

# ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, September 19, 2025

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## Welcome (Tracy)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm ET / 9:00am PT via Zoom

## 1. Attendees (Tracy)

- Kim Tracy (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Meenakshi D'Souza
- Jonathan Grudin
- Dave Kasik
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Barbara Boucher Owens
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest, ACM Key Awards Project)

### ***Not in attendance***

- Mara Mills
- Dag Spicer

## 2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- The minutes for the face-to-face meeting on June 13 and the two regular monthly meetings on June 20 and July 18 have all been approved and are ready to post on the HC website.
- August 15 minutes require additional votes to be approved.

## 3. Annual report completion (Tracy, Astarte, Almstrum)

- The Annual Report was submitted by Kim on August 22. The final version was circulated to the HC at this time and is located in the appropriate folder on HC Operations.
- Vicki discovered that the full report as published included the appendix. Kim contacted Pat about this for correction.

## 4. Committee membership and recruitment (Tracy)

- Complementary ACM membership has been extended to those on committee who had previously requested it. Kim contacted ACM HQ to request memberships be renewed for the individuals who were reaching the end of their terms. Troy reports that their own has been renewed.

## 5. Turing Test 75th anniversary celebration (via Haigh)

- Tom Haigh alerted the HC to the announcement about an event organized by Southampton University at the Royal Society in London to celebrate 75 years since the publication of Turing's "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" paper. This was the publication in which Turing wrote about the Imitation Game, popularized as the Turing Test. See information about the event included in the appendix to these minutes.
- We discussed ways to become more involved in and be better informed about upcoming events related to the history of computing. While this event was branded ACM, further inspection suggests it was not organized by the ACM; nevertheless an ACM-branded history event is something that should be in the purview of the HC.
- We agreed to fund John's attendance at the celebration. John will confirm whether this is feasible.

## 6. ACM Key Awards Winners Video Project status (House)

- Chuck distributed a presentation file and two spreadsheets ahead of the meeting. These are available on the HC Operations drive in the Key Awards folder, Reports subfolder.
- Chuck overviewed the project status as of the end of Phase II.
  - Around 170 interviews have taken place. Of those, around 100 are fully completed; the rest are in various stages of post-production. This brings the collection to about 60% coverage by award.
  - Chuck has identified approximately 58 additional candidates whom he recommends should be interviewed.
  - Once the backlog is addressed, Chuck estimates that twelve interviews per year would keep the collection roughly abreast.
  - Chuck wants to identify a candidate who is qualified to take over the project in the medium future. We discussed a potential successor, whom some committee members knew and supported for this role.
- A major priority is to ensure that the completed interviews are properly stored and available. While many files have been handed over to ACM, we have no clear workflow for how to make the interviews fully available and useful to the public.
  - Vicki has started to discuss a process for adding interviews to the digital library with the ACM DL staff (Craig Rodkin). She has also talked to Tom Haigh and Chuck about what this will entail.
  - This part of the project will include the ACM Key Award interviews, as well as the Turing Award interviews and the India project interviews.
- Chuck's presentation addressed how to update the ACM web pages for individual awardees. His suggestions included making the dashboard larger scale and more consistent for sorting, filtering, and displaying related information for each person.
- Chuck has also proposed an ambitious 3D virtual explorable space, but this project is on hold after it was not approved by the ACM Board.
- Following the Turing project lead, we discussed creating a YouTube channel to host the recorded interviews.
- Another important subproject is to create snippets from the longer interviews. This work can extend to interviews held by other organizations, such as CBI and CBM, with whom

we often collaborate to avoid duplicating existing interviews. Jeff clarified that CBI interviews do not typically include video, so those would require a different workflow.

- To accomplish additional significant interview work in this space, the project will require more funding. While the ACM Board turned down the proposal to fund display mechanisms, they might be willing to fund additional interviews.

## 7. Project team reports (Tracy)

- Preservation and inclusion of OH videos into DL (Astarte, Tracy)
  - Vicki requests to be included in this group, since there is overlap with publication of video interviews as part of the premier issue of *Heritage Insights*. *Heritage Insights* is also a potential venue for organizing and publishing recorded interviews.
- ACM Heritage (Almstrum, Grudin, Kasik; Barb advisory)
  - Vicki reported good progress toward finalizing the premier issue of *Heritage Insights*, which includes getting participants to review and approve the updated transcripts and abstracts. Collaboration with Craig Rodkin (ACM DL) and Chris Switzer (video processing) has gone very well.
  - We still hope to organize a follow-up meeting and celebration of the release of the premier issue of *Heritage Insights*, but the timing depends on when we collect the final input needed.
- CS History and disability connections (Mills, Yost, McGee)
  - Jeff and Mara have been exchanging emails and working towards a proposal for an event early next year.
  - They are considering NYU's spring semester (mid-semester) for this online event. The plan is for a half-day event with one or two sessions, three or four speakers.

