This special volume of Theory and Applications of Categories honours our colleague and friend, Professor Aurelio Carboni, who for many years has been a passionate and exuberant proponent of Category Theory.

Aurelio studied in Milan, where he got his Doctorate in Mathematics in 1970. His interest in category theory began in the early nineteen-seventies when he was one of the faithful attendees of F.W. Lawvere's Perugia lectures on topos theory. Subsequently, Aurelio himself played an important role in making Italy a major centre for the subject.

In his academic career, Aurelio has been a professor at the Universities of Cosenza, Milan, Genoa and Como. He co-organized the international Category Theory meetings at Como in 1990 and 2000 and has been an invited research professor at several important Category Theory sites. He has served as an editor for the Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra and is currently an editor for Theory and Applications of Categories and for Homology, Homotopy and Applications.

Aurelio's mathematical style is distinctive in a way that reflects his entire personality. We cannot do justice to either in a few lines. Rather, we encourage the reader to sample his divers contributions whose titles we have appended below. We especially encourage readers interested in the calculus of relations in a general category to follow Aurelio's skilful use of it in characterizing various 2-categories of categories and in constructing free completions. His bicategorical approach provides a template for many future investigations by himself and others.

We thank the editors of Theory and Applications of Categories, and especially the Managing Editor Bob Rosebrugh and Associate Managing Editor Michael Barr, for the opportunity to prepare this volume.

The Guest Editors: G. Janelidze, S. Lack, F.W. Lawvere, E.M. Vitale, and R.J. Wood

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