Purdue University. She has made pioneering contributions over 40 years to information and systems security and privacy, along with contributions to broadening participation in computing via professional leadership and mentoring. Her contributions to data security and privacy include context-based access control, data integrity, privacy-preserving analytics, and data protection from insider threats. Her recent work focuses on security of cellular networks and IoT systems.

Prior to joining Purdue, she was a professor and department head at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Milan (Italy). She has been a postdoc at the IBM Research Laboratory (now Almaden) in San Jose, and a visiting professor at the Singapore Management University, the Singapore National University, and Linköping University.

She has served as editor in chief of the IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing, and coordinating co-editor in chief of the Very Large Database Systems (VLDB) Journal. She served as Chair of the ACM Special Interest Group on Security, Audit and Control (SIGSAC) for the period 2009-2013. She is a co-founder of the ACM Conference on Data and Application Security and Privacy (ACM CODASPY). The conference started in 2011 and is the main forum for high-quality research on data privacy and security.

Elisa Bertino is a Fellow member of ACM, IEEE, and AAAS. She received the 2019-2020 ACM Athena Lecturer Award and has been named to GSMA's Mobile Security Research Hall of Fame for her work on 4G and 5G cellular network security. She received the 2014 ACM SIGSAC Outstanding Contribution Award "For her seminal research contributions and outstanding leadership to Data Security and Privacy for the past 25 years," the 2021 IEEE Innovation in

Societal Infrastructure Award “For advancing the security and privacy of new-generation cellular networks,” and the 2005 IEEE Computer Society Tsutomu Kanai Award for “Pioneering and innovative research contributions to secure distributed systems.”

STATEMENT

I have been a member of ACM for over forty years, and throughout this time ACM has been a vital source of professional growth, collaboration, and community for me and for countless computing professionals worldwide. I am honored to be nominated for President of ACM. My service has included chairing the ACM Special Interest Group on Security, Audit and Control (SIGSAC), serving as ACM Secretary/Treasurer, and currently serving as ACM Vice President. Through these roles, I have gained a deep appreciation for the dedication of ACM’s volunteers and leaders across the globe, whose collective efforts sustain ACM’s mission of advancing computing as a science, a profession, and a force for positive change.

Computing now stands at a defining moment. Transformative advances in artificial intelligence, data science, cloud and edge infrastructures, ubiquitous sensing, and quantum computing are reshaping research, industry, and society at unprecedented speed and scale. These developments create extraordinary opportunities for discovery, innovation, and economic growth. At the same time, they raise profound challenges related to trustworthiness, fairness, accountability, privacy, security, workforce readiness, and environmental sustainability. Meeting these challenges requires not only continued excellence in foundational research, but also strong professional leadership and sustained dialogue across disciplines, sectors, and regions.

ACM has a unique responsibility—and a unique capacity—to provide that leadership. As the world’s premier computing society, ACM is uniquely positioned to convene researchers, practitioners, educators, and policymakers, and to offer rigorous, evidence-based guidance on the responsible design and deployment of computing technologies. By strengthening its role as a trusted global voice, ACM can help ensure that technical advances are aligned with societal values and the public good.

If elected, I will work to advance this role in several concrete ways. I will support early-career researchers and educators through enhanced mentorship, recognition, and meaningful opportunities to participate in ACM governance and leadership. I will promote open, sustainable, and equitable access to publications, data, and research infrastructure, recognizing that broad access is essential to scientific progress and global impact. I will also champion efforts to expand ACM’s reach across regions and cultures, strengthening participation from underrepresented communities and fostering a truly diverse ecosystem of ideas. As computing becomes ever more central to economic and social systems, ACM must play a leading role in preparing a globally skilled workforce capable of innovating responsibly and resiliently.

ACM stands at a pivotal moment in its history. I am committed to helping our community lead with integrity, inclusiveness, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose as we work together to shape the future of computing.

