

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

FIRST of all, Season's Greetings! Time flies and without realizing it, I have been serving as the Editor-in-Chief for almost two years. Since I took over in April 2013, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (TVT) has been steadily improving upon the phenomenal success achieved under the leadership of my predecessor Dr. Weihua Zhuang and has also experienced tremendous growth. As of December 15, 2014, submissions have broken new ground with a record 2048 papers (and still counting) in 2014. The impact factor, according to Thomson Reuters' Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), is steadily increasing, with a 2-year impact factor that has increased from 2.063 in 2013 to 2.642 in 2014, ranking sixth among journals in telecommunications in 2014, and with 5-year impact factor from 2.019 in 2013 to 2.667 in 2014, ranking fourth among journals in telecommunications in 2014. Obviously, TVT has become a premier journal in its field. Its success is attributed to many factors. First is the timeliness of review and publication. The turn-around time for the first editorial decision in 2014 is 2.46 months on average (as of December 2014), with our goal of being fewer than 3 months on average. The time from submission to ePublication (appearing on IEEE Xplore) is around 35 weeks on average, which ranks consistently on top among journals in telecommunications. Our entire editorial team will continue to work professionally and constructively to maintain this goal while providing valuable and thorough reviews for our authors and hopefully deliver the best product possible to our readers.

As a New Year's resolution, we will make a few changes. I am happy to report that, to speed up the publication process, starting this year, this journal will expand from 9 issues to 12 issues, publishing papers monthly! I am happy to share with you that, per the suggestion of our society Vice-President Dr. James M. Irvine, we will add a fixed Special Section/Special Issue (SS/SI) on Connected Vehicles, which we plan to publish each year in December. Although we already publish quite a few papers on this topic, it seems they are spread throughout the journal. With this SS/SI, we will gather most relevant papers in one place and make it easy for our readers to access this hot topic. This is needed due to tremendous interest from many sectors, particularly after the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a mandate for car makers to enable connected vehicle technology for a safe driving experience, and TVT should take the lead to nurture this emerging technological development. This annual SS/SI will provide a forum for both readers and authors to exchange ideas on connected vehicle technology. The initial guest editorial team consists of researchers from both academia and industry: Onur Altintas (Toyota InfoTechnology Center, Japan), Fan Bai (General Motors, USA), Björn Scheuermann (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), Richard F. Yu (Carleton University, Canada, Lead Guest Editor), and Tao Zhang (Cisco Systems, USA). I thank them for their willingness to help and we all look forward to seeing the first issue this year.

Any great success will not be possible without a dedicated supporting cast. The continuing success of TVT is attributed to the great effort of many dedicated volunteers. I want to express my sincere appreciation to my former student Dr. Linke Guo, our system administrator, who has spent a great deal of effort and time in handling the paper submissions and processing to ensure that all manuscripts follow the authors' guideline and are in conformance with the IEEE submission policy. He has also agreed to continue to help with the current administrator Mr. Jianqing Liu, my current student, sharing the workload to make this transition smooth. Our IEEE representative at ScholarOne, Ms. Sonal Parikh, is always available whenever we have any problems with Manuscript Central and always delivers the right answer in a timely manner. Our super publication editor, Mr. Christopher Perry, has always kept the publication scheduling in order, making sure we deliver high-quality content to our readers. Our former Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Weihua Zhuang and our society Vice-President, Dr. James M. Irvine, have provided me much valuable assistance whenever I have needed it. Our three Area Editors, Drs. Gerhard Bauch, Nei Kato, and Chris Mi, have done a tremendous job handling the papers I have assigned to them in the timely fashion, making sure that each paper is assigned to a capable editor. Our editors have tried their best to find the qualified reviewers and deliver preliminary editorial decisions in a timely manner. Reviewers are the unsung heroes who form the solid foundation of our journal assessment system and help select high-quality papers for our journal. Of course, our authors are the ones who submit their original contributions to make our product possible. My sincere thanks to you all in making TVT a high-quality journal!

Finally, I would like to thank you, our readers, the content consumers, who have made TVT such a valued product. In order to deliver a better product, I need your input. If you have any ideas, regardless of what they are, as long as they can improve our journal, I would like to hear them. Please feel free to contact me. I thank you for your support in the past and hope you will continue to do so in the future.

Have a healthy and prosperous 2015!



Yuguang "Michael" Fang, *Editor-in-Chief*
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL, USA