

Editorial

Prof. Mo Jamshidi, the founding Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL, did a marvelous job in creating, developing, and nurturing this journal. With his experience, dedication, and capacity, he was able to bring the journal to a high-quality level and to establish its strong reputation in the community interested in complex systems and systems-of-systems, providing the premiere venue for publishing original results in this area. We will always be indebted to him for what he did and surely will continue to do for our community and our journal.

As the new EIC, I am honored to be taking the responsibility of this journal, as a precious inheritance from Prof. Jamshidi. Due to the broadness and interdisciplinarity of the field, the continuously increasing interest of various communities, and the current significant relevance of the journal in the worldwide scenario, it will not be easy to continue his job to further enhance the standing of the journal and expand its attractiveness worldwide. I will be assisted in this challenge by two Co-Editors-in-Chief, Prof. Amir G. Aghdam and Prof. Saeid Nahavandi, who will share the management duties with me, and by several Associate Editors who will greatly help in managing the details of the review process in their respective areas of expertise. Reviewers will also provide a substantial contribution to ensure quality through a rigorous and constructive process. I would like to thank all of them in advance for their support, cooperation, timeliness, and patience.

The first issue that I am assembling as the EIC is an easy task since I am collecting papers accepted through the review process managed by my predecessor. These papers are in the area of communications and wireless networks, including theory, technologies, design methodologies, and applications.

The journal is also moving toward its future, relying on the past experiences. The scope continues to be focused on system thinking, complex systems, systems-of-systems, and complex cyber-physical systems from the point of view of theory, technology, design methodology, applications, successful lessons, and impact in the real life. The journal aims to serve the broad community interested in this area, encompassing researchers, professionals, industry, government employees, and students. Interdisciplinarity will attract an increasing interest due to its relevance in the modern and future complex systems, including aspects in engineering areas as well as in sociology, law, ethics, and economy.

To address the challenges and better serve our community, we will expand the number of special issues and the surveys by focusing on hot and emerging areas within the scope of the journal. We will also nurture interdisciplinarity to provide a forum for the emerging needs of our community.

Ensuring a reasonably short publication time is essential to provide valuable material to readers, especially when timeliness is critical to provide appropriate knowledge for further study or applications. Therefore, We will try to reduce the review process time by increasing the number of quality reviewers. We will also reduce the time to publication by increasing the number of pages published in the journal so as to avoid a large backlog of accepted papers, even though this delay is now partially mitigated by the advance posting in our repository.

A manuscript management system is essential for providing a good experience to authors and reviewers, and for speeding up the entire management process. We are now going to set up a new manuscript submission and review system, exploiting state-of-the-art technologies in order to include more functionalities and facilitate its use. The new system will be deployed shortly.

In order to accommodate the possible needs of authors for open access to their publications, it is worth noting that this opportunity has been made recently available to authors. The journal has, in fact, become a hybrid journal. All papers are reviewed with the same quality review process. Authors of accepted papers can then opt for publishing either in the reader-pay mode without charges (up to the allowed limit) for authors, or in the open-access mode without charges for the reader and a fee paid by authors.

A journal should serve the community in its field of interest. Therefore, if you have any comment, suggestion, recommendation, or criticism, please do not hesitate to contact me. Everyone can help in continuously improving our journal. We aim to continue to have a live publication for our live community.

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Vincenzo Piuri (S'84–M'86–SM'96–F'01) received the Ph.D. degree in computer engineering from the Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, in 1989.

He has been an Associate Professor with the Politecnico di Milano, and a Visiting Professor with the University of Texas, Austin, USA, and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA. Since 2000, he has been a Full Professor of computer engineering with the Università degli Studi di Milano, Crema, Italy, where he was the Director of the Department of Information Technology from 2007 to 2012. His original results have been published in more than 350 papers in international journals, proceedings of international conferences, books, and book chapters. His current research interests include theory and industrial applications of neural networks, machine learning, signal and image processing, pattern analysis and recognition, biometrics, intelligent measurement systems, industrial applications, fault tolerance, digital processing architectures, embedded systems, and arithmetic architectures.

Dr. Piuri is a Distinguished Scientist of ACM, and a Senior Member of INNS. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL from 2013 to 2015. He was an Associate Editor of the IEEE COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE from 2010 to 2012, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS from 2001 to 2004, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT from 1997 to 2002, and various other international journals. He is a member of the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board from 2013 to 2015. He was the IEEE Director and the IEEE Delegate for Division X from 2010 to 2012, the President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society from 2006 to 2007, the Vice President for Publications of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society from 2002 to 2004 and the IEEE Systems Council from 2008 to 2011, the Vice President for Membership of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society from 2003 to 2004, and the Vice President for Education of the IEEE Biometrics Council from 2008 to 2009. He was a recipient of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Technical Award in 2002 for the contributions to the advancement of theory and practice of computational intelligence in measurement systems and industrial applications, the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Distinguished Service Award in 2008, and the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Meritorious Service Award in 2009.



Amir G. Aghdam (S'96–M'00–SM'05) received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, in 2000.

He was an Assistant Professor from 2002 to 2011 and a Full Professor since 2012 with Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada. He has also been a Consultant with a number of companies and industrial organizations. He has published more than 150 refereed papers, books, and book chapters. His current research interests include decentralized control of large-scale systems, multiagent systems, adaptive switching control, and sampled-data systems.

Dr. Aghdam is a member of Professional Engineers Ontario. He has been an Associate Editor of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL and the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Canadian Review. He is currently an Associate Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CONTROL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, an Associate Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering*, and a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL. He has been a Technical Program Committee Member of several conferences, including IEEE CDC and ACC, and is currently a member of the Conference Editorial Board of the IEEE Control Systems Society. He was the Chair of the IEEE Montreal Section and the Chair of the Control Systems Chapter of the IEEE Montreal Section from 2005 to 2006, and the Chair of the IEEE Eastern Canada Area from 2007 to 2009. He is the President Elect of IEEE Canada from 2012 to 2013. He was a recipient of many awards during his academic career, including the 2009 IEEE MGA Achievement Award, the 2008 ENCS Young Research Achievement Award (Tier II), and the 2008 ENCS Masters Guidance Award at the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, Concordia University.



Saeid Nahavandi (M'92–SM'07) received the B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees in control engineering from Durham University, Durham, U.K., in 1985, 1986, and 1991, respectively.

He is currently an Alfred Deakin Professor and the Director of the Centre for Intelligent Systems Research, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is the Founder of the Centre for Intelligent Systems Research with 55 full-time Researchers at Deakin University. He has conducted industry-based research with several major international companies, such as GM, Ford, Holden, Nissan, Bosch, Futuris, Boeing, Vestas, just to name a few. In 2002, he served as a Consultant with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA) during his visit to JPL Laboratories. He has published over 450 refereed papers and holds two patents. His current research interests include haptics, robotics, system modeling, control systems, and sensors.

Dr. Nahavandi is a fellow of IET and IEAust. He holds the position of Regional Editor for the *International Journal of Intelligent Automation and Soft Computing* (South Pacific region) and the *International Journal of Computational Intelligence*, and an Editorial Board Member for the *International Journal of Intelligent Mechatronics and Robotics*, and Associate Editor for the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL, the *International Journal of Innovative Computing and Information Control*. He is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL. He has been a chair of several international conferences. He was a recipient of the Research Collaboration/Initiatives Award from Japan in 2000 and the Prince and Princess of Wales Science Award in 1994. He was a recipient of the title of Young Engineer of the Year in 1996. In 2006, he received the title of Alfred Deakin Professor, the highest honor at Deakin University, for his contributions to fundamental research.