

Hello everyone,

I begin by thanking the Local Organizing Committee, as well as the InterPore Office who did a great job bringing this conference together, given the very difficult circumstances we had this year. I also would like to thank all the attendees, invited and plenary speakers, everyone who presented and the audience, who made the InterPore conference another success. A very big thank you to Prof. Karsten Thompson for his dedicated leadership over the last two years as the President of InterPore. Karsten did a great job in bringing more vision and strategy to the InterPore community, and I believe in the next two years, as a member of the Executive Committee, we will use his experience on how to move forward.

I regret that I could not join in-person, due to Visa restrictions, but I attended as much as I could given the time difference. I attended many talks and discussions and clearly I could see the quality presented. It was fascinating to hear, even remotely online. However, celebrating all the success, it doesn't mean that everything went well. We had a 40% drop in physical attendance, and it was not due to a lack of interest or lack of quality of the talks. It was purely due to fact many people could not attend in-person for various reasons: high costs, the financial stress in Academia and some, like me, due to restrictions imposed by politics.

This brings me to a topic that is becoming more important, and that is open science. To me, open science is not about open data or open access publications, it's about no boundaries for the people. What makes the science are the people. And I hope everyone, regardless of their nationality and circumstances, can be a part of the community that they belong to. When politics blocks participation, the science suffers. There have been major political changes in the world in the last year, that has imposed a huge threat to science, financially and politically. We, the researchers, are the ones suffering directly from this situation. We have to be able to navigate through these difficult situations by strengthening participation and by developing decentralised activities whenever possible. The National Chapters should become even more active to bring people together locally, and referring to Tiina Roose's inspiring talk, we should not be bystanders. We should have our own voice when something is not fair or justified, and we should reflect on our values.

I hope in the next 2 years, I can be a good leader for the InterPore Community, and going back to the open science, I am also an open person, so please reach out to me with any comments or suggestions and I hope I can help.

To finish, I would like thank, once again, everyone who contributed to the success of InterPore2025, and see you at the next conference.

Vahid Niasar

InterPore President