

Editorial

Message From the Editor-in-Chief

TIME flies, and I am hitting the third year as the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (TVT). Although this journal has experienced some ups and downs, it is still doing well in 2015 thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, editors, and reviewers, as well as you, the contributors of the papers. It is that time of the year again to reflect and rejuvenate!

Since authors are probably most concerned about the journal's impact, we start with the statistics on this aspect. We experienced a drop-off in the impact factor. According to Thomson Reuters' Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), the impact factor in 2015 was 1.978, compared with 2.642 in 2014 and 2.063 in 2013. We expected this since we had increased the number of pages in 2014, which contributed to the denominator in the calculation. The good news is that two other quality metrics—eigenfactor and article influence score—are steadily increasing from (0.03380, 0.944) in 2014 to (0.03596, 1.017) in 2015. Currently, TVT is ranked tenth on the impact factor (two-year impact factor) and sixth on the five-year impact factor in telecommunications journals and is ranked 19th on downloads. The journal is categorized in the first quartile (the top tier) in all four metrics—impact factor, five-year impact factor, eigenfactor, and article influence score—and has been in the second category according to the Chinese journal classification system used for academic evaluation since 2014, while in the third category before 2014. The number of annual submissions is still increasing, from 2048 papers in 2014 to 2217 papers in 2015. Due to this tremendous growth, starting in 2015, we have expanded TVT to 12 issues, making it a monthly publication. In addition, TVT is leading the effort in developing connected vehicle technologies. In 2015, we have initiated the Connected Vehicles Series (CVS), published twice each year, with the first installment in the December issue last year. Obviously, TVT has been one of the premier journals.

The success of a journal is attributed to many factors, including the timeliness of review and publication. I am happy to report that the turn-around time for the first editorial decision has steadily remained under three months on average, which continues to be our goal. The time from submission to ePublication (appearing on *IEEE Xplore*) is around 35 weeks on average, which ranks consistently at the top among journals on telecommunications. To cut down the review span further, we have set up a SWAT team to contribute quick reviews for those papers that do not have enough reviews after three months.

Another factor is the acceptance rate. Our current acceptance rate is around 30%, which was the goal we set after I became the Editor-in-Chief in 2013. Given the increase in submissions and our annual page budget, we may have to lower the acceptance rate, which implicitly increases the quality of journal further. Finally, many authors are concerned about the hardcopy publication of their papers since our early access queue for hardcopy publication is large, thanks to the healthy growth in our community interest of TVT. To deal with this problem, with the blessing of the leadership team of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, we have increased the annual page budget continuously. The whole editorial team will continue to work hard with reviewers to shorten the review time while providing valuable and thorough reviews to our authors professionally and constructively, and hopefully deliver the best product possible to our readers.

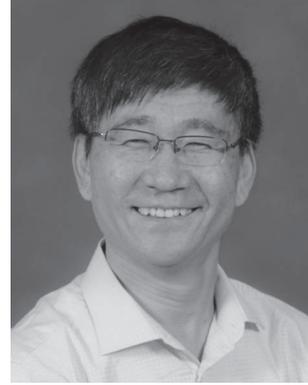
A journal cannot be successful without our dedicated volunteers, i.e., the editors and reviewers. To acknowledge their contributions, each year, we select top editors and reviewers for the Top Editors Award and Top Reviewers Award, respectively. Among over 100 editors, we first recognize the Top 15 Editors for their great editorial services in terms of timeliness, quality, and workload. This year, the following editors rank as the top performers (in alphabetical order): Bilal Akin, Hsiao-Hwa Chen, Jung-Chieh Chen, Wan Choi, Daniel Benevides da Costa, Jing Deng, Alfredo Grieco, Guoqiang Mao, Yi Qian, Sumei Sun, Chengwen Xing, Michel Yacoub, Chau Yuen, Chi Zhang, and Lian Zhao. Among them, we have selected two—Dr. Bilal Akin and Dr. Sumei Sun—for the **Top Editors Award** for their exemplary performance in terms of the timeliness and high-quality reviews. We have also recognized Feng Ye (University of Nebraska at Lincoln, USA), Jie Xu (University of Science and Technology, China), Nan Yang (Australia National University Australia), and Taneli Riihonen (Helsinki University of Technology, Finland) with the **Top Reviewers Award** for 2015. We express our heartfelt appreciation for their tremendous efforts and contributions to this journal!

Before concluding this message, I have to express my sincere appreciation to all help I have received. My former student Dr. Linke Guo, now an Assistant professor at Binghamton University, has agreed to continue to serve TVT as one of the system administrators, in spite of his workload at the beginning of his academic career. I also want to thank my current students Mr. Jianqing Liu and Mr. Haichuan Ding, who have spent a lot of time volunteering to help me manage the workflow for this journal. Our three Area Editors—Drs. Gerhard Bauch, Nei Kato, and Chris Mi—have done tremendous job in handling the papers I have assigned to them in a timely fashion, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. I also thank

Ms. Sonal Parikh, our IEEE representative to ScholarOne; Mr. Christopher Perry, our publication editor; Dr. James M. Irvine, our past VP Publications; and Dr. Weihua Zhuang, our current VP Publications, who are always available whenever I turn to them for help. Our editors have tried their best to find qualified reviewers and deliver timely editorial decisions, and they have to endure our hassles for papers with overdue reviews. Reviewers are the unsung heroes who form the solid foundation of our journal assessment system and help us select high-quality papers for our journal. My sincere thanks to all of them for their time and effort, making TVT a high-quality journal!

Finally, I would like to thank you, our authors and readers, who have valued our product. In order to deliver a better product, we need your continuing support by submitting your contributions to our journal. I thank you for your support in the past and hope you will continue to do so in the future.

Have a healthy and productive New Year in 2016!



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