I would like to begin by congratulating Mr Steven J. Bleistein (NICTA), Dr Aybüke Aurum (NICTA), Dr Karl Cox (NICTA), and Dr Pradeep K. Ray (University of New South Wales) for being awarded the ANCCAC (Australian Committee on Computation and Automatic Control) medal for their paper "Strategy-Oriented Alignment in Requirements Engineering: Linking Business Strategy to Requirements of e-Business Systems using the SOARE Approach". The medal recognises excellence in ICT research and publishing. The paper discusses a new strategy to link more closely the requirements of e-business systems with the strategies they are intended to support. It appeared in Volume 36 #4, 259–276 of the *Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology*.

JRPIT is well on track for a special collection featuring best papers from the Workshop on Security in Information Systems 2005 (WOSIS 05) conference. The guest editor for this collection will be Dr Julio César Hernández Castro of Carlos III University, Madrid, Spain.

From time to time I am asked about JRPIT's publication delay. We aim to publish accepted articles within one year from receipt of the final version, but sometimes the delay extends to about 15 months. The other question I am frequently asked concerns JRPIT's acceptance rate. Since January 2003, 26% of papers submitted to JRPIT have been accepted.

Opening this issue is an article entitled "Editors' Cut: Managing Scholarly Journals in Mathematics and IT". This is an essay written by Karl H. Hofmann and me as a service to authors. It was jointly delivered by the authors as a colloquium lecture at the University of Ballarat on 24 November 2004. An expanded and illustrated version was published in German in the *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Mathematikervereinigung* early in 2005. The purpose of the essay is to provide advice and information to authors of articles about publishing in scholarly journals from an editor's perspective. Of particular importance are remarks about etiquette.

Following this is a paper written by Andrew Rae and Colin Fidge titled "Identifying Critical Components During Information Security Evaluations". The explosion in electronic communications has been matched by concerns about data confidentiality. Devices intended for secure applications such as those in government and military areas must be "rigorously evaluated" to ensure they maintain this confidentiality. This paper discusses how the application of well-known concepts from graph theory can be used in the design of communications devices to "optimise information security evaluations" instead of the "labour intensive and expensive" analysis that is currently undertaken.

Thirdly, we have a paper entitled "Trends in Mobile Agent Applications" written by Mohomad Eid, Hassan Artail, Ayman Kayssi and Ali Chehab. A comprehensive study of applications for mobile agents is presented in this paper. It classifies the field into several sections, including network monitoring and management, information searching and filtering, multimedia, internet, intrusion detection, telecommunications and military. An overview of the emerging mobile agent applications in several fields is presented.

The fourth paper in this issue is entitled "Analysis of DNA Sequence Pattern Using Probabilistic Neural Network Model", written by Xiaoming Wu, Fang Lü, Bo Wang and Jingzhi Cheng. DNA sequences in the human genome are comprised of many patterns. The authors propose the use of a probabilistic neutral network model to discover reoccurring DNA patterns that relate to inherited diseases or diseases associated with gene regulation. This neural network was combined with an EM algorithm and was used to "discover conserved sequence patterns from some DNA sequences". The paper discusses the successful testing of this model on two datasets.

"Performance Modeling of an Enhanced Optimistic Locking Architecture for Concurrency Control in a Distributed Database System" is the fifth paper in this issue. It was written by

A.A. Akintola, G.A. Aderounmu, A.U. Osakwe, and M.O. Adigun. "Optimistic methods of concurrency control are gaining popularity. This is especially true with the resurgence of mobile and distributed databases during the last decade." In this paper, the authors describe the "analysis of an enhanced optimistic locking model for concurrency control in a distributed database system". The technique they propose "enhances the basic optimistic concurrency model by using locks for high conflict data items". Its usefulness is discussed particularly in systems that "have a few data items that are prone to high rates of conflict".

Our sixth paper was written by Hye-Young Kim and Chong-Sun Hwang and is entitled "An Efficient Location Management Scheme for the Same Mobility Nodes Group in the Network Mobility". Mobile communication relies on nodes that dynamically change their connection points, such as those that are used for communication with aircraft, boats, and trains, etc. This paper presents an efficient location management scheme that is based on collaboration of mobile nodes in a network.

The closing paper in this issue is "An Event Algebra Based System for Verifying E-Commerce Transactions" by Renyi Zhao and V. Lakshmi Narasimhan. It describes extensions to a BDL (Behavioural Description Language) that was originally used to "to characterize concurrent behaviour of simple objects and a group of objects". The application of this technique to the modelling and verification of E-Commerce transaction processes is discussed.

Professor Sidney A. Morris
Editor-in-Chief
University of Ballarat
http://uob-community.ballarat.edu.au/~smorris/