This message is from Dr. Alan H. Rebar, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of Discovery Park

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Alex Pothen as Director of the Computing Research Institute (CRI) and Professor of Computer Science, effective August 1, 2008. Dr. Pothen also directs the Combinatorial Scientific Computing and Petascale Computing (CSCAPES) Institute, a multi-institution research consortium funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science during 2006-11. He comes to Purdue from Old Dominion University, where he was Professor of Computer Science and directed the Center for Computational Science. His earlier academic appointments have been at the University of Waterloo, the University of Wisconsin, Penn State, and ICASE, a research institute at NASA.

Dr. Pothen's research interests are in computational science and engineering (CSE), high performance computing (HPC), and bioinformatics. Within CSE, his research involves designing algorithms and software for solving combinatorial problems. His research has found applications in multiple disciplines: design of the next generation of particle accelerators, chromatographic separations of pharmaceuticals, circuit simulations, the systems biology of a leukemia-causing virus, etc.

Dr. Pothen received an M.S. in Chemistry (five year integrated B.S./M.S. program) from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India, where he was a National Science Talent Scholar, and a Ph.D. degree in Applied Mathematics from Cornell University. He has received an IBM University Research Partnership award. He is on the editorial boards of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Journal on Scientific Computing and SIAM Monographs in CSE. His former students and post-doctoral advisees hold appointments at Penn State, University of Waterloo, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Microsoft, Oracle, etc.

Dr. Rudi Eigenmann, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, will continue in the role of CRI Interim Director until Dr. Pothen’s arrival, and then serve CRI as Technical Director for HPC.

CRI is affiliated with the Cyber Center in Discovery Park and facilitates research in HPC at Purdue. HPC research develops the technology that realizes computational simulations - climate change predictions, molecular simulations for drug design, exploration of new theories of physics in search of the building blocks of matter, to name just a few. In addition to its partnership with the Cyber Center, CRI works closely with ITaP's Rosen Center for Advanced Computing (RCAC).

We are looking forward to Dr. Pothen’s leadership of and vision for the Computing Research Institute.