Abstract for the
10th-Year Anniversary Keynote Presentation on Information Reuse and Integration

This talk will be jointly given by Drs. Rubin and Chen and will look back at the origins of our conference, our goals, and visions for the future. We will take the audience on a photo tour of memorable moments over the past ten years, which will be interlaced with details of our vision for the future of the society based on science, the new economic reality, and the concept of a "possibility grant" – something that will be brought up in this year's workshop. Simply put, there is a need for incubators that are based on risk/reward ratios and the track records of senior investigators, where applicable. As a society, we have the need to learn new things, to apply them to solve recognized problems, and to advance them to maximally preclude the occurrence of foreseen and unforeseeable problems alike.

We see that people are afraid to do the things that need to be done. Professors used to write their own prototype codes. Now, they need to spend their time in countless committee meetings. We used to publish more when we had something to say. Now, we are required to have something to say when we publish.

As representatives of the Society for Information Reuse and Integration (SIRI), we will make the case for innovative work. If you are not willing to fail, you cannot learn anything new. The key is to strike a balance and to ask questions.

Finally, we want to encourage you to spread the word that IRI is not to be limited to software reuse and integration. It applies equally to the reuse and integration of hardware, to the development of reliable and robust networks using open architectures, to the semantic web, to multimedia education and entertainment, to computing with words and perceptions, and to artificial intelligence. Furthermore, it is the latter where perhaps the most potential for future advances lay because when you automate intelligence and creativity you gain a million-fold. In all cases, the IEEE IRI Conferences offers us the less-traveled road in the wilderness.

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