Candidate for President
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Jens Palsberg
Professor
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Los Angeles, CA
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Computer Science Professor with 30 years of experience that includes leading the UCLA Computer Science Department, ACM SIGPLAN, and ACM TOPLAS. Principal investigator or co-PI on $33 million of research funding from NSF, DARPA, IBM, and others; organizer of POPL, LICS, and SPIN; and program chair of POPL. Highly cited author of 150 papers and books, advisor of sixteen graduated Ph.D. students, and ACM distinguished lecturer. Recipient of a PLDI distinguished paper award. Recipient of a UCLA teaching award, a Purdue University teaching award, and an ACM SIGPLAN distinguished service award.

PhD, University of Aarhus, Department of Computer Science, Denmark, 1992.
MBA, Executive MBA Program, UCLA Anderson School of Management, 2017.

Professor, Purdue University, 1996-2003.
Professor, UCLA, 2003-present.

Secretary/Treasurer and Vice Chair of ACM SIGBED, 2005-2009.
Editor-in-Chief of ACM TOPLAS, 2010-2016.
Chair, ACM SIGPLAN, 2018-2021.
Chair, ACM SIG Governing Board, 2020-2024.
Member, ACM Executive Committee, 2020-2024.
Member, ACM Council, 2020-present.

Member, Executive Committee of the UCLA Institute for Digital Research and Education, 2007-2020.
Chair of the UCLA Computer Science Department, 2010-2015.
Chair of the UCLA Council on Planning and Budget, 2018-2019.
Member, the Ascend Steering Committee, 2019-2022, which worked on modernizing UCLA's financial infrastructure.
Chair of UCLA Senate Advisory Committee on Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs, 2023-present.
Director of the UCLA-Amazon Science Hub for Humanity and Artificial Intelligence, 2021-present.
Co-director of the UCLA Center for Quantum Science and Engineering,
Member of the executive committee of the NSF Challenge Institute for Quantum Computation, 2021-present.

Member of the editorial boards of ACM Transactions on Quantum Computing 2021-present; IEEE Transactions on Computers, 2022-present; Science of Computer Programming, 2020-present; Information and Computation, 2003-present. Member of 24 National Science Foundation review panels. Instructor of UCLA courses on quantum computing and compiler construction. Expert witness who was deposed three times in litigation cases.

STATEMENT

ACM is an organization that is dear to my heart. I see ACM as my intellectual home: it organizes the conferences I attend, publishes the research I rely on, and connects me with outstanding colleagues across computing. I prioritize giving back to ACM by volunteering wherever I can and encouraging others to get involved.

I am running for President because I want to strengthen the global computing community. As computing takes on an increasingly central role in society, we must reinforce the connections among the diverse people and groups that make up ACM and ensure that every member feels welcome, valued, and able to make a meaningful impact. Stronger ties within our community will help us maintain high standards, give us the capacity to grow thoughtfully, and increase the enjoyment and pride that come from participating in ACM.

I will continue ACM's current efforts on open science, globalization, and responsible computing. I will also prioritize the affordability of ACM conferences, our response to the impact of AI across ACM, and our push to lead in new areas such as quantum computing. In addition, I will launch the following three initiatives.

Increase communication: I will take every opportunity to tell the community what we are doing and to respond to concerns and ideas. As we improve our digital library, select conference locations, and combat collusion rings, I will write blog posts, host town hall meetings, invite feedback, and encourage the leaders of all units of ACM to do the same. More communication will help make ACM more open and cohesive, while giving everyone a voice.

Support ACM volunteers: ACM depends on the dedicated work of volunteers, but too many of them are overworked and experience burnout. I will address this by encouraging and recruiting new volunteers, and by giving them better tool support. I will increase awareness of how all members can participate in entry-level volunteer roles, strengthen the volunteer pipeline, and introduce frequent-volunteer points to visibly recognize sustained service and encourage broader participation.

Engage the next generation: For ACM to continue to thrive, we must bolster our efforts to recruit, retain, and support students. I will expand ACM student groups at universities and colleges worldwide by inviting students to found new chapters, leveraging nearby ACM groups for support, and partnering with local computing departments. Stronger student chapters will help students connect their local activities to the global ACM community and encourage continued membership after graduation. I will also create an ACM-wide mentoring network, modeled on successful efforts in some of ACM's special interest groups.

Through these community initiatives, we will lay the foundation for ACM's continued excellence.

Candidate for Vice President
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Anand Deshpande
Founder and Chairman
Persistent Systems
Pune, India

BIOGRAPHY

Anand Deshpande is a technologist, entrepreneur, and community leader with more than 35 years of experience building and scaling global technology organisations. He is the Founder and Chairman of Persistent Systems, a digital engineering and enterprise modernisation company with over 26,000 professionals. He founded Persistent in 1990 after a short stint at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto. Deshpande holds a PhD in Computer Science from Indiana University and a B Tech in Computer Science from IIT Kharagpur.

He has been a member since 1984 and has deeply engaged with ACM and the global research community. As the founding President of the ACM India Council (2010–2012), he helped establish ACM's presence and programmes across India and has continued to support ACM initiatives in research, education, and community-building. For his sustained service and leadership, he received the 2024 ACM Presidential Award. He completed his term as a Trustee of the VLDB Endowment in 2025 and has served as Chairman of the Boards of IIT Patna, IIIT Allahabad, and VJTI Mumbai.

Deshpande plays a key role in strengthening India's interdisciplinary research capacity through his work with BRIC – Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council – fostering collaboration across biology, AI, engineering, and data-centric science.

Beyond research, he has contributed significantly to India's innovation and entrepreneurship landscape. Through the deAsra Foundation, he has enabled more than 500,000 nano-entrepreneurs and through the Second Orbit program, leads scaling programmes for thousands of mid-sized technology companies.

Deshpande is a Fellow of the Indian National Academies of Science and Engineering. His experience building and guiding a large multinational technology organisation—and his broad engagement across industry, research, and academia—positions him well to help ACM enhance its global relevance, expand participation, and navigate the opportunities and responsibilities of an AI- and data-driven future.

STATEMENT

ACM is a strong and respected global institution, and I deeply value its contribution across research, education, publications, and professional communities. As Vice President, my priority will be to strengthen these foundations and ensure that ACM remains a truly member-driven organisation—of the members, by the members, and for the members.

ACM is an exceptional platform for global impact, and I will focus on increasing membership by making ACM increasingly relevant to researchers, practitioners, educators, and professionals, especially in emerging regions, by demonstrating clear, differentiated value for every member segment. We must also inspire the next generation of computing professionals to see ACM as their intellectual home and as a community that advances both their careers and the discipline.

ACM Digital Library's transition to open access is a bold and important milestone. To sustain this model while preserving quality, independence, and long-term stability, ACM must develop innovative and durable financial models, engage new constituencies, and expand the ways members contribute to and benefit from ACM. Drawing on my experience leading a multinational technology organisation, I look forward to collaborating with fellow ACM leadership to address this strategic shift.

The nature of research is evolving. Interdisciplinary work and team science are increasingly prioritised by funding agencies and by industry. I will encourage greater engagement with adjacent fields and explore ways to co-locate and collaborate with communities beyond computing.

Continuous learning is essential in the era of rapid technological change. My experience in building global talent pipelines reinforces my belief that ACM can play an even larger role in lifelong learning.

Finally, ACM must be a catalyst for entrepreneurship, innovation, and societal impact. As a leader in entrepreneurial ecosystems, I appreciate what it takes to help ideas move from research into products, companies, and policy.

We must deepen ACM's engagement with governments and policy think tanks worldwide so that our members are recognised as trusted voices in shaping the future of technology and its societal consequences.

ACM's greatest strength is its people, and together we can shape a future where computing empowers all.

