Preface

It is a true privilege and a great pleasure for me to present the special volume of the *Electronic Journal of Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations* dedicated to Professor Jeffrey R. L. Webb on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Jeff is an outstanding figure in the realm of nonlinear analysis and he is the author of 110 research papers and one textbook.

Jeff completed his doctoral studies in 1970 at the University of Sussex, under the supervision of David Edmunds. After a year at the Istituto per le Applicazioni del Calcolo in Rome he returned to Sussex for a two-year postdoc with David. In 1973 he started as lecturer at the University of Glasgow and was later promoted to reader and then to full professor. Jeff retired from the University of Glasgow in 2009.

Jeff spent some sabbatical leaves at other institutions: Indiana University (1978), Tulane University (1982), Rutgers University (1994) and University of Calabria (2003). He has also made shorter visits to several universities in Europe and North America.

While in Glasgow, Jeff supervised nine PhD students and one MSc student. Most of them continued their paths in academia and are now well respected researchers in their fields.

The main strands of Jeff's research are the following: contractive-type maps, degree and fixed point index theories, strongly nonlinear elliptic problems, *A*-proper maps, nonlocal boundary value problems for ODEs, maximum principles and Gronwall type inequalities.

Along the years, Jeff has done substantial work for the mathematical community: he has done, and continues to do, refereeing work for many journals, acted as a reviewer for *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* and *Mathematical Reviews*, and did editorial work for *Fixed Point Theory and Applications*, *Glasgow Mathematical Journal*, *Bulletin*, *Journal* and *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society*, *Nonlinear Analysis TMA*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Sect. A* and the AIMS book series *Differential Equations & Dynamical Systems*. He is currently, jointly with Tibor Krisztin, Editor-in-Chief of the *Electronic Journal of Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations*. He has also organised many special sessions at conferences.

His work was recognised in 1984 when he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 2014 he was named as one of Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers and one of 2014 The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds. Jeff has been a keynote or main speaker in a number of international conferences.

In the present volume we publish 26 papers of very high quality by former students, friends and colleagues of Jeff. The contributions focus on various aspects (e.g. solvability, stability, entropy) of different classes of equations: ordinary, discrete, delay, fractional, impulsive, functional, partial differential equations, integral and evolution equations. All the manuscripts faced a rigorous refereeing process. I am confident that the readers of this special volume will enjoy it and will find inspiration for their future research. I wish to thank the authors for their quality contributions, the co-editors of this issue Alberto Cabada, Attila Dénes, Paul Eloe, Ábel Garab, John R. Graef, Tibor Krisztin and Patrizia Pucci for their devoted work, and I am grateful to all the referees for their careful work. Last but not least, I wish to thank Jeff for his contributions to mathematics and to the mathematical community.

Many happy returns, Professor Webb!

Gennaro Infante, Cosenza, 15th February 2021