Editorial

One year has passed since I started serving as the *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology* editor-in-chief, and it is time for a retrospective assessment and a tuning of the prospective editorial plans.

In 2019, *ACM TOSEM* published 23 regular papers in the four quarterly issues, with an increase of almost 40% from the 17 papers published in 2018. The healthy increase of published papers is the result of a growing number of new submissions, improved review turnaround times, and reduced author revision turnaround times. In 2019, *ACM TOSEM* received 209 regular papers, 156 of which were submitted for the first time, with an overall increase of over 10% from 2018 and a strong increase of over 30% in the second quarter of 2019 over the previous three quarters. In 2019, *ACM TOSEM* papers benefitted from an average review turnaround time of 54 days, an improvement of almost 50% over 2018.

The board of distinguished reviewers, the fast-impact track, and the first continuous special section on AI and SE largely contributed to this success. Distinguished reviewers guarantee a steady response time and help us to dramatically reduce the overall review time. The fast-impact track assures an upper-bound response time for journal-first papers of limited length, and it gives authors the opportunity to quickly publish new results. The ICSE journal-first track and the newly launched *ACM TOSEM* social media presence give early visibility to the new ideas presented in fast-impact papers. The authors of the 49 fast-impact papers submitted to *ACM TOSEM* in 2019, since the new workflow's inception in June 2019, were witnesses to the success of the track. The continuous special section on AI and SE has already attracted 13 fast-impact papers since its start in September 2019 and is growing fast in 2020.

In 2020, we will work to strengthen the board of distinguished reviewers, start new special sections on hot topics that show an emerging, relevant role in software engineering, and fine-tune the review process to avoid the long delays that affected a few papers in 2019. Our aim is to keep up the good growth of high-quality submissions and great published papers.

The excellent performance of *ACM TOSEM* would not be possible without the invaluable contribution of the many reviewers, the dedication of the distinguished reviewers, the enthusiasm and work of the editors, and the invaluable work of the support team.

Mauro Pezzè
Editor-in-Chief