Candidate for Vice President
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Rashmi Mohan
Director of Engineering
Cisco (Splunk) Inc.
San Francisco, CA
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Rashmi Mohan is currently a Director of Engineering at Cisco (Splunk) Inc. leading the Enterprise Security SIEM Investigations and Foundations engineering teams. As a technology leader, she has managed, led and grown teams of engineers and helped deliver complex products both on-prem and in the cloud in the security data analytics domain.

Previously, as co-founder at EnTrio Partners, she worked with startups on developing their product ideas while also assisting larger companies with their digital transformation journeys. Prior to that, she was a Sr. Engineering Manager at Yahoo Labs and led a group of scientists and engineers. She has spent 25+ years in various technical and management roles in the industry. She previously worked in the User Data and Analytics group at Yahoo! working on reporting applications.

Rashmi has been on the ACM executive council as a Secretary/Treasurer since 2024, a Member at Large since 2022, on the ACM practitioners board and is the founding member and host of the popular podcast series ACM Bytecast. Through the podcasts, she brings out the inspiring stories of eminent practitioners with the goal of highlighting their monumental work, and showcasing diverse paths to success. She is co-leading the Youthification charter as a part of the PTF and serving on the ACM AI summit planning committee, specifically around AI in the workforce. She has served on the ACM India council (2014-2018) as a member at large and as the ACM India council secretary (2016-2018). She actively participated in the ACM eminent speaker series, addressing ACM student chapters and ACM-W chapters across the country.

Rashmi has previously been associated with the Grace Hopper Conference in India for five years as a mentor, advisory committee member, Program Chair and founding member of the all women Hackathon. Rashmi was also a mentor at the Oracle Startup Cloud Accelerator and Google

Launchpad. She is a prolific public speaker including a widely publicized talk at TEDx Chennai. Rashmi has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Santa Clara University.

STATEMENT

I am truly honored and humbled to be considered for the position of Vice President of ACM.
My 12-year journey with ACM has mirrored my professional career, evolving in scope, impact, and responsibility. Through leadership roles as ACM Secretary/Treasurer, serving on the ACM India Council, the Practitioners Board—as well as hosting the ACM Bytecast—I have gained a holistic understanding of our diverse membership. I am dedicated to synthesizing my industry expertise with these volunteer experiences to provide strategic perspectives that advance ACM's global initiatives.

My goals as Vice President would be to:

- Invest in the future of computing by creating meaningful avenues for youth to collaborate, innovate ethically, and lead interdisciplinary research. As a leader on the Youthification ACM presidential task force, my goal will be to understand and highlight the needs and voices of this section of our community.

- Make 'AI augmented Workplace' a central pillar for ACM and provide our members with a roadmap for career longevity in an automated world. Create forums where students and practitioners can master these emerging paradigms from "vibe coding" to agentic workflows, share best practices for cross-functional collaboration, and ensure that AI remains a tool for human empowerment

- Elevate ACM's technical excellence by showcasing diverse thought leadership and pioneering research through streamlined, engaging content. By translating complex breakthroughs into digestible insights, we can inspire a broader spectrum of our community and provide clear roadmaps for professional growth. Use ACM's myriad content delivery mechanisms to bridge the gap between academic research and industry application

- Create a mentorship model that facilitates a bi-directional, easy exchange of ideas and learnings between all sections of our community. Focus on two-way value where senior members provide high-level career guidance and architectural wisdom, while our youth offer hands-on insights into emerging dev-stacks, agentic AI tools, and the evolving ethics of the modern workplace

My experience leading organizations through change and adoption of new ideas and technologies, paired with my tenure being ACM Secretary/Treasurer will assist me in playing this role effectively, if elected. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to continuing to serve the ACM community.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Tom Crick
Professor of Digital Society and Policy
University of Bristol
Bristol, UK

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Tom Crick is Professor of Digital Society and Policy at the University of Bristol and Chief Scientific Adviser at the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Trained as a computer scientist, his academic work spans computing, data, and artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on the societal, cultural, economic, and institutional impacts of digital technologies.

