Editorial

I am pleased to be able to make a number of announcements with this issue of *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology (TOSEM)*, including the addition of new Associate Editors, implementation of a fast-impact track, and a new continuous special section on Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering (AI and SE). We would also like to invite readers to follow *TOSEM* on Twitter and Facebook.

First, it is with great pleasure that I welcome Christian Kästner, Abhik Roychoudhury, Federica Sarro, and Shin Yoo as new *TOSEM* Associate Editors. Christian, Abhik, Federica, and Shin will contribute to strengthening the already excellent *TOSEM* editorial board with new areas of expertise and enthusiasm. They will continue the excellent work of Antonio Carzaniga and Mark Harman, who completed their service as AEs at the end of 2018, and of Jin Song Dong and Atanas Rountev, who will complete their service at the beginning of 2020. I would like to thank the outgoing AEs for their years of invaluable service to the community.

Next, I am proud to announce the implementation of a *fast-impact track*, designed to further strengthen the excellence of *TOSEM*. Starting October 1, 2019, we will upgrade papers submitted as journal-first papers and with no more than 45 pages of text (not including bibliography) to fast-impact papers. Fast-impact papers benefit from a review time of no more than 90 days for the first review and 45 days for the subsequent review (on the condition that the paper is revised within 45 days as requested by the handling editor).

Upon submission, authors may select the journal-first paper type on the condition that the paper reports completely new research results or presents novel contributions that significantly extend prior work that has not been previously reported. Journal-first papers can be submitted at any time. The *TOSEM* agreement with ICSE gives authors of journal-first papers the opportunity to present their result at ICSE.

I would also like to announce a new series of special sections called *Continuous Special Sections*. This first in the series will feature AI and SE. This special section will span consecutive issues and focus on emerging hot topics. Special section papers can be submitted at any time during the submission window for this series (October 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020) and shall comply with fast-impact paper requirements. They will be managed by a dedicated guest editorial board, reviewed within the fast-impact track timeline, and published in special sections within consecutive journal issues.

For this first series, Paolo Tonella will serve as chief section editor, and Tim Menzies and Michael R. Lyu as section editors. The special section welcomes papers presenting novel results in the emerging area that lies at the intersection of AI and SE. Topics may include: the ethical implications related to the design of AI software systems; SE processes and metrics applied to AI system development; AI for fault prediction, localization, and repair; analysis of the natural language in SE artifacts; quality assurance, formal verification, and testing of AI-based systems; AI to support automated software testing; AI for program understanding, transformation, generation, and completion; architectures and models for systems that contain AI components; and the safety and security of AI-based systems.

The submission period for this special section on AI and SE is open through December 31, 2020, and may be made at any time.

Last, I would like to welcome the new *TOSEM* social media masters, Damian Andrew Tamburri and Fabio Palomba, who will help give *TOSEM* papers the immediate visibility they deserve on the *TOSEM* website (tosem.acm.org), Twitter ([@acm_tosem](https://twitter.com/acm_tosem)), and Facebook (<https://tinyurl.com/acm-tosem>).

Mauro Pezzè
Editor-in-Chief