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Preface

We are very pleased to dedicate this special issue of Journal of Global Optimization to the 65th birthday of Professor Alexander Rubinov who is currently Professor of Mathematics in School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences and the Director of Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimization at Ballarat University, Australia.

Professor Rubinov was a leading expert in the field of mathematical economics in the former Soviet Union in his earlier career and has been more focusing his research on optimization and abstract convexity in the last decade. He has made significant contributions in quasidifferential calculus, cutting angle method, non-linear Lagrange-type functions, and monotonic analysis. Between the two types of mathematicians: problem solvers and theory builders, he classifies himself as a theory builder. He has been devoting himself in developing novel theories that examine some unsolved problems from new angles and has been enjoying his efforts and successes in tackling many classical and newly emerged challenges. He is a productive author/co-author of 14 monographs and 3 textbooks, 8 survey papers and over 200 journal papers, of which about 50 of them in the area of optimization and about 100 of them in the areas close to optimization.

In Prof. Rubinov's view, theory of global optimization is the most interesting unsolved problem in the field of optimization. While calculus and its non-smooth generalization have been powerful in local optimization, they lose their power when investigating global optimality. Thus, one hidden purpose of this special issue is to stimulate more active research in global optimization.

Professor Panos Pardalos, the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Global Optimization, has suggested the idea to edit this special issue for Professor Alex Rubinov. We are grateful to him for his encouragement and guidance during the preparation and publication of the issue. We are thankful to all the reviewers and the authors of this special issue for their contributions.

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