

## Welcome to INTERSPEECH 2020!

It has been a long two decades since the first event of ISCA in Beijing 2000, and it is wonderful our Chinese team is able to serve as host for this flagship conference again this year. 2020 is, of course, highly unusual and challenging for all of us. Our team has been trying our very best to adapt to the disruptive changes that came our way in migrating the planning from a physical conference in Shanghai to a hybrid one. And now, after numerous discussions and decisions and much hard work, we are proud to present the *first, fully virtual conference* in the history of INTERSPEECH!

Artificial intelligence is transforming many aspects of our lives. The ability to communicate using human language lie at the crux of machine intelligence. The theme of INTERSPEECH 2020 is “Cognitive Intelligence for Speech Processing”. We hope to better understand how humans process the spoken language, to inspire and inform our research and development of the machine's cognitive abilities to process the spoken language. INTERSPEECH2020 will bring together speech and language scientists, researchers, engineers and technologists from around the world to vibrant exchanges of both theory and practice in this important field.

Though we are communicating online, our goal remains the same, which is to provide a collegial platform for our community to have fruitful intellectual exchanges, to celebrate our achievements, and to chart our way forward to new frontiers!

INTERSPEECH 2020 marks the 32th year of ISCA's scientific activities and community services. On behalf of our organization committee, we wish to sincerely thank ISCA for unfailing support, especially ISCA President Professor John Hansen, and Conference Board Members Professor Sebastian Möller and Professor Margaret Zellers. Most importantly, our team wishes to extend the warmest welcome to all of you to the first virtual INTERSPEECH conference!

From the Conference Chair and Co-Chairs,  
Helen Meng, Bo Xu and Thomas Zheng