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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Kusum Deep is a Full Professor with the Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India. Over the last 30 years, her research is increasingly well-cited making her a central international figure in the area of nature inspired optimisation techniques, genetic algorithms and particle swarm optimisation.

Atulya Nagar is a Professor and the Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK. He is an internationally recognised scholar working at the cutting edge of theoretical computer science, applied mathematical analysis, operations research, and systems engineering and his work is underpinned by strong complexity-theoretic foundations.

Millie Pant is an Associate Professor with the Department of Paper Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India. At this age, she has earned a remarkable international reputation in the area of genetic algorithms, differential algorithms and swarm intelligence.

Jagdish Chand Bansal is an Assistant Professor with the ABV-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, India. Holding an excellent academic record, he is a budding researcher in the field of swarm intelligence at the international level.

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This special issue of *International Journal of Advance Intelligence Paradigms* is an outcome of the First International Conference on ‘Soft Computing for Problem Solving’ (SocProS 2011) organised at Roorkee Campus during December 20–22, 2011. Dr. Kusum Deep, Professor, Maths. Department, IIT Roorkee and Professor Atulya Nagar, Liverpool Hope University, England were the convenors and Dr. Millie Pant, Associate Professor, IPT, IIT Roorkee and Dr. Jagdish Chand Bansal, Assistant Professor, ABV-IIITM Gwalior were the Programme Committee Chairs. Professor C. Mohan, Retired Head of Maths. Department, IIT Roorkee was the Honorary Chair. Faculty members of the Maths Department and faculty members of IIT and CBRI were the Local Organising Committee headed by Professor Rama Bhargava, Head, Maths. Department Professor Maurice Clerc from France, Professor Gauri Mittal from Canada, Professor M.M. Ali from South Africa and Professor Atulya Nagar from England delivered plenary talks. 194 research papers were presented. 250 delegates attended the conference from India and abroad. The proceedings were published by Springer in two volumes, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. The CD version was provided as a part of the conference kit, and the online version is available at Springerlink. The plenary and invited talks were extremely informative and interactive. SocProS 2011 provided a basis for the new and old researchers in the field of soft computing. Numerous novel soft computing techniques were discussed. Also a number of applications in various areas like building industry, disaster mitigation, bio-informatics, environmental engineering, data mining, image processing, health hazards were introduced during the conference. The Conference was sponsored by Liverpool Hope University, England, DRDO, CSIR, Thomas Cook, New Age Pub and KINET Solutions.

Extended versions of selected papers, presented at the conference, are selected for this special issue after a rigorous peer review as per Inderscience Policy.

The editors thank all these authors for their contribution to the special issue. The Editors also would like to put on record heartfelt thanks to Professor Valentina Emilia Balas Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Advanced Intelligence Paradigms* and all the reviewers who took out time from their busy scheduled to peer review these papers. Indeed, it has been a pleasure and honour to edit this special issue.