PREFACE

This issue comprises papers on fundamentals and applications of Complexity Science, the science of open systems consisting of large numbers of diverse components engaged in rich interaction. The global behaviour of these systems emerges from the interaction of constituent components and is unpredictable but not random. The key attribute of Complex Systems is the ability to self-organise and adapt to unpredictable changes in their environment.

Papers in this issue address a wide variety of complex issues from physical to social sciences, including topics such as the role of visual elements in the design of complex systems, methods for controlling deforestation, comparison of lean and complex systems, complex production and logistic systems and coevolution of technology, business and society. Readers are offered a rich choice.

Complexity Science is still in the phase of early development and therefore demarcation criteria are not clear. It is not surprising then that there are disagreements on its content. The Editors took the view that good papers should be accepted even if they addressed the issues considered by some to be on the margins of Complexity Science.

The papers contained in this issue, as well as others presented at the Wessex Institute conferences are archived in the Institute's elibrary (witpress.com/elibrary) where they are permanently available in open access format to the international community.

The editors are grateful to all the authors for the quality of their contributions as well as their colleagues who helped to review the papers and hence ensure the quality of this issue.

The Editors
New Forest, UK