Message from the ICSE 2025 General Chairs

Welcome to ICSE 2025 in Ottawa!

We have an exciting and event-packed week planned for attendees. ICSE is the top international conference in software engineering, and we expect over 2000 attendees from over 50 countries. Around 20% are expected from each of the USA and Canada, with China adding another 10% and various European countries sending 30% of our attendees.

In addition to the main conference (Wednesday to Friday), we have 12 co-located conferences spread over the three preceding days, with almost 400 papers, over 1200 authors, and 700 attendees. MSR (Mining Software Repositories) is the largest, with over 110 papers and 250 attendees. We have 32 workshops with another 250+ papers, over 900 authors, and 700 attendees.

Overall the conference involves about 4200 unique authors. The average number of co-authors per paper is 3.5 (5 for the Research Track).

We have several special events on the Tuesday before the main conference, in addition to workshops and co-located conferences. New this year is the SWEBOK summit, which will include many interesting presentations focusing on the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge. We also have two exciting tutorials, the New Faculty Symposium, the Student Mentoring Symposium, and the Doctoral Symposium; the latter involves 45 PhD students. On Saturday, May 3rd, we have the Symposium on Software Engineering in the Global South, a new offering this year.

Each main conference day (Wednesday to Friday) starts with a plenary session that includes a keynote speaker. We are thrilled to offer keynotes given by David Parnas, Neha Rungta, and Patricia Lago. The awards session on Wednesday afternoon will also be plenary: We will hear from the IEEE Computer Society Harlan D. Mills Award winner Bashar Nuseibeh, the ACM SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award winner Martin Rinard, as well as several of the 10-author group awarded the Most Influential Paper from ICSE 2015.

There are 75 paper sessions (each 1.5 hours) in the main conference, of which 73 are themed sessions integrating 436 paper presentations from 6 tracks: the Research Track, the Software Engineering in Practice (SEIP) track, the Software Engineering in Society (SEIS) track, the New Ideas and Emerging Results (NIER) track, the Journal First track, and the Demonstrations track. 70% of papers in this combined set have a co-author who is also co-author of another paper in the main conference! Scheduling all the papers to avoid conflicts while maintaining thematic coherence proved a major challenge: We hope you enjoy the result. Thirty additional main-conference papers will be presented as posters, which was an option we gave this year to all main-conference presenters.

Fully 24 main-conference sessions have AI for Software Engineering as their lead topic. Other major thematic groups include Human and Social topics (9 sessions), SE for AI (7 sessions), and Testing and QA (6 sessions).

The main conference also has two main panel sessions organized by Steve Fraser, and a Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the IEEE TSE Journal organized by its editor, Sebastian Uchitel.

Additional sessions in the main conference are devoted to the ACM Student Research Competition, the Industrial Challenge track, and four Technical Briefings.

The annual TCSE and SIGSOFT Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon.

We have arranged for a quiet room for most of the conference (202) for people who prefer to get away from the crowds and noise. Anyone can use this room, but we have aimed it especially at the neurodiverse community, such as those with autism or ADHD. During the Friday afternoon break, we invite people from this community to meet each other there. One of the rooms in the main reception will also be set up without music to accommodate people who would like a lower volume.

We have many social events organized. This year's banquet will be a plated sit-down dinner in the Rogers Centre on Thursday evening. Our main reception will be the evening before at the National Arts Centre, just across the canal. Newcomers are invited to attend the Newcomer's Reception on Tuesday evening. The Conversation Café will be held at lunchtime on Wednesday.

The RCS area of the second-floor atrium has been set aside each break and lunchtime for themed social get-togethers for various groups. For example, if you are of African descent, are an Indigenous person, or want to meet others speaking Spanish, there is a chance to get together with others or allies. Check the program for the nine such sessions.

The lunches will be buffet style, with buffet tables on the second and third floors. Canada Hall 3 will be set up with round tables so you can enjoy conversing with others and then peruse the posters that line the room. You can also bring your lunch to one of several special lunchtime events, such as the Elsevier Author Workshop, the CSCAN Horizon grant workshop, and the various lunchtime meetings and social events. There is a special offsite lunch for the LGBTQ community on Wednesday (pre-registration was needed).

Wednesday morning, before the main conference starts, there will be a meditation session run by Laurie Williams. We will hold the annual ICSE run along the Canal on Thursday morning; then on Thursday afternoon we will hold the annual Soccer game.

Numerous editorial boards, program committees, and other groups are holding meetings at various times, including Tuesday evening and in the latter part of lunch breaks. Check the website for details.

