

Editorial Introduction

It is a great pleasure to present the first in a new series of invited articles by prominent scholars, inaugurated by the Journal, *Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning*. Through this new feature, the journal seeks to offer its readers authoritative and reflective contributions from researchers whose work has profoundly influenced the development of artificial intelligence and related disciplines. It is especially fitting that the series should begin with an article by Professor Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier, an internationally distinguished scholar and one of the pioneers of fuzzy set theory.

For more than five decades, Professor Bouchon-Meunier has combined scientific originality with an exceptional dedication to mentorship, collaboration, and service to the research community. Her enduring attachment to her 52 former PhD students, many of whom have themselves pursued academic careers, reflects the deeply human dimension of her scholarly legacy. She has also played an important role in establishing and nurturing major institutions in the field, including the IPMU conference and the *International Journal of Uncertainty, Fuzziness and Knowledge-Based Systems*, while her long-standing service to the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society culminated in her presidency in 2020–2021.

Her sustained collaboration with French and international researchers in cognitive science since the early 1990s has broadened and enriched her work on uncertainty, reasoning, and intelligent systems. The present paper on consciousness grows naturally from this remarkable interdisciplinary journey. It brings to the journal the perspective of a scholar whose contributions have consistently connected formal models of intelligence with deeper questions concerning cognition, human reasoning, and the nature of mind.

Editorial Office

Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning