

Message from the Journal-first Chair of ICSE 2018

Since 2015, ICSE has begun to form partnerships with prestigious journals to incorporate journal-first papers into the ICSE program. Through this initiative, authors of journal-first papers accepted in the partnering journals are invited to present their work at ICSE, allowing the authors to speak directly to the community and offering the ICSE attendees a richer set of presentations.

In many academic fields, journals are the primary means for reporting research. Software engineering is an anomaly, as it relies on conferences as the main means for scholarly publications. This has several drawbacks, including hard deadlines for submissions, limits on the number of pages for each article, overloaded reviewing committees, and inability to allow for iterative processes with at least one substantive revision by the authors and review of that revision by the reviewers. The journal-first initiative, while still evolving, has the potential to help addressing some of these drawbacks: it offers some interesting tradeoffs to regular conference papers and is becoming a staple of the regular ICSE program.

The journals that supported the journal-first model as partners with ICSE 2018 are the following:

- IEEE Transaction of Software Engineering
- ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology
- Empirical Software Engineering

Authors of journal-first papers accepted by these journals were invited to submit a presentation proposal. In answer to the call, we received 67 proposals, out of which 48 are included in the program. Technical papers accepted by the ICSE research track and journal-first presentations are blended in the same sessions, thus enhancing the overall ICSE program with some pieces of work and topics that otherwise might have been lacking. To provide attendees with a complete overview of the program and help them to make informed decisions on which sessions to attend based on their interests, the ICSE proceedings include a one-page abstract of the journal-first presentations.

I hope ICSE will continue to strengthen the journal-first initiative to the point that conference submissions and journal-first papers become complementary first-class channels to present research at the conference, as this promises to have a positive effect on the publication culture, reviewing habits and expectations within the software engineering community and, ultimately, will lead to better reviewing processes and acceptance decisions.

I am extremely grateful to the General Chair and the Program Chairs of ICSE 2018 for their trust and for being a reliable source of expertise and advices in developing the initiative; a particularly warm thank you goes to the members of the selection committee for their generous and qualified support.

I hope you enjoy the ICSE technical program as much as I have enjoyed being a small part of delivering it.



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