PREFACE TO THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

This special issue of Discrete and Dynamical Systems - Series S is a tribute to Patrizia Pucci on the occasion of her 65th birthday.

Patrizia Pucci was born in Perugia on May 11, 1952 and she graduated on September 19, 1975 at the University of Perugia. She started her academic activity in 1981 as Assistant Professor at the University of Perugia and she is Full Professor in Mathematical Analysis since 1987.

She has been given several honors and awards, among them:

- Socio Corrispondente della Classe di Scienze Fisiche, Matematiche e Naturali dell'*Accademia Peloritana dei Pericolanti*, since January 2019;
- 2018 and 2019 Highly Cited Researcher, by Clarivate Analytics.
- 2017 Doctor Honoris Causa in Mathematics, awarded by the Babes Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania;
- Since February 2017 member of the Accademia delle Scienze dell'Umbria;
- 2016 Doctor Honoris Causa in Mathematics, awarded by the University of Craiova, Romania;
- 2004 Prize Prof. Luigi Tartufari for Mathematics, awarded by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, Italy.

Her intense research activity continues uninterruptedly since her first paper in 1976 and spreads out into several fields: Nonlinear Analysis, Differential Geometry, Mathematical Physics and Engineering, just to mention a few.

Throughout the years she has collaborated with several mathematicians from all over the world and, at the same time, she has been growing a large number of young students; some of them are now brilliant researchers.

She has authored (or coauthored) more than 180 scientific papers, all published in international mathematical journals, and four monographs; the book *The Strong*

Maximum Principle, in "Progress in Nonlinear Differential Equations and their Applications" Vol. 73, Birkhäuser Publ. 2007, co-authored with James Serrin, is now a classical reference.

Patrizia Pucci is Editor in Chief of the journal *Advances in Differential Equations*, together with Jean Michel Coron (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris) and Yoshikazu Giga (University of Tokyo), since August 2016; she is also member of the Editorial board of the following international mathematical journals:

- *Advanced Nonlinear Studies* since January 2016;
- *Advances in Nonlinear Analysis* since February 2011;
- *Annals of the University of Craiova - Mathematics and Computer Science Series* since January 2016;
- *Atti Sem. Mat. Fis. Univ. Modena* since January 1988;
- *Boletim da Sociedade Paranaense de Matemática (3)* since December 2017;
- *Bollettino dell'Unione Matematica Italiana* since February 2008;
- *Boundary Value Problems* since May 2017;
- *Communications in Applied Mathematics* since November 1998;
- *Complex Variables and Elliptic equations* since December 2006;
- *Electronic Journal of Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations* since November 1997;
- *International Journal on Differential Equations* since November 1998;
- *Le matematiche* since May 2016;
- *Nonlinear Analysis A: Theory, Methods and Applications* since January 2012;
- *Studia Mathematica* since March 2010;

Patrizia Pucci has organized several international conferences and has been invited as plenary lecturer in numerous workshops. Finally, she participated in six scientific projects and she has been the coordinator of nineteen scientific projects.

The part above is just an essential mathematical survey of what she has done up to now, and we are sure that many other achievements will be added in next years. But these facts are well–known to the mathematical community, and other credits have been already given to celebrate her mathematical success.

Here, we wish to conclude with a non mathematical celebration of Patrizia Pucci: this volume is a personal tribute from some friends and some of her former students in recognition of her outstanding qualities. Indeed, Patrizia Pucci is a kind and nice woman, also with a very strong character and she is able to spread her vitality and energy around; hence, it is natural that so many people surround her with warmth and friendship.

Happy Birthday, Patrizia!

Bari, Viterbo and Perugia, 21$^{\text{st}}$ October 2019.

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