His research portfolio is interdisciplinary and international, addressing digital governance, responsible AI, open science, and computing education. His work has been supported by major public research funders and has informed policy, professional practice, and institutional reform across multiple jurisdictions. He has published extensively and holds senior editorial and advisory roles within the computing research community. He has also chaired major national curriculum reviews in computing and STEM education.

As a Chief Scientific Adviser, he provides independent scientific and technical advice to ministers and senior officials, overseeing research and evidence use, developing and implementing science strategy, and fostering responsible AI adoption within complex public systems. His role includes leadership on R&D prioritisation, assurance, and governance, working closely with public funders, industry, and academia.

Professor Crick has extensive experience in governance and financial oversight across academic, professional, and public institutions, including board-level service in multi-billion-pound, highly regulated sectors. He is a long-standing elected Member-at-Large of the ACM Council, contributing to Council deliberations on governance, finance, and institutional priorities, and has supported ACM activities spanning publications, conferences, professional practice, and financial

sustainability. He is a Fellow of multiple professional and learned societies and has received international recognition for contributions to computing education and digital skills.

STATEMENT

I am standing for Secretary/Treasurer to further support the ACM in building and maintaining strong governance, financial resilience, and institutional trust during a period of sustained disruption and change.

ACM, like many global professional societies, operates in an environment shaped by rapid technological change, evolving publication and conference models, financial uncertainty, legislative/regulatory pressures, and shifting expectations from a diverse international membership. Addressing these challenges requires disciplined stewardship of resources, transparent decision-making, and a long-term commitment to institutional sustainability.

My professional experience spans both senior leadership and non-executive governance roles across academia, government, and highly-regulated economic sectors, with direct responsibility for oversight of complex budgets, audit and risk frameworks, and assurance processes. This includes stewardship of multi-million-pound national research and innovation portfolios, responsible AI adoption, and organisational decision-making under public and regulatory scrutiny.

As a long-standing elected Member-at-Large of ACM Council and a member of the ACM Presidential Taskforce on Financial Models, I have seen how sound financial management and effective governance enable ACM's core missions: supporting members worldwide, sustaining high-quality publications and conferences, and investing responsibly in future initiatives. If elected, I would work constructively with Council, the Executive Committee, and ACM staff (and naturally, ACM members) to ensure that ACM remains financially robust, well governed, and able to serve the global computing community with confidence and integrity.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Jayant R Haritsa
Senior Professor
Dept of Computational & Data Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bengaluru, India

BIOGRAPHY

Jayant Haritsa has served on the computer science faculty at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, for over three decades. He has made foundational contributions to the design, implementation and evaluation of relational database engines, which underpin modern enterprise information systems.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from IIT Madras, and the MS and PhD degrees in computer science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. During his academic career, he has spent industry sabbaticals at Lucent Bell Labs, IBM Research, and Microsoft Research.

Haritsa is a Fellow of both ACM and IEEE, and his research has received awards at premier international database conferences. He has developed a suite of software tools, including the widely used Picasso query optimizer visualizer, that have received a warm reception from both academic researchers and the database industry. He was the Program Co-Chair of ICDE 2010 and VLDB 2016, and is currently General Co-Chair for ACM SIGMOD 2026.

Within India, Haritsa has played a leadership role in establishing broad visibility for the country's database research, authoring early papers in major ACM venues, including SIGMOD and CIKM, which now regularly feature an Indian presence. He is a Fellow of all four Indian science and engineering academies, and a recipient of the highest national recognitions, including Swarnajayanti Fellowship (young achiever award), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (scientific excellence award), and Infosys Prize (research impact award). He is also a Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Madras.

An ACM member since 1989, Haritsa was elected to the ACM India Council in 2018 and became its President during 2020–2022. During his tenure, he led a comprehensive restructuring of the Council's operations, strengthening engagement, effectiveness and accountability. At the global level, Haritsa has contributed to enhancing ACM's international presence, has recently served on the editorial board of ACM Books, and is currently co-chairing the Presidential Task Force on Regional Offices.

