Message from the General Chair

On behalf of the programme committee, I would like to welcome you to Oxford and to Keble College, for the International Conference on Software Maintenance 1999.

The ICSM conference is the premier international event in the maintenance field, and this year we have introduced a new category of “experience papers.” All papers appearing in the Proceedings have been fully reviewed by four referees.

The importance of software maintenance is being increasingly recognised, both in terms of professional activities, and also through public perception, the Y2K problem being the most obvious example. Hence it is vital for the community of researchers and practitioners to publish, present, and debate the latest results in the field. These proceedings present work of outstanding international excellence, where reports on the latest advances in the field may be found.

While in Oxford, I hope you will spend some time exploring the city and its environs. Oxford is one of the most magnificent venues in the world to explore, and whatever your interests, there is much to see.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to making ICSM 1999 a success. The programme committee members have played a vital part in assessing and reviewing submitted reports. Friends at Keble College and at IEEE have made the administration very simple. I would also like to thank all our sponsors, both industrial organisations and professional bodies for their support. The co-chairs have taken the great majority of the work in organising ICSM 1999, and my particular thanks are extended to them.

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