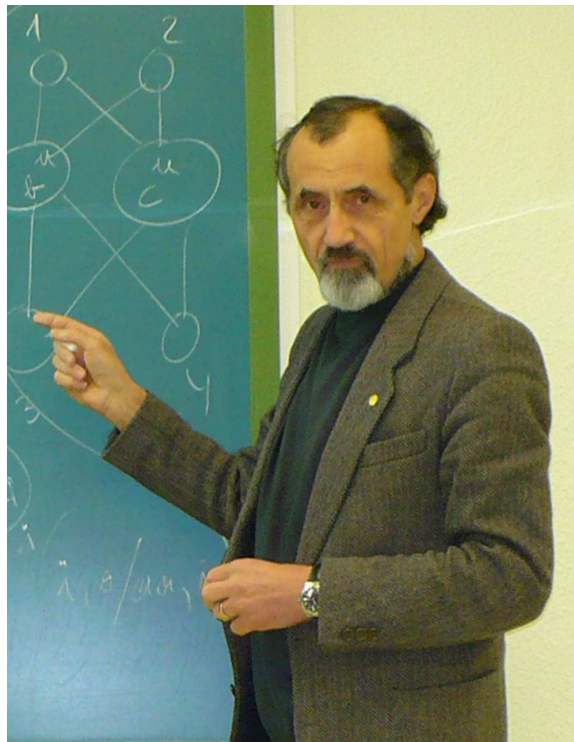


GHEORGHE PĂUN

(A tribute in honour of his 60th birthday)



We know him for a whole life. At first it was just a name, often found in journals – particularly in the abstract journals, because in the '70s we did not have too much access to literature from abroad, or even from the neighboring country. "I have a dream", – confessed one of colleagues – "to visit Bucharest, Gheorghe Păun." For those times a research visit, especially from the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic to Romania could be just a dream.

The dream was realized much later, only in 1996, when to our colleague that had a speech in the plenary conference, came a tall, handsome man, addressing his congratulations and expressing interest in what he had heard. "My name is Gheorghe Păun", – he introduced himself. Thus began our collaboration, which already lasts for 15 years and has brought fruitful results. A testimony to this collaboration is exposed on the pages of this issue, which we devote to the 60 years anniversary of the eminent scientist and cultural figure, Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy, Member of the Romanian Writers Association, Gheorghe Păun.

Gheorghe Păun had a powerful influence on the development of theoretical computer science, especially the area of natural computing. He is the inventor of the new rapidly developing area of biocomputing – computing using membrane systems, or P systems. Due to the results and ideas of Gheorghe Păun in biocomputing the team of scientists working successfully in this direction was formed in the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science. Gheorghe Păun is not only an outstanding scientist, but he is an active promoter of science, writes and publishes collections of poetry, publishes science fiction novels and books. We are very grateful that he, being so much busy, has time to be the member of editorial board of "Computer Science Journal of Moldova", and it is a great honour for us.

We wish Gheorghe Păun long fruitful creative life, opening new roads in science. And we are happy to follow him.

Editorial board of Computer Science Journal of Moldova