IFIP TC13 Pioneer in Human-Computer Interaction Awards 2025

The International Federation for Information Processing Technical Committee on Human–Computer Interaction (IFIP TC13) has the honour to announce the 2025 awardees of the prestigious IFIP TC13 Pioneer in Human-Computer Interaction title. IFIP TC13 appoints pioneers to honour the greatest contributors to the development and growth of the field of human-computer interaction (HCI).

An IFIP TC13 Pioneer is someone who, through active participation in IFIP Technical Committees or related IFIP groups, has made outstanding contributions to the educational, theoretical, technical, commercial, or professional aspects of analysis, design, construction, evaluation and use of interactive systems. The criteria for the award include IFIP involvement through IFIP TC13, TC13 Working Groups (WGs) or in the organization of the INTERACT conference, multiple publications at INTERACT, a significant research contribution (possibly with specific/new application domains), or being a HCI pioneer in the original meaning of the word, either in the area of HCI or in a local area (region or country) in the world.

The Awards Committee that considered the nominations for the 2025 IFIP TC13 Pioneer Awards comprised Jan Gulliksen (Sweden, Past Pioneer, Committee Chair), Zhengjie Liu (China, Past Pioneer), Mark Apperley (New Zealand, Past Pioneer), Cesar Alberto Collazos (Columbia, TC13 Member), Carmelo Ardito (Italy, TC13 Member), Paula Kotzé (South Africa, Past Pioneer).

The Awards Committee unanimously decided to honour six candidates with the 2025 IFIP TC13 Pioneer Award (in alphabetical order):

- Regina Bernhaupt (Netherlands).
- Maria Francesca Costabile (Italy)
- Tom Gross (Germany)
- David Lamas (Estonia)
- Virpi Roto (Finland)
- Jean Vanderdonckt (Belgium).

IFIP TC13 congratulates the 2025 Pioneer Award winners for their fine work and pioneering achievements!

Commendation Summaries of the 2025 Awardees

Regina Bernhaupt, Netherlands

Regina Bernhaupt is Full Professor of Measuring and Analyzing Quality of Dynamic Real-Life Systems, Department of Industrial Design, Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). She has a background in artificial intelligence, computer science and psychology. Her research currently focuses on digital twin interaction design (how a digital connected version of the physical can be used to enhance sustainable and inclusive user experience of products and services) and how to evaluate technologies during all design and development phases, from idea generation to product deployment. Making people's lives better by understanding how, when and why interactive systems fail is the driving force behind her research. She is also User Experience Research Director at *ruwido* (Austria), where her work on interaction concepts in industry has been awarded several red dot awards, including the Best of the Best for TICTACTILE in 2017. She is an active member of the HCI community internationally. She serves as the Representative for The Netherlands and Vice-Chair for Finance on IFIP TC13 and is member of both WG 13.2 and WG 13.11. She served as Chair for WG 13.2 between 2018 and 2024 and organised the WG 13.2 HCSE Conference as general chair in 2020 and 2022. She contributed in various organising roles to the INTERACT Conference series since 2005 and also published numerous key scientific works at that Conference. In 2023 she received the IFIP Silver Core Award acknowledging her service to IFIP and the HCI scientific community. Within ACM SIGCHI she served a term as Vice President for Membership and Communication and as General Chair for CHI 2020.