STATEMENT

From my vantage location in Bangalore, a global computing hub, I have witnessed profound emerging shifts in both the pedagogy and practice of computer science. To successfully navigate these simultaneously exciting and challenging times, ACM must reimagine its programs, processes and governance. If elected, I would prioritize the following issues:

PTF recommendations: Ten Presidential Task Forces (PTFs), spanning the spectrum of ACM activities, were constituted by recent ACM Councils, and have produced cogent proposals. My close association with two PTFs – Bylaws as a member, and Regional Offices as Co-chair – has provided insight into how these recommendations can be implemented effectively.

Member participation: Despite ACM's large and diverse membership, participation in governance and elections has historically been low. This involvement gap hampers the Council's ability to (a) accurately reflect the aspirations of the ACM diaspora, and (b) amend the Constitution (which requires voting by at least 10% of the membership). I would advocate crafting strong outreach and incentive mechanisms to foster deeper member engagement in ACM's institutional processes.

ACM conferences: A hallmark of ACM has been its large portfolio of high-quality conferences showcasing the latest research advances. Sustaining this reputation, which is under pressure, requires privileging creativity over derivative work, ensuring the integrity of peer review, and emphasizing quality over quantity. My efforts in this sphere would aim to ensure we remain faithful to ACM's charter of "serving both professional and public interests".

I believe my significant exposure to ACM operations, especially the four-year stint on the ACM India Council, would help make substantive progress toward these goals.

Candidate for Member-at-Large
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2030)

Carlos Jaime Barrios Hernández
Full Professor
Universidad Industrial de Santander
Bucaramanga, Colombia

Guest Researcher
LIG/INRIA-Grenoble and INSA-Lyon / CITI Laboratory
France

BIOGRAPHY

Carlos J. Barrios Hernández is a Full Professor at UIS Colombia and head of SC3UIS. A guest researcher at LIG/INRIA and CITI-Lyon, France, his academic background includes a PhD from Université Nice-Sophia Antipolis, an MSc from Grenoble-Alpes, and an HDR from INSA-Lyon (2025).

As a leader in HPC and the computing continuum, he has chaired SCALAC since 2014 and co-founded the CARLA conference and the SC-CAMP School. His scientific work comprises 100+ peer-reviewed publications and several patents, focusing on scalable HPC architectures, hybrid systems, sustainability, scientific computing, and energy efficiency.

He is an ACM Senior Member (2025), chair of the SIGHPC Computing Continuum Chapter, and a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society. He bridges global research through scientific cooperation and partnerships, fostering advanced digital and technical exchange for human wellness.

STATEMENT

My research transforms traditional HPC into a **sustainable computing continuum,** integrating multi-scale, hybrid, and non-classical architectures. As AI demand rises, I prioritize energy efficiency and environmental responsibility, optimizing massive parallel processing to support social progress without causing ecological harm.

I propose four key global actions through the ACM:

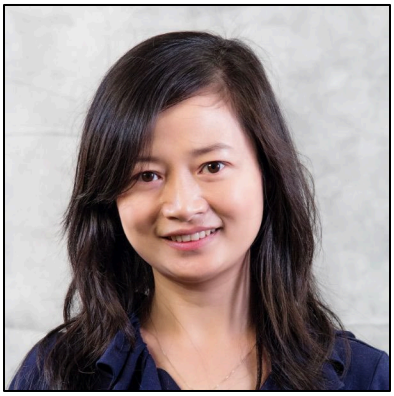
1. **Global Cooperation**: Solidify partnerships via shared resource-scheduling protocols and joint research calls targeting global crises, shifting from competition to coordination.

2. **Techno-Ecological Responsibility**: Aligning with ACM Principle 1.1, I advocate for "Sustainability Scores" in scientific activities to motivate ethical development and document social impacts.

3. **Open Science & Inclusion**: Bridge the "knowledge gap" by promoting multilingual open-access repositories (Spanish, Portuguese, French) and providing remote regions with access to research platforms.

