Editorial

Dear Reader,

As we start a new year, many of us will be reflecting on what the previous one has taught us. For me, 2020 started with planning teaching and research objectives, scheduling visits to partner institutions and conferences, gripped with the sense of anticipation and excitement that comes at the beginning of something new. For the most part, the plans and aspirations have, however, succumbed to the Covid-19 pandemic that has scuppered travel and most face-to-face interaction. For example, it has been nearly ten months since I visited my university campus, partner visits have not materialised, and conference attendance has moved to online participation.

The transition to the new way of living and working has been simultaneously challenging and rewarding. Challenges have included, but certainly not limited to, inadequate internet access for some of my family, students, and colleagues. However, on the positive side, many of us have become more confident in collaborating and participating online. Simultaneously, the pandemic highlighted the problems caused by the lack of digital access and opened new ways of working. It has reduced travel requirements, cut carbon emissions, helped us envision and facilitate a more interconnected world that functions as an online global village.

Covid-19 has necessitated a joined-up, coordinated, and concerted effort to develop vaccines and immunisation programmes in record time. It has seen people working together at a scale, and in ways, barely imagined just a year ago. The pandemic has been transformative in the way students study, industries and commerce function, how and where individuals work, and families interact. Many of the transformations have been enabled by what this journal has termed 'emerging technologies in computing'. Covid-19 has indeed precipitated an acceleration in the development and take-up of these technologies.

As we move into 2021, hopefully with a worldwide distribution of effective vaccines, it is also to be hoped that the fillip Covid-19 has provided for development continues to stimulate research and progress for the betterment of all.

Praying that 2021 sees us learn from the Covid-19 pandemic but also move on from it.

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On behalf of the Editorial Board,
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