The series of annual two-day research meetings *London Stringology Day & London Algorithms Workshop* (*LSD&LAW*) took place in 2016 at King's College London on the 4th and 5th of February. The workshop gathered over 60 researchers from more than 15 countries with 21 presentations varying from stringology topics such as pattern matching, data structures, compression and indexing techniques, to topics such as combinatorics on words and graph theory. The discussed applications included mathematics and financial markets, web search, genomic data analysis, data compression, and wireless networks.

This year's *LSD&LAW* meeting included a satellite event on *Symbolic Dynamics and Approximation Methods* and celebrated another one of the milestones of Bill Smyth, one of the regulars of this workshop.

This special issue contains the full versions of a selection of the presentations of *LSD&LAW 2016* dealing with distributed algorithms, data structures constructions, graph algorithms, and applications. The selection is the result of precious work of the anonymous reviewers who generously guaranteed quality and timing in two rounds of refereeing process.

The editors of this special issue would also like to warmly thank the Editorial Board of the Journal of Discrete Algorithms for presenting them with the opportunity of sharing part of the outcome of *LSD&LAW 2016* to the readers of the Journal.

Guest Editors of the special issue,

Robert Mercas and Nadia Pisanti