4. **Ethics & Outreach**: Establish **Global Ethics Task Forces** to advise on data sovereignty and carbon footprints, ensuring advanced computing protects life and fosters inclusion.

Candidate for Member-at-Large
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2030)



Yunyao Li
Director of Machine Learning
Adobe
San Jose, CA
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Yunyao Li is a Director of Machine Learning at Adobe Experience Platform, where she leads strategic initiatives to integrate Generative AI and Knowledge Graphs into scalable enterprise systems. She previously served as Head of Machine Learning for the Apple Knowledge Platform, delivering ML solutions that power Siri and Spotlight for billions of users. Earlier, as a Distinguished Research Staff Member and Master Inventor at IBM Research – Almaden, she founded the Scalable Knowledge Intelligence department and transitioned foundational research into over 20 commercial products.

Yunyao has made significant contributions to scalable natural language processing (NLP) and human–computer cooperation. She has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and holds 36 patents. She is the co-author of two books, including the recent Natural Language Interfaces to Databases (2024).

Deeply committed to bridging industry and academia, Yunyao serves on advisory boards for academic programs at the University of Michigan, UC Santa Cruz, and the University of Colorado Boulder, where she helps shape curriculum and mentors future computing professionals. Her global influence is reflected in her frequent keynote addresses and invited talks at leading institutions and conferences.

Her leadership is further defined by her role in architecting the venues where the computing community connects, including her work pioneering the establishment of Industry Tracks at premier conferences such as NAACL (2018, 2021, 2022), EMNLP (2022), and ACL (2025, 2026).

An ACM Distinguished Member, Yunyao has served on more than 20 organizing committees for premier conferences and as a guest editor for leading ACM journals. Beyond ACM, she served on the NAACL Executive Board (2022–2024) and was selected for the American National Academies' inaugural New Voices program. She holds undergraduate degrees from Tsinghua University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated for ACM Member at Large. We are at a pivotal moment where AI is fundamentally reshaping the computing landscape. In this era of rapid change, ACM has a unique and essential duty to bridge disparate communities, cultivate diverse talent, and provide the trusted leadership our field requires.

Bridging the Industry-Academia Gap in AI: My top priority is expanding ACM's relevance to the industry, which today encompasses both researchers and practitioners deploying systems at a global scale. Having pioneered the inaugural Industry Track at NAACL 2018 and expanded this model across other premier venues, I have seen how intentional industry integration enriches our scientific discourse. I will champion the expansion of ACM venues to better welcome practitioner participation, fostering a tighter feedback loop between foundational discovery and real-world deployment across all ACM SIGs.

Empowering the Next Generation: As early-career professionals navigate a landscape of technical uncertainty, ACM must be their most reliable partner in professional development. I will lead efforts to create inclusive leadership opportunities and cross-sector mentoring programs. My goal is to equip the next generation with the networks and skills required for success across academia, industry, and engineering.

Enhancing Global Impact and Public Voice: We must broaden ACM's reach to better support emerging research communities globally. Simultaneously, as AI raises profound societal questions, ACM must serve as the preeminent evidence-based voice for the public. I will leverage my experience with the National Academies to support efforts that translate technical expertise into accessible, actionable guidance for policymakers and the global community.

I look forward to collaborating with ACM's leadership and volunteers to ensure our organization remains the premier, inclusive home for those shaping the future of computing.

Candidate for Member-at-Large
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2030)

Lydia Tapia
Professor of Computer Science
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Lydia Tapia earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Tulane University in 1998 and the Ph.D. in Computer Science from Texas A&M University in 2009. Her dissertation was Intelligent Motion Planning and Analysis with Roadmap Methods for the Study of Complex and High-Dimensional Motions. After holding a Computing Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin, she joined the University of New Mexico, where she is a Professor of Computer Science and previously served as Department Chair. In those roles, she led significant faculty growth, hiring 25 percent of the faculty, secured departmental accreditation, and mentored over 30 research trainees. She also served as Faculty in Residence at Google, working in robotics and engineering education.

