Message from the Chairs

We cordially welcome you to RE'20, the 28th IEEE International Requirements Engineering Conference. For the first time since its inception, the RE conference will be held in a hybrid mode: physically in Zurich, Switzerland for all those who can travel to Zurich and virtually for all participants who cannot travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zurich is a vibrant city surrounded by spectacular mountains. Already 5000 years ago, the first settlers made the shores of Lake Zurich their home. Nowadays, Zurich is the largest city of Switzerland, with a thriving economy, world-class universities and an excellent quality of living. In the past years, Zurich has repeatedly been chosen as the city with the highest quality of life in the world.

The greater Zurich area hosts several universities. Two of them are co-sponsors of RE'20: the University of Zurich, founded in 1833 with roots back to the 16th century, is the largest university in Switzerland, ranked among the top 100 universities worldwide. FHNW, the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, emerged from a long tradition of polytechnic education institutions in Switzerland.

The conference theme, "Requirements Engineering for a Digital World", reflects that digitalization has become a mega-trend and that the transition toward a digital world entails numerous challenges for Requirements Engineering that both the scientific community and the industrial practitioners in Requirements Engineering have to address.

RE'20 offers a strong technical program with broad appeal to researchers, industrial practitioners, students, and educators in the field of Requirements Engineering.

As a highlight for all conference participants, we are proud to have excellent keynote speakers. *Francien Dechesne* from Leiden University (The Netherlands) looks at Requirements Engineering for moral considerations in algorithmic systems. *David Marcos* from Microsoft (USA) discusses Ethics at Scale and its implications. *Jeff Kramer* from Imperial College London (UK) talks about the challenges of Requirements Engineering at runtime. Finally, *Suzanne Robertson* (Atlantic Systems Guild, UK) will give an industry keynote about business analysis agility at the Industry Day of RE'20.

For the *Research track*, we received 103 research abstracts, of which 87 were followed by a full submission. Of these, five papers were desk-rejected and 82 papers were independently reviewed by at least three program committee members. In the end, 20 papers were accepted for presentation at the conference for an acceptance rate of 24%. The review process included independent reviews from the program committee members, online discussions, and virtual program committee meetings. The submissions were from 259 authors located in 31 countries. This year, authors were asked to categorize their papers among eleven research method categories, in addition to twelve requirements-related topics.

This year's RE conference called for industry papers in the *Industrial Innovation track*. Continuing the new approach from 2019, this track called for full papers and presentation-only submissions. Each full paper and presentation-only submission was evaluated by three PC members, and discussed in an online discussion. From the 21 submissions we received, eight full papers and three presentation-only submissions were accepted, reflecting a 52% acceptance rate. In addition to the Industrial Innovation track, RE'20 also features an Industry Day with invited presentations as a part of the pre-conference program.

The *RE@Next! track* attracted 39 submissions. Two of them had to be desk-rejected. The other 37 papers were independently reviewed by at least three members of the track's program committee (PC) consisting of 28 members. The reviews were followed by an online discussion, which first was conducted by the reviewers of the respective papers and then involved the entire PC. The RE@Next! chairs and their committee accepted twelve submissions, reflecting an acceptance rate of 31%. These submissions are from 125 authors located in 22 countries.

For the third year, the RE conference welcomed *Journal-First presentations* in its program. This time, however, instead of inviting authors directly, a submission process similar to the ones used by several other software engineering

conferences was followed. Papers were considered eligible if they were original work published after October 1st, 2018, in one of seven renowned journals (Springer's REJ, SoSyM and EMSE, Elsevier's IST and JSS, IEEE TSE, and ACM TOSEM), with relevant Requirements Engineering content not previously presented at conferences. The two Journal-First Co-Chairs evaluated the submissions received and selected seven papers to be presented by their authors at the conference.

For the *Posters and Tool Demonstrations track*, we received eleven submissions, seven of which were accepted. Every paper has been reviewed and discussed by three PC members. We want to express our gratitude to the PC members for their timely and quality reviews and for engaging for the discussions.

The second edition of the *Artifacts track* was held as a tool for encouraging open science in Requirements Engineering. The authors of the accepted papers in the research, RE@Next!, and industrial innovation tracks were invited to apply for open science badges to be printed on the first page of the paper. The badges could be received by making the artefacts available and reusable, or by replicating others' previous research. We received eight submissions that were all granted the "available" and "reusable" badges after being carefully reviewed. The review process was conducted in an open environment within the GitHub repository in which two reviewers publicly interacted with the authors. The Artifacts track of RE'20 adheres to the ROSE (Recognizing and Rewarding Open Science in Software Engineering) festival series.

As usual for RE conferences, RE'20 also features a rich pre-conference program with twelve workshops, four tutorials, a doctoral symposium, an industry day and further events.

This conference would not have been possible without the dedication of people who gave their time, energy and expertise to serve on the organizing committee and diverse program committees. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them. We also thank the companies, universities and other organizations who donated to this conference.

Finally, we trust that everyone who attends RE'20 will have an enjoyable time, whether online or physically present in Zurich and will be enriched by the technical program and the cultural and environmental settings.

Martin Glinz and Samuel Fricker

RE'20 General Co-Chairs

Andrea Zisman and Travis Breaux

RE'20 Program Co-Chairs