Welcome from EuSpRIG Chair

You are very welcome to the Eleventh Annual Conference of the European Spreadsheet Risks Interest Group. Our contributors this year are from the UK, France, Germany, Ireland, India, Canada, United States and Australia.

This year's theme is "Practical steps to protect organisations from out-of-control spreadsheets". I am delighted to see papers bringing us up the software maturity ladder. From an initial focus on better ways to find errors, we now have a focus on better ways to prevent defects being created in the first place.

EuSpRIG has always fostered the linking of academic research with the skills of practitioners. We are pleased to see this networking bearing fruit in ever more thorough and imaginative research. We commend the maturing of the market for spreadsheet discovery, assessment, remediation, and control. Currently we have about 3,000 unique visitors to our website per month and a very active yahoogroup.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude our sponsors who have supported us financially and professionally. Our logo sponsors this year are Cimcon and Protiviti, and I urge you to visit their exhibition area and learn about their developing products. We depend also on the support of ISACA Northern England chapter, the University of Greenwich, the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, and Systems Modelling Ltd. Representatives of these organisations have contributed a great amount of expertise in the organising of this conference, the publicity, the proceedings, and much more committee work in the background.

It is my pleasure to once again acknowledge the untiring efforts of our conference and programme organisers from the University of Wales Institute, Pat Cleary, Simon Thorne, and David Chadwick of our host university of Greenwich. The committee also depends upon the wise counsel and active support of Ray Butler of ISACA Northern England Chapter, David Colver of Operis, Grenville Croll of Spreadsheet Engineering Ltd (previous chair), Angela Collins of BDO(secretary), Françoise Tort of the Ecole normale Supérieure de Cachan, Jocelyn Paine of Spreadsheet Factory, David Ward of Baker Tilly, Kevin McDaid of the Dundalk Institute of Technology, Bill Bekenn of Fairway Associates, Angus Dunn, consultant, and Tie Cheng of SofTeam.

A packed programme of 20 speakers includes Dean Buckner of the UK FSA, leading researcher Prof. Ray Panko of the University of Hawaii, financial modeller Morten Siersted of F1F9, actuary Mary Pat Campbell, and developer Simon Murphy. We continue with a focus on risk management, development and control methodologies, testing, and inspection. Other speakers will present their research into the impact of errors, detection and correction, quality improvement, Education and Training.

Thank you for your interest and participation, and we look forward to a stimulating and interactive conference!

Patrick O'Beirne, Chair 2010