This issue of the *International Journal of Web Services Research* (IJWSR) collects four papers on various topics of Web services.

The first paper is titled *Enhancing Security Modeling for Web Services using Delegation and Pass-On*. She, Yen, and Thuraisingham tackle the security issues regarding composite Web services. Introducing the concepts of delegation and pass-on, they extend the basic Web service security models to control the information flow in service chains. A case study dealing with healthcare information system is also presented as a proof of concept.

The second paper is titled *Service Flavors: Differentiating Service Offerings in a Services Marketplace*. Jegadeesan and Balasubramaniam study propose how Service Flavors, a strategy for service providers to differentiate their services. Their mechanism allows to analyze and adapt various aspects of a service. Differentiating aspects are modeled as policies.

The third paper is titled *Managing the Replaceability of Web Services Using Underlying Semantics*. Peng, Wang, and Zhou study the issue of Web service replaceability. Focusing on the quantitative aspect of Web services, they apply the FCA (Formal Concept Analysis) method to reveal the pairwise replaceable relationship among Web services. Based on RSLattice, a structure that indexes Web services based on their underlying semantics, they represent the replaceability among services at the operation level. Experimental evaluations are also provided.

The fourth paper is titled *Hybrid Information Service*. Aktas, Fox, and Pierce address the challenge of interoperability among independently developed Grid projects. They present a hybrid architectural approach for grid information services to be incrementally assembled to feature unification, federation and interoperability. Experiences in designing semantics and architectural system design are provided.

As a research staff member and program manager of application architectures and realization at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Liang-Jie (LJ) Zhang has made significant original contributions to services computing innovations and interactive media systems. He is the founding chair of IBM Research’s Services Computing Professional Interest Community and has been leading an IBM Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) tooling and architecture research project for years. He has been coleading IBM’s SOA Solution Stack (aka SOA
Reference Architecture: Solution View) project since 2004. His new book Services Computing was published by Springer in 2007. He has received 2 IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards, 9 IBM Plateau Invention Achievement Awards, an Outstanding Achievement Award from the World Academy of Sciences, and an Innovation Leadership Award from the China Institute of Electronics. Zhang has 37 granted patents and 20 pending patent applications. As the lead inventor, he holds federated Web services discovery and dynamic services composition patents. LJ chairs the SOA and Web Services standards working group to define the IEEE 1723 Standard for SOA Solution Reference Architecture. He is the chair of IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Services Computing.