Candidate for President
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Elisa Bertino
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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.