

Editorial

THIS third issue of 2014 celebrates one year of successful use of the new manuscript management system, which significantly helped in having the review process under strict control and in reducing the review processing time while preserving and increasing the review quality. Scope assessment and assignment to associate editors is now performed in a few days. The average time from the manuscript submission to the first decision is about 2 months, whereas the average time to the final decision is about 2.5 months. Unfortunately, the variance of these parameters is still rather high, but with the help of the associate editors and reviewers, we are working hard to reduce it. The journal is continuously attracting increased interest from authors: Submissions are growing more than 600 per year. The efficient review process ensures the high quality of the journal: Only 22% of the submitted papers are accepted for publication. We are also working to reduce the backlog of papers published in the IEEE Xplore as advance posting but not yet physically printed. However, it is worth noting that advance posting a paper means publishing it since a unique DOI is associated with it and is not changed when the paper is physically printed, i.e., citations to advance posted papers count.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-editors-in-chief, all associate editors, and all reviewers for their painstaking activities and dedication to make these achievements possible.

In 2015, we will have more innovation regarding the journal, which will serve our community better. In response to the evolution of the needs and habits of our community, from 2015, the IEEE Systems Journal will be distributed only elec-

tronically. This will allow us for saving some money, which will be used—as soon as possible—to increase the number of produced pages. In turn, this will help in reducing the backlog more quickly, thus addressing the desires and the needs of our community.

The first part of this current issue collects some papers in the area of communications, multimedia, control, robotics, and intelligent vehicles. Papers address various topics encompassing theory, technologies, design methodologies, and applications.

The second part consists of the special issue on “Advances of Systems Research in Service Industry”, with Li Da Xu serving as guest editor.

The third part consists of the special issue on “Computer-aided Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Systems”, with Sos Agaian, Jinshan Tang, and Ian Thompson serving as guest editors.

I would like to thank all guest editors of the aforementioned special issues for having contributed to our journal.

If you have any comment, suggestion, recommendation, or criticism about this journal, 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 was an Associate Professor with the Politecnico di Milano and a Visiting Professor with The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA, and with George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA. Since 2000, he has been a Full Professor in computer engineering with the Università degli Studi di Milano, Crema, Italy, where he was the Director of the Department of Information Technology in 2007–2012. 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. His original results have been published in more than 350 papers in international journals, proceedings of international conferences, books, and book chapters.

He is a Distinguished Scientist of the Association for Computing Machinery and a Senior Member of the International Neural Network Society. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL (2013–2015) and was an Associate Editor of the IEEE COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE (2010–2012), the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS (2001–2004), the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT (1997–2002), and various other international journals. He is the 2014 IEEE Vice President-elect for Technical Activities and was the IEEE Director and IEEE Delegate for Division X (2010–2012), President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2006–2007), Vice President for Publications of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (2002–2004) and the IEEE Systems Council (2008–2011), Vice President for Membership of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2003–2004), and Vice President for Education of the IEEE Biometrics Council (2008–2009). He received the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Technical Award (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 (2008), and the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Meritorious Service Award (2009).