

Preface

The sudden death of Professor Panagiotis (Panagis) D. Panagiotopoulos (1 January 1950 – 12 August 1998), Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece and RWTH Aachen, Germany, was for us a great loss of a friend, colleague and teacher. The scientific community has lost an eminent scientist who worked towards bridging the gap between mechanics and mathematics looking in the future.

Since the *Journal of Global Optimization* profited from the experience of Professor Panagiotopoulos by having him as a member of the Editorial Board since 1993, we found it appropriate to honour his memory with a special issue of this journal. A number of his co-workers and scientists who work in his scientific area have been invited to submit a contribution in December 1998. Most of them replied positively and submitted their work within the strict time limits we posed. We would like to thank the authors and the referees for helping us to present this special issue(s) of the *Journal of Global Optimization* in honor of Professor P.D. Panagiotopoulos.

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Professor Vladimir F. Demyanov
Department of Applied Mathematics
St. Petersburg State University, Russia

Professor Panos M. Pardalos
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Florida State University, U.S.A.

Dr. Georgios E. Stavroulakis
Department of Civil Engineering
Technical University Carolo Wilhelmina
Braunschweig, Germany