Message from the Program Co-chairs

On behalf of the SSBSE 2009 program committee, we welcome you to Cumberland Lodge and to the 1st International Symposium on Search Based Software Engineering.

It has been a privilege to be part of the organising committee for this, the first ever symposium dedicated to search based software engineering. We are particularly grateful for the widespread participation and support from the SBSE community. 26 papers were submitted to the research and PhD tracks, with authors from institutions in 14 countries: the community is truly international. We would like to thank all the authors who submitted such high quality manuscripts.

We wanted to ensure a thorough and constructive review process for the symposium. All submitted papers were reviewed by at least three experts in the field; in total, 89 reviews were performed. Authors were given the opportunity to clarify any misunderstandings and this enabled reviewers to refine their review comments. After extensive discussion, 9 manuscripts were accepted as full papers, 5 as short papers, and 3 were accepted to the PhD track. Providing detailed and constructive comments is a difficult task but a vitally important one if we, as a community, wish to encourage the publication of high quality, rigorous and relevant research. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to the members of the program committee for taking the time to do so.

We have designed the symposium program with the exchange of ideas in mind. In technical sessions, authors are encouraged to give concise presentations covering the novel ideas and key results that will be of particular interest to the audience. The presentations will be followed by a general discussion on the session topic, and we invite all attendees to actively participate in these discussions. We are providing facilities for ad-hoc presentations during the discussion, and will capture the points raised and distribute them to the attendees after the symposium.

Technical papers are only part of the SSBSE 2009 program. We are honoured to have three outstanding keynote speakers: Lionel C. Briand, David E. Goldberg, and Enrique Alba. All are internationally renowned researchers in their respective fields, and we are sure that we speak for all attendees when we say that we are looking forward to learning from their keynote talks.

Last but not least, the program includes what promises to be an extremely stimulating panel session, involving five of the most prominent software engineering scientists: Norman Fenton, Anthony Finkelstein, Paola Inverardi, Mary Lou Soffa, and Ian Sommerville. It is a pleasure to be able to include such a distinguished panel of speakers in the symposium program. We believe that their insights on the status and future of search based software engineering will help to inform the direction that we take as a community.

Many people have been involved in organising the program for the symposium and we would like to take the time to acknowledge them here. We have benefited greatly from the support and guidance of the general chair, Mark Harman; without his knowledge and enthusiasm, this symposium would not have been possible. We would also like to extend our thanks to Myra Cohen who assisted us in developing the program, far beyond the role of PhD track chair that she signed up to. The publicity and website for the symposium are the result of the hard work of Paul Emberson, Per Kristian Lehre, and David White. Silvia Ceballos at the IEEE Computer Society has assisted us in preparing the proceedings, and Jian Ren has worked with us on incorporating local arrangements into the program. We would like to thank them all.
Please take advantage of the unique opportunity that this symposium affords: a coming-together of leading researchers and practitioners in a forum dedicated to SBSE. We also suggest you find time to explore the Lodge and the surrounding parkland. Please do not hesitate to give us comments on the symposium, and suggestions for the future.

Above all, we trust that you enjoy SSBSE 2009 and that we will see you again in 2010.

Simon Poulding, University of York, and Massimiliano Di Penta, University of Sannio.
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