## 8. Updates on committee work (brief)

- Turing Project (McGee, Spicer)
  - Andrew and Dag met recently with Tom Haigh. Andrew will reach out to the HC with questions and issues.
- Finances (Astarte)
  - The FY26 budget is now active, with our total possible spend \$90,000.
  - Troy received access to the budget for the Key Awards video series, which has allowed them to see what has been expended with that Development Fund project. We must remember to request explicit access to Development Fund projects on the finance management review system, as these will not be granted by default.
- Secretariat (Almstrum, Astarte)
  - Nothing further to report.
- India Leaders Video Oral History project
  - Vicki has used Perplexity to process the five transcripts Sachin had delivered. This has resulted in both individual summaries for the five recordings with Prof. Rajaraman and an overall summary. She sent these to Sachin and Meenakshi for review and approval, but is still awaiting replies.
  - Vicki has started to discuss with Craig Rodkin the process for adding the India interviews to the Digital Library. This can serve as a small-scale prototype of the process we will use for the Turing and ACM Key Awards.

- Chuck has some contacts in ACM India. Vicki will arrange a meeting where Chuck, Vicki, and Meenakshi can discuss.
- Curriculum (Tucker, Almstrum, Tracy)
  - John will call a Curriculum and Education subgroup meeting.
  - John reported that he has been working on a position piece, which he will share with the subcommittee first to discuss, then share with the HC. He teases us that it will be provocative.
  - John asked: Formally within the ACM do we have a clear picture of what is going on with education committee work? Does their curriculum continue to exist outside the working and publication periods? Do they do follow-up regarding how the Curriculum is received?
  - Jeff adds that the joint work between ACM and IEEE Computer Society has come up in some of the interviews he has conducted with past presidents of ACM. He will look back through these interviews to see what is saved and available.
  - Vicki will connect with Amruth Kumar, who served on the 2023 Computing Curriculum Task Force, to arrange a meeting with the subcommittee.
  - Barb notes that information about the curriculum recommendations can be found on this web page: <https://www.acm.org/education/curricula-recommendations>

## 9. Additional business

- None raised.

## 10. Next meeting

- October 17, 2025, 12 noon Eastern time

## 11. Conclusion 13:07

## Appendix: 75th anniversary celebration of Turing Test

### From the announcement in ACM Bulletin, September 2025

Published in October 1950, Alan Turing's seminal paper "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" proposed a test to determine whether machines could think and the hope that machines would eventually compete with humans in all intellectual fields. Seventy-five years later we see this emergent competition between intelligent machines and humans played out in the news media, accompanied by international government interventions and widespread public concern.

To mark Turing's achievement, the Royal Society and the Web Science Institute, University of Southampton, UK, have organized a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Turing Test, co-sponsored by ACM. The event is being held October 2, 2025, 12:30 - 7 pm UTC, at The Royal Society, London, and will be hosted by former ACM President Dame Wendy Hall. Speakers will be ACM A.M Turing laureate Alan Kay, Gary Marcus, and Sir Nigel Shadbolt.

There will be three panels addressing the topics:

- What Did Turing Mean? And How Was It Interpreted?
- Panelists - Thomas Irvine, Sarah Dillon, Stevan Harnad, Sir Dermot Turing, and Alan Kay
- How is the Turing Test Being Used Today and Is It Still Relevant?
- Panelists - ACM President Yannis Ioannidis, Abeba Birhane, Yarin Gal University, Kaitlyn Regehr, and Gary Marcus
- What is, or Will AGI Be? What Should the Turing Test for the Future Be?
- Panelists - Dame Wendy Hall, William Isaac, Anil Seth, Shannon Vallor, and Sir Nigel Shadbolt

For more information and to register for the livestream or to attend the celebration, follow this link [link omitted for the purposes of this appendix].

### From the Eventbrite page:

#### About the event

Published in October 1950, Alan Turing's seminal paper "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" proposed a test to determine whether machines could think and the hope that machines would eventually compete with humans in all intellectual fields.