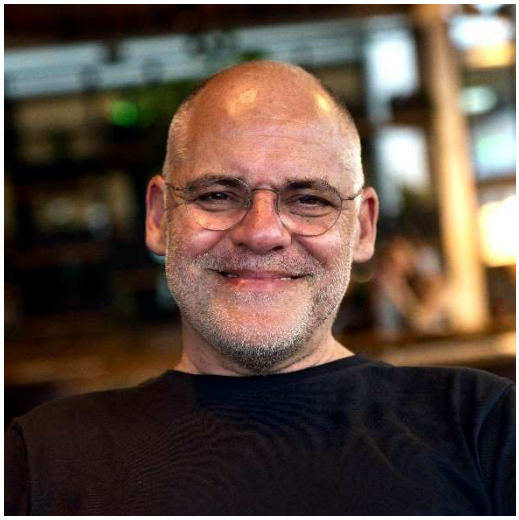
Maria Francesca Costabile, Italy

Maria Francesca Costabile retired in January 2025 from the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy), where she was Full Professor from 2000 to 2024. Prior to that, she held academic positions at the University of Bari and the University of Calabria (Italy). Through her pioneering scientific work and commitment to organising academic events, she has played a significant role in advancing research and education in the field of human-computer interaction (HCI) in Italy and internationally. In 1992, she co-chaired one of the first international events on HCI issues promoted in Italy by computer scientists, titled 'Advanced Visual Interfaces' (AVI), which evolved into the biennial AVI International Conference, the 17th edition of which was held in 2024. Her involvement in IFIP TC13 activities spans more than 30 years, first by presenting a paper at INTERCHI 1993, followed by several INTERACT presentations and program committee duties ever since. She was Program Co-Chair and Co-Editor of the proceedings of INTERACT 2005 (Rome, Italy), which were the first to be published in the Springer Digital Library. She was also on the Scientific Committee that organised INTERACT 2021 in Bari, Italy. She proposed the Italian Chapter of ACM SIGCHI (SIGCHI Italy), approved by the ACM in May 1996, and served as its first President from 1996 to 2000. She proposed and co-chaired the first HCITALY (now called CHItaly) conference in 1999 and organised and acted as Paper Co-Chair for ACM CHI 2008. She received the ACM SIGCHI Lifetime Service Award in 2018.

Tom Gross, Germany

Tom Gross is Full Professor and Chair of the Human-Computer Interaction Group, Program Coordinator of the Masters Programmes in Applied Computer Science as well as Interaction Research and Design at the University of Bamberg, Germany. Before moving to Bamberg in 2011, he served as Professor and Chair of Computer-Supported Cooperative Work at Bauhaus-University Weimar, holding also the position of Vice-President from 2008 to 2010. His pioneering research expertise spans human-centred computing, including human-computer interaction (HCI), computer-supported cooperative work (CSCW), and ubiquitous computing (UbiComp). He has taken an active role in national and international research projects. He has widely published his research and presented it at international conferences and in invited keynote talks (e.g., MHCI 2024, INTERACT 2017). In IFIP TC13 he has served as Austrian representative (2000 – 2006), expert member (2006-2010), and since 2010 as the representative for Germany. He is a member of IFIP WG 13.1, WG 13.2 and WG 13.6. He played a key role in organising several INTERACT Conferences over the years, including as both Conference and Technical Program Chair for INTERACT 2015 (Bamberg, Germany), and Technical Co-Chair for INTERACT 2007 (Sweden). His first role at INTERACT was as Workshops Co-Chair in 2003. He is the recipient of the IFIP Service Award (2014) and IFIP Silver Core Award (2017).

David José Ribeiro Lamas, Estonia



David José Ribeiro Lamas is Professor of Human–Computer Interaction at Tallinn University's School of Digital Technologies in Estonia, where spearheaded the Masters in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and the Masters in Interaction Design, the latter run online jointly with the Cyprus University of Technology. As pioneer of HCI in Estonia, has also been mentoring the local HCI community since 2010 with a steady stream of training events and courses on experimental interaction design, research methods in HCI, and the design of human technologies. His primary research focus lies in advancing design theory and methodologies within HCI, promoting participatory and generative approaches that integrate cultural, social, and experiential dimensions into post-digital interaction design. Since 2015 he is an expert member on IFIP TC13, where he has played leading roles in multiple INTERACT Conferences, including as General Co-Chair of INTERACT 2019, as main host for the upcoming INTERACT 2027, and contributing to doctoral consortia and many other community-building initiatives. Apart from his work in IFIP TC13, he is actively involved in fostering the HCI community internationally, organizing key events such as NordiCHI 2020, AfriCHI 2021, ICIDS 2021 and 2022, the upcoming ECCE 2025, and Estonia's World Usability Day events. He is also the Chair of the Estonian chapter of ACM's SIGCHI and a recipient of the IFIP Service Award (2024).

Virpi Roto, Finland

Virpi Roto is recognised a pioneer in user experience (UX) research. After a career at the Nokia Research Center, her mission has been to transform technology-focused companies into providers of meaningful experiences. She is amongst the most frequently cited UX researchers. She has been instrumental in shaping the understanding of UX through the initiation and co-authoring of scientific articles, while also providing invaluable resources for practitioners, such as the UX Wikipedia page, UX White Paper, and the AllAboutUX.org website. Her current UX research is focused on the employee-centered integration of AI in workplace settings. She serves as Senior University Lecturer in Experience Design and is a member of the Encore research team in the Department of Design at Aalto University. Her career at Aalto includes five years as Professor of Practice in Experience Design and serving as Vice Dean of Impact. She achieved a finalist position for the ERC Consolidator Grant in 2021. She is the representative for Finland on IFIP TC13 and served as TC13 Vice Chair of Finance for seven years. She is a member of WG 13.5 and WG 13.11. She has participated in several events for these Working Groups, including as conference general chair for the 2018 Human-Work Interaction Design Conference (HWID 2018), a flagship event of the IFIP WG 13.6. She received the IFIP Service Award in 2022. She has delivered keynote and invited addresses at various conferences, including the closing keynote at the INTERACT 2015. She serves on the editorial board of the ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI) journal.

