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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Kusum Deep is a Full Professor at 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 South Asian University New Delhi, 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 Computational Intelligence Studies* has evolved as an outcome of the First International Conference on ‘Soft Computing for Problem Solving’ (SocProS 2011) which was organised at Roorkee Campus during December 20–22, 2011. Dr. Kusum Deep, Professor, Maths. Dept., IIT Roorkee and Prof. 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. Prof. C. Mohan, Retired Head of Maths. Dept., IIT Roorkee was the Honorary Chair. Faculty members of the Maths Dept. and faculty members of IIT and CBRI were the Local Organising Committee headed by Prof. Rama Bhargava, Head, Maths. Dept. Prof. Maurice Clerc from France, Prof. Gauri Mittal from Canada, Prof. M.M. Ali from South Africa and Prof. 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 very informative and interactive. SocProS 2011 provided a platform for the upcoming researchers in the field of soft computing. Many novel soft computing techniques were presented. Also numerous 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 KKINET Solutions.

Extended versions of five papers, presented at the conference, are selected for this Special Issue after a rigorous peer review as per Inderscience Policy. The first paper is entitled ‘Power law-based local search in differential evolution’ by H. Sharma, J.C. Bansal and K.V. Arya. The second paper is entitled ‘Optimal advertising and pricing policies of successive generations of product in segmented market’ by Y. Singh, K. Chaudhary and P.C. Jha. The third paper is called ‘Automated thermal face recognition based on minutiae extraction’ by A. Seal, S. Ganguly, D. Bhattacharjee, M. Nasipuri, and D.K. Basu. The fourth paper is called ‘Hybrid strategy of multi-objective differential evolution (H-MODE) for multi-objective optimisation’ by A.M. Gujarathi and B.V. Babu. And finally the fifth paper is entitled ‘Performance of classification using a hybrid distance measure with artificial bee colony algorithm for feature selection in keystroke dynamics’ by M. Akila and S.S. Kumar. The editors thank all these authors for their contribution to the special issue, and also express heartfelt thanks to Prof. George A. Tsihrintzis, Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of*

*Computational Intelligence Studies* and all the reviewers who took out time from their busy schedule to peer review these papers. Indeed, it has been a pleasure and honour to edit this special issue.