Sustainability is a key focus of the conference organizers: The building itself is LEED Gold certified. We are making maximum effort to reduce waste in food preparation and serving. And we have arranged for the conference to be carbon neutral, with a portion of fees to be used to plant trees. We thank the IEEE Computer Society and Rick Kazman for helping arrange for the conference to receive the IEEE CS Sustainability badge (see the green shield shape on the website).

As General Co-Chairs, we thank the vast army of volunteers who have put this conference together. Finance chair Mehrdad Sabetzadeh and IEEE CS Conference Portfolio Manager Kathy Park have been instrumental in keeping planning ticking forward with weekly meetings. Local arrangements leaders are Shiva Nejat, Nafiseh Kahani, and Olga Baysal. Maleknaz Nayebi, Reyhaneh Kalantari, and Shurui Zhou are leading the army of 100 student volunteers. Amy Felty and Bianca Trinkenreich are co-ordinating our EDI offerings, including free childcare. Ana Moreira and Ronnie De Souza Santos are ensuring the conference is sustainable.

Numerous people have put the program together, including Corina S Pasareanu, David Lo, and their team of over 350 program committee members, including area chairs and review process chairs. Ciera Jaspan and Rick Kazman organized the SE in Practice Track. Paola Inverardi and Ghizlane El Boussaidi chaired the SE in Society track. Arnon Sturm and Haipeng Cai led the process of selecting papers for the Journal First track. Stéphane Somé and Ramiro Liscano organized the Demonstrations track. Each of these track chairs was supported by large track-specific program committees, and we thank them all.

Julia Rubin and Barbora Buhnova led the New Ideas and Emerging Results track. We were deeply saddened to learn of Barbora's passing earlier this year.

We lack space to list all the organizers of the Workshops and Co-located Conferences. Still, we thank Workshop Co-Chairs Dalal Alrajeh and Wenwen Wang, as well as Co-Located Conferences Co-Chairs Daniel Amyot and Amal Anda, for doing all the detailed work of marshaling these 44 tracks.

We thank the organizers of special sessions, including Steven D. Fraser (Panels); Samuel Ajila and Nour Ali (Tutorials and Technical Briefings); Tayana Conte and Alexander Serebrenik (Doctoral Symposium); Luigi Benedicenti and Shinpei Hayashi (New Faculty Symposium); Engineer Bainomugisha and Michel Chaudron (Global South Symposium); Md Tajmilur Rahman and Lola Burguenoc (ACM Student Research); as well as James C. Davis, Lavinia Francesca Paganini, Adriana Sejfia and Lili Wei (Student Mentoring).

Patanamon Thongtanunam and Domenico Bianculli organized the Shadow PC, a new feature this year. This process helped train the next generation of conference reviewers. The reviews by Shadow PC members

were given to authors, although were not part of the decision-making process.

Beyond local arrangements and organizing tracks, the program also involved numerous other volunteers with heavy loads: Opeyemi Adesina and Majid Babaei were Publications Co-Chairs and liaised with the IEEE Computer Society Conference Publication Services staff, who we also thank. Gias Uddin and Kelly Blincoe led the Artifacts Evaluation team that added badges to many publications; Manel Abdelatif managed the awards; Golnaz Gharachorlu helped manage the vast amount of data, including arranging for those who had to give virtual presentations for medical or visa reasons. Mahboubeh Dadkhah took on the arduous task of setting up the schedule in the researchr platform and helping the numerous track chairs to do their part of this work. Jason Jaskolka did much of the posting on our social media channels, @icseconf on Facebook, Bluesky X, Mastodon, and X. Emmanuel Ayeleso and Zhou Yang updated the website.

We thank the professional staff, particularly Kaitlin Moberg and Kassaundra Black at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine CPS, who ran registration and paid the bills. We also thank the staff at the Rogers Centre, the NAC, Encore Global (AV), Birdie Break (childcare), and GES (furniture).

We thank our many sponsors and supporters, including IEEE Computer Society (and TCSE), ACM SIGSOFT, The University of Ottawa, Carleton University, IBM, Ottawa Tourism, Elsevier, Huawei, Oracle, Google, Springer, and Bytedance. Look out for their logos, explore their websites, and visit their booths.

Finally, we thank you, our authors and attendees. Ultimately, it is you who have all come together to make ICSE the ultimate place to exchange knowledge about software engineering and meet new friends and contacts.

Enjoy ICSE 2025!

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