Jean Vanderdonckt, Belgium

Jean Vanderdonckt is Full Professor of Computer Science at Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain School of Management, where he has led the Belgian Laboratory of Computer-Human Interaction since 1998, pioneering model-based interface description languages, gesture interaction frameworks, and design-to-development methodologies. In the model-based domain he is particularly known for the conception and advancement of UsiXML (User Interface eXtensible Markup Language), a domain-specific language enabling platform-independent and multimodal user interface (UI) design. One characteristic of this work was the systematic integration of usability guidelines in design processes and UI engineering tools. He actively contributed to IFIP and in particular TC13 initiatives throughout his career. As active contributor to IFIP WG 13.1 (HCI Education), including serving as Vice Chair (2011-2022), he has shaped international collaboration, developed global HCI curricula, and influenced standards that guide the discipline worldwide. He contributed 22 papers to INTERACT Conferences between 1993 and 2021, including his co-authored 2007 paper, titled ‘Multi-fidelity Prototyping of User Interfaces’, which was awarded the prestigious Brian Shackel Award. He was bestowed the title of IFIP Fellow in 2021, recognizing his extensive pioneering research. He is an ACM Distinguished Member (awarded 2017) and Editor in Chief of the Springer Human-Computer Interaction Series.

Past IFIP TC13 Pioneer Awardees

- 2010: Brian Shackel (United Kingdom) and Liam Bannon (Ireland).
- 2013: Joëlle Coutaz (France), John Karat (USA), Gitte Lindgaard (Canada and Australia), Zhengjie Liu (China) and Gerrit van der Veer (Netherlands).
- 2014: Paula Kotzé (South Africa), Fabio Paternó (Italy) and Clarisse Sieckenius de Souza (Brazil).
- 2015: Julio Abascal (Spain), Philippe Palanque (France) and Annelise Mark Pejtersen (Denmark).
- 2016: Jan Gulliksen (Sweden), Alistair Sutcliffe (United Kingdom) and Susanne Bødker (Denmark).
- 2019: Anirudha Joshi (India), Geraldine Fitzpatrick (Austria, Australia), Helen Petrie (United Kingdom, Australia), Masaaki Korusu (Japan) and Simone Diniz Junqueira Barbosa (Brazil).
- 2020/2021: Marco Winckler (France), Peter Forbrig (Germany), Ann Blandford (United Kingdom), John M. Carroll (USA), Manfred Tscheligi (Austria), Monique Noirhomme-Fraiture (Belgium).
- 2023: Gilbert Cockton (United Kingdom), Marta Lárusdóttir (Iceland), Mark Apperley (New Zealand), Janet Wesson (South Africa), Torkil Clemmensen (Denmark).

About IFIP Technical Committee 13 (IFIP TC13) on Human-Computer Interaction

Established in 1989, IFIP TC13 is an international committee of over 34 IFIP Member national societies and 11 Working Groups, representing specialists in human factors, ergonomics, cognitive science, computer science, design, and related disciplines. IFIP TC13 focuses on the field of human–computer interaction (HCI), an interdisciplinary area of the study and research that centres on the analysis, design, development, implementation, evaluation, application, and the study of use of human-centred interactive computational systems, devices and objects. The field revolves around the interaction between living beings (users) and computational systems, devices and objects and the use thereof, or such systems, devices and objects as facilitators for social human–human interaction. It also involves understanding the societal and social consequences of digitalisation.

INTERACT is the flagship conference organized by the IFIP TC13. The next INTERACT Conference (INTERACT 2025 – https://interact2025.org/) will take place in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, from 8 to 12 September 2025.

For more detail, see: http://ifip-tc13.org/

About the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)

- IFIP is the leading multinational, apolitical organization in information and communications technologies and sciences.
- IFIP is recognized by United Nations and other world bodies.
- IFIP represents IT Societies from over 40 countries or regions, covering all five continents with a total membership of over half a million.
- IFIP links more than 6000 scientists and other professionals from academia and industry, organized in more than 101 Working Groups reporting to 13 Technical Committees.
- IFIP sponsors approximately 100 conferences yearly providing unparalleled coverage from theoretical informatics to the relationship between informatics and society, including hardware and software technologies, and networked information systems.

For more information on IFIP, see: https://www.ifip.org/

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