

## Gregory (Grzegorz) Kersten

Professor Gregory (Grzegorz) Kersten, an active member of the MCDM community, creator of novel support tools and research paradigms for group decision making and negotiations, passed away suddenly on May 26, 2020 at his home in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He was 70.

Gregory held Senior Concordia University Research Chair at the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, and was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Group Decision and Negotiation*. He began his academic career in Poland where he was working on goal programming models for macro-economic planning. After moving to Canada in 1984, Gregory accepted a faculty position at the Sprott School of Business, Carleton University in Ottawa. While working at Carleton, Gregory engaged in research on group decision making and negotiations. Negoplan – one of the first intelligent computer systems to support multi-party negotiations was a result of this work, and Gregory gave numerous presentations about this system at the MCDM conferences. The experience gained while working on Negoplan allowed

Gregory to identify and address a number of challenging research issues in negotiations, including e-negotiations models and support, and cultural implications for negotiation support.

After taking up the Research Chair position at Concordia University in 1999, Gregory established the InterNeg Research Centre that became a leading hub for e-negotiations research. Working together with graduate students and colleagues from around the world, the Centre under Gregory's leadership created the INVITE platform for developing e-negotiation systems, and the INSPIRE e-negotiation system that is currently used for teaching and research in many countries around the world.

Apart from being one of the leading MCDM scholars, Gregory was a friend and mentor to many of us. His presentations at our conferences were inspiring, his questions were always friendly and to the point, and his joie de vivre was in full display at our social outings. While Gregory's work will stay, his persona will be missed by many.