Top COVID-19 researchers to gather at supercomputing summit

In a time where all eyes of the world have been watching the fight against COVID-19 play out, the central role of high-performance computing has been brought into sharp focus. This month, the supercomputing community is set to gather online for the EuroHPC Summit Week 2021, giving delegates the chance to hear about this globally important research.

High-performance computing has been in the spotlight like never before over the past year, as the largest supercomputers in the world have been pushed to their limits to try and find solutions as fast as possible to combat the virus that has swept the globe.

“High-performance computing is of vital importance in the fight against this new virus,” says Serge Bogaerts, Managing Director of PRACE. “That’s why we have dedicated an entire day of the EuroHPC Summit Week 2021 to highlight the breakthroughs and achievements of researchers using the power of supercomputers to save lives.”

Many of the biggest scientific breakthroughs related to how COVID-19 is spread and to the development of vaccines and treatments have been made using the formidable power of supercomputers, and the huge programme of emergency research that was set up in Europe by PRACE to enable this continues on today.

“Right at the start of the pandemic, PRACE began providing fast-track access to its most powerful computers to researchers working on COVID-19. Now, during the EuroHPC Summit Week we are proud to highlight so much of this work that has gone so far in mitigating the impact of the pandemic,” says Matej Praprotnik, Chair of the PRACE Scientific Steering Committee.

As well as showcasing this important and ground-breaking work against COVID-19, EuroHPC Summit Week will bring together researchers, technology suppliers and industry users of supercomputers to discuss the latest findings and breakthroughs in the community. This year’s event was due to be held in Portugal but has been moved online.

“The speedy response of PRACE in the fight against the pandemic is an excellent example of how science can efficiently address the problems today’s society faces,” says Laura Grigori, Vice-Chair of the PRACE Scientific Steering Committee. “During the EuroHPC Summit Week, several other tracks and talks will show how this is not only true for the fight against viruses, but also for the challenges faced in many other areas.”

Broader issues surrounding COVID-19 will also be discussed at this year’s summit, including the impacts of the pandemic on different demographics and what tech companies and academia can do to support their diverse workforces. Diversity in the world of high-performance computing will be the
main focus of an afternoon of presentations and discussions at the event, with a number of talks from different communities offering up their experiences and advice.

Participation in the EuroHPC Summit Week 2021 is free of charge, open to anyone, and includes admission to all sessions, workshops, and tracks.

Register now

If you would like to arrange an interview with any of the speakers at the EuroHPC Summit Week, please contact Marjolein Oorsprong at m.oorsprong@staff.prace-ri.eu

About EuroHPC Summit Week 2021

The EuroHPC Summit Week (EHPCSW) 2021 will gather the main European HPC stakeholders from technology suppliers and HPC infrastructures to scientific and industrial HPC users in Europe. As in previous years, PRACE, the Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe, organises the eighth edition of its Scientific and Industrial Conference (PRACEdays21) within the EHPCSW 2021. PRACEdays21 will bring together experts from academia and industry who will present their advancements in HPC-supported science and engineering. The EHPCSW 2021 will provide a great opportunity for the attendees to network.

The organisers of the EHPCSW 2021 are the Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) and the European Technology Platform for High-Performance Computing (ETP4HPC). The European Commission (EC) will represent the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC) in the organisation of the conference. The logistical organisation is supported by a local host: for the 2021 edition this will be Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia - Computação Científica Nacional (FCT-FCCN).

The EHPCSW 2021 including PRACEdays21 is governed by an Organisation & Programme Committee.

About PRACE

The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) is an international non-profit association with its seat in Brussels. The PRACE Research Infrastructure provides a persistent world-class High-Performance Computing service for scientists and researchers from academia and industry in Europe. The computer systems and their operations accessible through PRACE are provided by five PRACE members (BSC representing Spain, CINECA representing Italy, ETH Zurich/CSCS representing Switzerland, GCS representing Germany and GENCI representing France). The Implementation Phase of PRACE receives funding from the EU’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (2014-2020) under grant agreement 823767. For more information, see www.prace-ri.eu

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