

Good afternoon: Craig Geoffrey and I are Academic co-Directors of the Rotman FRT-Lab. It is a pleasure for us to bring you greetings from the University of Toronto RETC team and from our Rotman School of Management Dean, Professor Susan Christoffersen.

Thank you, Professor Emilio Barone and LUISS University for partnering with the Rotman FRT-Lab team almost 10 years ago to host the first Rotman European Trading Competition in 2012 -- allowing us to meet and interact with many European universities, many of you have gone on to participate in the Rotman International Trading Competition (RITC), which is held in Toronto every February.

We are also very grateful for the essential financial support and encouragement provided by the sponsors and LUISS University.

We especially want to express our gratitude to everyone on the RETC team from both Rome and Toronto (particularly Bachir Chehab, Eric Kang, Marco Amadasi and our Lab Assistants) for their excellent work preparing for this event. And we want to thank you, our participants. We are thrilled to have teams from so many European countries competing.

The goal of RETC is to give you the chance to apply the theory you learn in the classroom to realistic scenarios using the Rotman Interactive Trader platform and our market simulator decision case curricula that is used in more than 50 universities and leading companies from all over the world.

Our cases today will apply your skills in a variety of roles. The range of scenarios in each case provide practice dealing with opportunities and risks. The dynamic market will give you immediate feedback allowing you to adapt and derive robust strategies. You will embrace uncertainty, apply probabilistic thinking, and develop critical real-time decision-making skills that will be essential in a workplace facing complex challenges and international competition.

Your experience at the RETC, meeting and competing with some of the best students in Europe, highlights the value of international perspectives and connections in your work and personal experience. We hope you will maintain the connections and skills you will built here as you embark on bold initiatives in your future work.

Emilio, we are grateful for your support and vision that contributed to the outstanding success of RETC 2012, 2016 and 2018. We miss being in Rome today, but we are confident that the enthusiastic participation of the teams today will provide a memorable RETC-2021 -- and we are looking forward to being back in Rome at RETC-2022.