Her research applies machine learning to problems in robotics, games, and computational biology, where systems must reason about complex movements and decisions. She has authored or coauthored more than 65 peer-reviewed papers and holds a U.S. patent. Her work has been recognized with a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the Borg Early Career Award from the Computing Research Association, and a Best Paper Award. She helped found an ACM-W chapter as a graduate student and has since been active in ACM conferences, including SIGBIO- and SIGGRAPH-affiliated venues. She has a long record of professional service, including elected service on the Computing Research Association Board, leadership of graduate mentoring initiatives, editorial roles for major robotics journals and conferences, and organization of the international Becoming a Robot Guru undergraduate workshop series introducing students to graduate study in robotics and strategies for success.

STATEMENT

My professional experience as a teacher, researcher, administrator, and national service leader has been shaped by periods of rapid change in education and technology. Educators are at the front lines, advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are currently reshaping expectations for graduates, faculty workloads, and the structure of computing programs. These shifts now directly affect employability: students are expected to graduate with both strong foundational knowledge and practical fluency in AI-based tools and workflows. Departments and instructors are being asked to deliver this preparation while maintaining rigor, fairness, and long-term educational value.

As a Member at Large of the Association for Computing Machinery, my goal would be to help ACM address the education-workforce transition in a clear and practical way. ACM is well positioned as both a leader in open access research and a hub for professional development. I believe ACM can provide leadership on how AI should be integrated into computing education, supporting both undergraduate and graduate programs as well as retraining and continuing education for current professionals, without narrowing learning to short-term tool adoption. My focus would be on advancing evidence-based curricular guidance, clarifying professional expectations in an AI-mediated workplace, and strengthening pathways from computing education to meaningful employment. I aim to help ACM remain a trusted voice that supports members at all career stages while preserving the core principles of computing as a discipline and profession.

Candidate for Member-at-Large
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2030)

Holly Yanco
Distinguished Professor of Computer Science
Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

In September 2025, Holly Yanco joined the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Amherst after 24 years at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Yanco is leading the expansion of robotics at UMass Amherst as a Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering. Yanco is the founding director of the New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center, now growing to a second location.

For more than 25 years, Yanco has developed and led a wide range of interdisciplinary collaborations to solve open problems in robotics and AI. Her research interests include human-robot interaction, evaluation metrics and methods for robot systems and AI, and the use of robots in K-12 education to broaden participation in computer science.

Yanco is currently the Chair of the ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee after joining the committee in 2023. She was General Chair of the 2012 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction. As co-chair of its steering committee from 2013 to 2016, she co-led the creation of the ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction. Yanco is a member of the DARPA ISAT Study Group (2024-2027) and has served on AAAI's Executive Council (2006-2009) and the CRA Computing Community Consortium (2020-2025).

Yanco is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Yanco earned her BA in Computer Science and Philosophy from Wellesley College and her MS and PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

STATEMENT

Computing continues to rapidly evolve, especially with recent advancements in AI. While exciting, it also brings challenges to our ACM community. In academia, AI is being taught across the university, not just in CS where we ensure that technical depth is provided. People without a CS background can produce code that once required a high level of proficiency; while broadening access is powerful, people without CS training may not learn about the ACM Code of Ethics. Conferences are experiencing tremendous pressure with skyrocketing numbers of submissions, asking more of people who volunteer to serve as organizers and program committee members.

Rather than react to each issue in small groups, our community needs to proactively determine how we want to shape the future together. I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for Member at Large of the ACM Council. With over 30 years of experience serving the community, my goal is to help ACM lead the global dialogue about the development, evaluation, and societal integration of computing technologies for the benefit of all.

I am particularly interested in exploring how ACM can grow by embracing interdisciplinarity, particularly as AI expands. The International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction has been jointly run by ACM and IEEE since 2006, bringing together several communities. As a Member at Large of the ACM Council, I will identify and advocate for interdisciplinary collaborations that will not only increase ACM's impact but will also allow us to lead the discussions about how we intersect with other fields.