75 years later we see this emergent competition between intelligent machines and humans played out in the news media, accompanied by international government interventions and widespread public concern.

We are excited to have Computer Science pioneer **Dr Alan Kay**, leading voice in AI **Professor Emeritus Gary Marcus**, and leading researcher in AI **Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS** speaking at the event which will assemble a diversity of voices to look back at Alan Turing's vision for Artificial Intelligence (AI), analyse the impact this has had over the last 75 years, and face the challenge of a new Turing Test that is fit for the future.

The event will be hosted by **Professor Dame Wendy Hall FRS**, Regius Chair of Computer Science and Director of the Web Science Institute at the University of Southampton, and **Areeq Chowdhury**, Head of Policy, Data and Digital Technologies at the Royal Society.

Three panel sessions will address:

- What did Turing mean? And how was it interpreted?
- How is the Turing Test being used today and is it still relevant?
- What is, or will AGI be? What should the Turing Test for the future be?

Guests will also have the opportunity to explore an **AI Exhibition**, curated by the Web Science Institute and The Royal Society, from Alan Turing's early work and the beginnings of AI through to the technology shaping lives and society today.

The event will be followed by a drinks and canapes reception to close.

### **Important registration information**

Once you have entered your details and clicked 'Register', please remain on the page to complete a short set of important questions related to this event.

### **Accessibility**

Accessibility is a priority to the Royal Society, and we will accommodate accessibility requests where possible. Please notify us of accessibility requests as soon as possible and no later than 25 September 2025.

- The event will be live-captioned.
- Loop hearing devices are available upon request.
- There are four steps from street level to the doorway.
- There is a wheelchair lift at the entrance which is operable by reception staff. Please use the buzzer to the right of the entrance steps.
- There are a limited number of parking spaces immediately outside the front door which may be booked in advance by visitors with a Blue Badge disabled parking permit.

### **Organisation**

The event is co-organised by [The Royal Society](#) and the [Web Science Institute](#), University of Southampton, UK. We are grateful to the [Association for Computing Machinery \(ACM\)](#) for co-sponsoring the event and for the support of the [Web Science Trust](#).

We look forward to welcoming you.

## **Provisional Programme**

*Please note the programme subject to change*

### **12:30 - Arrivals and registrations**

- AI Exhibition open in City of London Rooms

### **13:00 - Welcome**

- **Areeq Chowdhury**, Head of Policy, Data and Digital Technologies at the Royal Society
- **Professor Dame Wendy Hall**, Director of the Web Science Institute, University of Southampton
- **Professor Yannis Ioannidis**, President of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)

### **13:10 - Keynote Talk: Re-minding and Re-asking about Humans and Thought**

- **Dr Alan Kay**, Computer Science Pioneer, Adjunct Professor at UCLA
- Introduced by **Mei-Lin Fung**, Vice Chair, UN AI for Good Impact Steering Committee

### **13:50 - Panel 1: What did Turing mean? And how was it interpreted?**

- Panel Chair: **Professor Thomas Irvine**, University of Southampton
- **Professor Sarah Dillon**, University of Cambridge
- **Professor Stevan Harnad**, University of Southampton and Université du Québec à Montréal
- **Sir Dermot Turing**, The National Museum of Computing
- Responder: **Dr Alan Kay**

### **14:35 - Keynote Talk: The Grand AGI Delusion**

- **Dr Gary Marcus**, Professor Emeritus at New York University

### **15:00 - Refreshments**

### **15:35 - Panel 2: How is the Turing Test being used today and is it still relevant?**

- Panel Chair: **Professor Yannis Ioannidis**, ACM
- **Dr Abeba Birhane**, AI Accountability Lab, Trinity College, Dublin
- **Professor Yarin Gal**, University of Oxford and AI Security Institute
- **Dr Kaitlyn Regehr**, University College London
- Responder: **Dr Gary Marcus**, Professor Emeritus at New York University

### **16:20 - Keynote Talk:**

- **Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt**, Principal of Jesus College, University of Oxford

**16:45 - Panel 3: What is, or will AGI be? What should the Turing Test for the future be?**

- Panel Chair: **Professor Dame Wendy Hall**, University of Southampton
- **Dr William Isaac**, Google DeepMind
- **Professor Anil Seth**, University of Sussex
- **Professor Shannon Vallor**, University of Edinburgh
- Responder: **Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt**

**17:30 - Closing remarks: Professor Dame Wendy Hall and Alan Kay**

**17:40 - 19:00 - Drinks and Canapés Reception**