Message from the ICSME 2014 Technical Research Track Program Co-Chairs

This year's ICSME has a large variety of high quality, technical research papers, which resulted in sessions on developer knowledge, evolving systems, developer support, technical debt, managing change, empirical studies, fault localization, software quality, patches, recommenders, and clones. In total, we received 267 abstracts and 210 full paper submissions. Each paper was reviewed by at least 3 reviewers who were selected through bidding to create a good match between paper topic and PC member expertise; each PC member reviewed 9-10 papers over several weeks, with collectively 632 reviews submitted. During the weeklong discussion period, PC reviewers submitted over 1000 comments. Finally, of the reviewed papers, 40 papers were accepted, yielding an acceptance rate of 19%. To put this year into perspective, 195 abstracts were submitted to last year's conference, the PC reviewed 163 papers collectively, and 36 papers were accepted, with an acceptance rate of 22%. All these accepted papers will be published in the conference electronic proceedings, which will also be available in the IEEE Digital Library.

As has become customary in recent software engineering conferences, our primary goal for reviewers was to find reasons to *accept* papers, not simply be critical of their flaws. The PC selected papers for inclusion in the program without targeting any quota or acceptance rate: merits and weaknesses of each paper were discussed independently of other papers taken into consideration.

We thank the PC and additional reviewers for their time, careful reviews, and active discussions of the submitted papers. This kind of service is important to the health of the community and quality of the conference. We appreciate the diligence toward making ICSME 2014 a high quality experience for the participants and helping authors to share their research contributions in the most effective way.

Lori Pollock  
*University of Delaware, USA*

Leon Moonen  
*Simula Research Laboratory, Norway*