## Foreword

## Dear Readers, Contributors, and Colleagues,

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I introduce the third issue of the Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Computing Applications (JAICA). As we progress into this new year, this issue marks a significant milestone in our journey, showcasing both the depth and diversity of scholarship that defines our publication.

This issue features a special collection of contributions, including two conference reports and two critical perspectives. Among these, I would like to highlight an extraordinary inclusion: a critical perspective published in both English and Spanish. This bilingual presentation, an exception to our usual format, underscores the relevance and societal impact of the article titled "The Role of AI in Combating Mistletoe Infestation in Mexican Forests." By publishing it in Spanish, we aim to ensure accessibility to the local audience, as the article addresses the mistletoe infestation issue specific to Mexico. At the same time, the English version extends its reach and fosters dialogue across a broader audience, emphasizing the global significance of the intersection between AI and ecological conservation. Each article embodies the spirit of JAICA by exploring real-world challenges through the lens of cutting-edge AI technologies.

Complementing these articles are two conference reports, which offer an in-depth look at the 32nd International Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ICCBR) 2024 and the 2024 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Mental Health (ICAIMH). These reports provide insights into groundbreaking discussions, emerging trends, and collaborative opportunities in AI-driven research and its applications in mental health and socio-ecological domains.

The critical perspectives section, inaugurated in our previous issue, continues to serve as a platform for reflective and argument-driven discussions. In addition to the bilingual perspective on mistletoe management, this section features other thoughtprovoking viewpoints that challenge the boundaries of conventional AI applications. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated editorial team and reviewers, whose expertise ensures the highest standards of quality; and to the sponsors and collaborators, including Maikron, for their unwavering support. Finally, I thank our readers for their continued interest and engagement, which inspires us to push the boundaries of AI and computing applications.

As we look ahead, JAICA remains committed to its mission of fostering a collaborative and inclusive platform for AI research with real-world impact. Together, we will continue to explore the limitless possibilities of artificial intelligence and its transformative potential.

Warmest regards,

Mauricio G. Orozco-del-Castillo

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Computing Applications (JAICA)