Message from the ICSME 2014 ERA Track
Program Co-Chairs

The goal of the Early Research Achievements (ERA) track is to provide researchers and practitioners with a forum for presenting great and promising ideas in early stages of research. These ideas do not require a strong empirical evaluation. The 2014 ERA track also aims at providing constructive feedback and guiding the authors of accepted papers from initial ideas with limited evaluation towards solid future ICSME paper submissions with strong empirical underpinnings. The topics of interest for this track are the same as for the main research track, i.e., all the topics related to the research and practice of software maintenance and evolution.

We received a record number of 100 abstract submissions. This resulted in a total of 77 actual ERA paper submissions from across the world. The papers went through a rigorous review process. In particular, the submissions were evaluated on the basis of their originality, importance of contribution, soundness, evaluation (if available), quality and consistency of presentation, and appropriate comparison to the related work. Special emphasis was put on the originality and timeliness of the proposed contribution, i.e., a full evaluation of the proposed ideas was not required. The final decision on including the papers in the technical ERA program was made based on the reviews, open and thorough discussion among program committee members, and consensus formation. Eventually, 28 papers were accepted in the technical program, giving an acceptance rate of 36.4%. The papers will feature various topics related to software maintenance and evolution such as empirical studies, software code search and traceability, reengineering, clone detection techniques and their applications, studies of bugs and issues among the others. Overall, ERA track is comprised of five sessions containing five papers and one session containing three papers. All ERA sessions are supposed to be discussion-heavy and aimed at providing pertinent feedback to the authors and useful take-away messages for participants. In order to further facilitate discussions, the papers will be presented not only in a formal setting but also in a dedicated poster session. The titles of the sessions are as the following: Developers, commits, and visualization, Reengineering, Clones and applications, Code search and traceability, Maintenance, and Bugs and issues. All these accepted papers will be published in the conference electronic proceedings, which will also be available in the IEEE Digital Library.

We are extremely grateful to all the authors who submitted high quality work and program committee members for their thorough reviews and timely and pertinent discussions on all the submitted papers. Finally, we would like to thank ICSME 2014 General Chair, Hausi Müller, and all the members of the organizing committee, who functioned as an effective team and supported this conference track in many ways. We hope you have a productive and pleasurable experience with ERA track and have a great time at ICSME 2014!

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