Message from the Program Chairs

Welcome to the proceedings for the 20th IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance. This year we selected 38 full papers and 10 short papers from a total of 122 full papers submitted. All papers were refereed by at least three referees. We also decided to accepted 14 posters papers this year. The poster session will be held during the reception for ICSM.

The papers accepted this year represent the wide diversity of sites in which research work continues to flourish in software maintenance. In these proceedings you will find papers from both north and south American, both east and west Europe, from Asia and from Australia. The program also includes contributions from both academia and from industry and from both well-established researchers and newcomers to the field of software maintenance. We believe that this is strong evidence for the continued strength vibrancy and importance of Software Maintenance.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the two keynote speakers for ICSM 2004: Victor Basili, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park and the Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Center - Maryland and Bill Woodworth, Corporate Director of IBM Software Test and Development Excellence.

We would like to thank the program committee and additional reviewers for their time and expertise in reviewing the submissions to this year's ICSM. We are also very grateful to Massimiliano Di Penta for managing the cyber chair submission system efficiently and pro-actively and for ensuring that the technical side of the paper submission process ran smoothly and faultlessly. Dave Binkley carefully and tenaciously managed the production of the proceedings in co-operation with Deeber Azada from the IEEE computer Society and we would like to thank them for seeing that these proceedings were completed.

ICSM 2004 also has five non-paper tracks this year. The tutorials, the panels, the dissertation forum, the industrial applications track and the tools exhibition track. The program chairs selected two panel sessions for the panels track. The other four non-paper tracks were managed by separate committees. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the committees which managed the reviewing of each of these tracks.

Following a similar co-location in 1998, ICSM 2004 is held in conjunction with the 10th International Symposium on Software Metrics (Metrics 2004). The organizing committee of ICSM and Metrics events worked in close collaboration to ensure that the maximum benefit was gained from this co-location. The third day of the main ICSM conference merges into the first day of the Metrics Symposium, and Victor Basili kindly agreed to be the joint keynote for the two events. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciated to the organizers of the 10th Metrics Symposium for their co-operation, support and assistance.

In addition to the co-location with Metrics 2004, ICSM is also co-located with a number of workshops which have traditionally been held in co-location with ICSM over the years. In 2004 these co-located workshops include the 9th IEEE Workshop on Empirical Studies of Software Maintenance (WESS 04), the 6th International Workshop on Web Site Evolution, the 4th International Workshop on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation and Software Technology and Engineering Practice (STEP). We would like to thank the organizers of these workshops for choosing to co-locate with ICSM this year and we trust that attendees will benefit from the increased opportunities of interaction and discussion that these workshops offer.

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