Editorial

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In celebration of the 60th birthday of Professor Alemdar Hasanoğlu (Hasanov)

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Professor Alemdar Hasanov (Hasanoğlu) is a distinguished scholar of the inverse problems community and a well-known expert in the field of inverse problems and mathematical modeling. He was born in 1954 in Agstafa, Azerbaijan (USSR).

Alemdar Hasanov began his scientific career as a researcher (1977–1979) at the Institute of Applied Mathematics, USSR Academy of Sciences (now Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics) at Department no. 3 chaired by Aleksander A. Samarskii, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1979 Alemdar

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became a PhD student at the Faculty of Computational Mathematics and Cybernetics of Moscow State University. His scientific advisers were Academician Aleksander A. Samarskii and Professor Vladimir B. Andreev. In September 1982 Alemdar Hasanov received his PhD degree in computational mathematics from Moscow State University.

In February 1988 Alemdar completed his dissertation, and in October 1988 a Special Scientific Committee of Moscow State University chaired by Academician Andrey N. Tikhonov awarded him the (highest scientific) degree of Doctor of Physics and Mathematics ("mathematical modelling, methods, and computational technologies in science"). He was the youngest scientist in the Soviet Union who received this degree in this area. A year later he was awarded the Medal of the USSR Academy of Sciences at the All-Union Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy in "Fundamental Sciences in Technology" (certificate no. 480-N, 02.08.89) for a series of scientific works "Computational Express-Nondestructive Diagnostics of Engineering Materials". This is one of the pioneering works on coefficient inverse problems for nonlinear PDEs. In 1989 he became a Full Professor at Baku State University (Azerbaijan).

In 1992 the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey invited Alemdar to Marmara Research Center. A year later he was invited to Kocaeli University to organize a new Applied Mathematical Sciences Research Center. In October 1996 he accepted an invitation from the Department of Mathematics (University of Nebraska) to occupy the Visiting Research Professor position for the 1997 Spring Semester. During this period Alemdar worked with Steve Cohn on identification problems for nonlinear parabolic equations in electrochemistry, with Jennifer Mueller on backward problems, and with Paul DuChateau on coefficient inverse problems. He kept this position as the director of the Applied Mathematical Sciences Research Center at Kocaeli University until 2009, when he got an invitation from the newly organized Izmir University. He invited the best mathematicians from the former Soviet Union, and organized one of the best research centers that had scientific contacts with the world's leading centers. Here Alemdar extended his research of direct and inverse problems in nonlinear mechanics to inverse problems for a nonlinear bending plate and inverse coefficient problems for elliptic variational inequalities with a nonlinear monotone operator.

Although all works and contributions of Alemdar to applied mathematics, in particular, to inverse problems cannot be mentioned, we should underline two essential points. First, the range of his contributions is very wide: from applied mathematics, engineering sciences, and medicine to computational methods. Second, almost all models and methods proposed by Alemdar are original and contain new ideas. As a result, he has published more than 100 articles in about twenty mathematical, engineering, and medical journals.

He was a research adviser of more than fifteen PhD students in Turkey and abroad.

He has brought together numerous members of our community by organizing one of the best international conferences on inverse problems, "Inverse Problems: Modeling and Simulation" (IPMS), since 2002. All these meetings have become symbols of our community. At these meetings IPMS awards are presented to young scientists for excellent achievements. The series of special issues of IPMS conferences are remarkable. It took Alemdar five years to give birth to the newly formed Eurasian Association on Inverse Problems (EAIP).

On behalf of his colleagues, students, and friends from all over the world, we would like to wish Alemdar on the occasion of his 60th birthday every success in his scientific work and much happiness with his wife Safak and his sons Aziz and Rahman. Sixty is still a young age for Alemdar, since he is very active in his research and teaching covering various important topics in applied mathematics. He is an outstanding organizer of various international conferences and plays a leading role in the inverse problems community. He is also a very nice and friendly person.