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Message from the Chairs

ICPC 2017

Welcome to the 25th International Conference on Program Comprehension! This silver jubilee has seen several first times for ICPC. It is for the very first time that ICPC has been organised in South America, in Argentina, in Buenos Aires. Moreover, it is also for the first time that the main track of ICPC crossed the line of 80 submissions. This year the program committee has received 83 submissions originating from 97 abstracts and co-authored by researchers from 26 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania. This is more than double of the 39 submissions received back in 2000.¹ Finally, for the very first time in the history of ICPC we have implemented the triple-blind reviewing process: the authors do not know who is reviewing their work (single), the reviewers do not know whose work they review (double), and the reviewers do not know who the other reviewers are (triple).

The review process was quite rigorous: every paper has been reviewed by at least three reviewers. In total, 251 reviews have been submitted. Unfortunately, only 28 submissions (34%) could be accepted meaning that many good papers could not be accepted. We hope that the detailed feedback provided by the reviewers as well as the summaries provided by the leading reviewers, can help the authors of these papers to improve their work and submit it elsewhere. The program chairs will invite authors of the best papers to extend their work and submit it to a special issue of Empirical Software Engineering journal.

ACM policy allows us to give up to 2 ACM distinguished paper awards, while ICSE allows us to give one ICPC 2017 Best Paper award. To select these award-winning papers, PC chairs selected the top 5 papers with the highest ratings from the reviewers. Each of these papers receives an average rating of ≥ 1.7 in a scale of -3 to 3, with at least two reviewers giving 2 ("Accept") or 3 ("Strong Accept"). PC chairs then request the help of members of ICPC Steering Committee and prior PC chairs (for ICPC 2012-2016) to identify the distinguished and best papers. The distinguished/best papers would be announced during the conference banquet.

ICPC 2017 is honored to have Andrew Begel, a Senior Researcher with Microsoft Research as a keynote speaker. Andrew will be speaking about "The ABCs of Software Engineering: Affect, Biometrics, and Cognition." He will describe a set of techniques that modernize classic approaches to program comprehension and human interaction by combining (A) principles governing the influence of human affect on behavior, (B) biometric sensors, and (C) models of cognition informed by advances in cognitive neuroscience.

ICPC 2017 will also have a session for the Most Influential Paper (MIP). MIP is selected among papers published a decade ago (ICPC 2007). PC chairs identify the top-5 papers based on their Google Scholar citation counts. Each of these papers received more than 75 citations in the last decade. Based on inputs from steering committee, we invite members of the program committees of ICPC 2007 (the ones selecting these papers), and ICPC 2014-17 (current and last 3 year PC members) to vote for the MIP. The MIP selection process was still ongoing at the time this message was written.

Aside from the main track, keynote, and special session for the MIP, ICPC 2017 also features an Emerging Research Achievement (ERA) track (chaired by Sonia Haiduc and Martin Pinzger), an industry track (chaired by Felienne Hermans and David Shepherd) and a tool track (chaired by Latifa Guerrouj and Simone Romano). The ERA track accepts a total of 7 out of 14 submissions. The industry track accepts a total of 2 out of 4 submissions. The tool track accepts a total of 4 out of 4 submissions. ICSE also allows us to give one Best Paper award for each of these tracks.

¹ While the history of the Workshop on Program Comprehension (WPC), a predecessor of ICPC, goes back to 1997 we could not find information on the submission numbers prior to 2000.

We would like to sincerely thank members of the organizing committee, PC members of the various tracks, authors, and attendees for their hard work and contributions that make ICPC 2017 possible. Once again, thank you very much!

We hope you will enjoy the conference and have a good time in Buenos Aires!

David Lo & Alexander Serebrenik
Program Co-Chairs

Giuseppe Scanniello
General Chair