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

Jens Palsberg
Professor
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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.