Message from the Director

In the Info-Metrics Institute’s fourth year, the Advisory Board and I continued to expand our activities with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary activities and on engaging new researchers and students. Examples of interdisciplinary activity include the spring conference on the philosophy and value of information, as well as the list of visiting fellows and new affiliates from the fields of philosophy, physics and complexity studies. The fall conference at UC Riverside and the info-metrics tutorials, which were provided free for all interested graduate and post-graduate students, serve as examples of our commitment to reaching out to new researchers and students. We also sponsored the participation of graduate students from across the east coast for a one-week summer school at the Center for Science of Information (CSoI). We also initiated our new Info-Metrics prize with expected winner/s to be announced next spring.

In the next year, our fifth, we plan to expand the Institute’s activities in four ways: First, we will continue our efforts to reach young researchers from across the sciences and researchers from the natural, medical and engineering sciences. Second, we will continue our efforts to initiate activities outside the Washington DC area, such as with the upcoming November conference in Boulder, Colorado. Third, we will work to improve the tutorials and consider providing more tutorials at different locations. Fourth, we will organize a fifth-year event that will include a cross-disciplinary conference in conjunction with tutorials and discussions on future directions. In the next year, we will also continue open discussion among our affiliates and others about the overall goal and long-term direction of the Institute. Please bookmark the Institute’s website and check in frequently to find information about our activities. Ideas for new initiatives are always welcome!

As always, we thank the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) for its continued support. The recent grant from the OCC will allow the Institute to continue strengthening its role as a leading interdisciplinary institute helping to shape future research, supporting and tutoring graduate students, and introducing new generations of researchers across disciplines to the theory and practice of info-metrics. We also thank our affiliate Aman Ullah and the Economics Department of UC Riverside for organizing (and co-sponsoring) our November conference. We also thank CSoI for co-sponsoring our students at their summer school.

I would also like to thank you all for your continued support and interest in the Institute. Our efforts to establish a common language to link disciplines in solving similar info-metric problems is starting to show results. However, there is still much to do and I look forward to working with you all in the coming years.

- Amos Golan, Director, Info-Metrics Institute