

# Preface

## Message from the SSBSE 2016 General Chair

In its eight edition, the conference was organized, for the first time, in North America. USA was proudly selected to host the event at Raleigh in North Carolina as a co-located event with ICMSE 2016. The decision to organize the event in USA was based on the great success of the first North American SBSE symposium (NasBASE15) organized by my research group in Detroit and mainly in recognition of the growing SBSE community in North America and different other locations around the world. SSBSE emphasized and introduced different originalities to the event. We organized, for the first time, a panel about SBSE support for blind and visually impaired programmers. We used a double-blind submission and review process providing a fair and relevant evaluation of the papers submitted to the conference. We attracted several sponsorship grants to support the conference from the National Science Foundation, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, etc. The program of the conference included full and short papers for the different tracks (technical, challenge, graduate students). The conference also attracted top keynote speakers from the computational search area including Carlos Coello Coello, Yew-Soon Ong, and Patrick Reed.

This great event would not have been possible without the tremendous help of many people, to whom I would like to express my gratitude. First, I would like to thank our program chairs, Federica Sarro (University College London, UK) and Kalyanmoy Deb (Michigan State University, USA). They led the review process with great dedication to every detail and made a huge effort to provide an outstanding and very high quality scientific program. I extend this recognition to all members of our Program Committee, for the dedicated work in the review and selection process of our papers. Next, I thank our graduate student track chairs, Ali Ouni (Osaka University, Japan) and Thelma Elita Colanzi Lopes (State University of Maringa, Brazil), and our SBSE challenge track chairs, Leandro Minku (University of Leicester, UK) and Tanja Vos (Polytechnical University of Valencia, Spain), for their hard work in organizing these two special tracks. I would also like to give special thanks to Wiem Mkaouer (University of Michigan, USA), our Web chair, for accepting the important challenge of creating and maintaining our website. Also, I thank our publicity chair, Yuanyuan Zhang (University College London, UK), for the important job of advertising our event. Finally, I also thank the SSBSE Steering Committee, chaired by Gordon Fraser (University of Sheffield, UK), for their vote of confidence in giving us the privilege of organizing SSBSE 2016. I must also mention and thank our long list of sponsors, who believed in our proposal and had confidence in me and in the field of SBSE. Without their support, SSBSE 2016 would not have been nearly so special. I hope you enjoy reading these proceedings as much as I enjoyed organizing the event.

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