Foreword

Welcome to the 29th Brazilian Symposium on Software Engineering (SBES), a flagship event that is primarily known for the excellence of its technical program. This year, for the sixth time, SBES is part of the Brazilian Conference on Software: Theory and Practice (CBSoft), which integrates other three important symposia: the Brazilian Symposium on Programming Languages (SBLP), the Brazilian Symposium on Formal Methods (SBMF), and the Brazilian Symposium on Software Components, Architectures and Reuse (SBCARS). The goal of the conference is to bring together communities with related interests and strengthen the visibility of all the four symposia. It also offers the opportunity for the audience to participate, in the same week, of a broad forum about software development, where the latest trends and innovations in academia and industry are discussed.

The Brazilian Computer Society (SBC) annually promotes SBES, and the IEEE digital library publishes its proceedings. The event includes the main technical track, the insightful ideas track, and invited talks. In cooperation with other CBSoft symposia, SBES also holds an outstanding program of workshops, panels, mini-courses, tutorials, industry talks, tool demonstrations, the workshop of theses and dissertations, and other satellite events. In this year, the SBES program has three invited talks:

Data Ninja III: The Rise of Data Scientists in the Software Industry
Thomas Zimmermann (Microsoft Research, USA)

The Naturalness of Software: A Research Vision
Prem Devanbu (UC Davis, USA)

An Agenda for the Future of Software [Engineering in Brazil]
Sílvio Meira (UFPE, Brazil)

In this SBES edition, we received 122 submissions in the technical track, from which 91 papers were valid submissions. The themes of the articles submitted were diverse, covering all topics of the call for papers. Based on the reviews, 18 research papers were selected for the main track. This corresponds to an acceptance rate of 19.8%. Additionally, the insightful ideas track received 26 submissions, from which 15 papers were valid and 3 papers were accepted. The submitted papers to the technical research track involved 392 authors: 371 from Brazil, 5 from Mexico, 3 from Canada, 2 from France, 2 from Germany, 2 from Great Britain, 2 from Portugal, 1 from Algeria, 1 from Austria, and 3 undefined.

The process of evaluation and selection of papers included the direct participation of 88 members of the program committee, with national and international members, and 86 additional reviewers. The quality of the program reflects the procedure adopted and the dedication of the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers. The process occurs in five stages through a rigorous method, which involves an on-line discussion forum and a meeting of the Steering Committee. In the first stage, each paper was reviewed by at least three (usually
four) members of the program committee. The second stage encompassed on-line discussion on paper reviews, and members with divergent views regarding the evaluation of a paper tried to synchronize their perceptions about the submission. In the third stage, authors had access to the reviews and could elaborate a rebuttal for clarifying points raised by reviewers. The reviewers then considered the authors’ rebuttal in a fourth stage, where last divergences were solved and reviews were finished. The fifth stage was conducted through a meeting of the Steering Committee. At this meeting, we discussed the conflicting reviews not addressed in the previous step, and took actions to detect and resolve possible distortions in the evaluation process, such as the reexamination of reviews of borderline papers.

The realization of a scientific event of this magnitude is always an arduous task and relies on the collaboration of several people. We would like to thank all those people who contributed to this SBES edition, in particular the authors, the Program Committee members, and the additional reviewers who have worked hard to enable us to come up with a high-quality SBES program. We would also like to thank the Steering Committee members, Márcio Delamaro (ICMC/USP), Sérgio Soares (UFPE), and Thais Batista (UFRN), for all the support and contributions to this work. Finally, our special thanks to the general chairs of CBSoft, Eduardo Figueiredo (UFMG), Fernando Quintão (UFMG), Kecia Ferreira (CEFET-MG), and Maria Augusta Nelson (PUC-MG), for their contributions and effort to make this event possible. On behalf of the Program Committee we welcome all the SBES 2015 attendees, and wish a fruitful symposium and a productive week in Belo Horizonte.

Belo Horizonte, September 2015

Leonardo Murta (UFF)  
SBES 2015 Technical Research PC Chair

Eduardo Almeida (UFBA)  
SBES 2015 Insightful Ideas PC Chair