It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 18th International Conference on Software Maintenance (ICSM) and to Montreal.

ICSM is the major international conference in the field of software and systems maintenance, evolution, and management. This year’s theme is “Systems and software evolution in the era of Internet”. Both stand-alone legacy applications, which have often been developed using technologies that have become out-dated in some way, and novel applications, which have been developed using today’s approaches, are rapidly becoming integrated as part of enterprise-wide and industry-wide systems. The need for such a rapid system and software integration has led to many distributed heterogeneous systems whose maintenance and evolution presents technological challenges.

ICSM 2002 addresses new scenarios and major challenges in maintenance and evolution. The focus of the conference is on the new issues that heterogeneous systems raise and on the new opportunities for researchers and practitioners in the field.

ICSM 2002 brings together researchers, practitioners, tool developers and users, technology transfer experts, and project managers to promote interaction within the maintenance and evolution community.

ICSM 2002 offers technical presentations and demonstrations from academia and industry. A particular interest is in exchanging concepts, prototypes, research ideas, and other results that could contribute to the academic arena and also benefit business and the industrial community. ICSM 2002 offers interactive and participatory sessions, such as working collaborative sessions, presentations of industrial projects, and discussion panels.

Several co-located workshops and conferences are offered: the 2nd IEEE International Workshop on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation (SCAM), the 4th IEEE International Workshop on Web Site Evolution (WSE), the 8th Workshop on Empirical Studies of Software Maintenance (WESS), the Database Maintenance and Re-engineering Workshop (DBMR), and the Software Technology and Engineering Practice (STEP).

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as General Chair for ICSM 2002. I wish to express my deep appreciation to all the many people whose key contribution with their talents and efforts made this conference happening. In particular I want to thank Program Co-Chairs Giuliano Antoniol and Ira Baxter and Program Committee members for their organization of the scientific program and for the new research it includes. My deep thanks also go to the organizers of the other sections of the conference. Shawn Bohner and James Cordy have organized the industrial section; Keith Bennett and Harald Gall coordinated the students and tool demonstration session; Kostas Kontogiannis and Jean-François Girard have selected and organized the tutorials; Houari Sahraoui and Aniello Cimitile have solicited and synchronized the many co-located workshops; Nicholas Zvegintzov and Giuseppe Visaggio have supervised information distribution and publicity; Denis Roy and François Coallier have solicited co-sponsors, financial, and material support for the conference; Mario Cusson did an excellent job in keeping finance management and budget under control; Vaclav Rajlich managed the organization of the proceedings together with Bob Werner; Anne Pons allowed us to enjoy Montreal as the host city of this conference; Massimiliano Di Penta and Victor Chong organized the web communication which has been of great and fundamental help for information spread, for paper submission and reviewing purposes, and for the registration and accommodation processes.

The members of the various organizing and scientific committees are listed in the following pages. I also wish to express my appreciation to the IEEE Computer Society and their personnel for their support and help in organizing this conference and I want to thank the many organizations which have offered sponsorship and support.

Finally, I want to thank especially the authors of the conference contributions, the speakers, and the participants while I invite all of them to fully enjoy the program and the conference location.

Ettore Merlo
General Chair