

# Editorial

## Message From the Editor-in-Chief

**A** HIGH-QUALITY journal must always sustain its steady healthy growth. At the turn of the year, it is time to reflect and rejuvenate! I am happy to report that the TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (TVT) is steadily improving.

As most authors are probably concerned with the journal (two years) impact factor (popularity score), we start with the statistics update on this metric. According to Thomson Reuters' Institute for Scientific Information, the impact factor in 2015 was 2.243, compared to 1.978 in 2014, 2.642 in 2013, 2.063 in 2012, and 1.921 in 2011. Although the impact factor is controversial and cannot represent the journal quality alone, it does capture certain aspects of the quality. However, we are happier with a few other performance metrics, which capture the quality more accurately. The five-year impact factor, which is a metric calculated based on five-year citation data, was 2.631 in 2015, compared to 2.483 in 2014, 2.667 in 2013, 2.019 in 2012, and 1.910 in 2011. Two other quality metrics (prestige scores), namely eigenfactor and article influence score, were (0.03526, 1.092) in 2015, compared to (0.03596, 1.019) in 2014, (0.03380, 0.944) in 2013, (0.02953, 0.796) in 2012, and (0.02728, 0.801) in 2011, indicating that TVT is improving in quality. Currently, among journals on telecommunications, TVT ranks eighth in impact factor (two-year impact factor), sixth on the five-year impact factor, and 19th on downloads from IEEE Xplore. TVT is categorized in the first quartile (the top tier) in all four metrics, respectively: impact factor, five-year impact factor, eigenfactor, and article influence score, and is in the second category according to the Chinese journal classification system in China. The number of annual submissions is overwhelming: 2119 papers in 2016, comparing with 2217 papers in 2015, 2148 papers in 2014, 1898 papers in 2013, 1912 papers in 2012, and 1719 papers in 2011. Due to this tremendous growth, starting in 2015, we changed the frequency of TVT from 9 issues to 12 issues. Besides, TVT is leading the effort in developing connected-vehicles technologies. Obviously, TVT is in a very healthy state in terms of quality and perception and has been one of the premier journals.

To sustain this level of success, timely quality reviews and sound editorial decisions are a must. I am happy to report that the turn-around time for the first editorial decision has been maintained to under three months on average: the goal I set when I assumed the duty of Editor-in-Chief. The average first editorial decision time in 2016 is 2.45 months (decisions made in 2016), compared to 2.60 months in 2015, 2.80 months in 2014, and 2.57 months in 2013. The time from submission to

ePublication (appearing in *IEEE Xplore* early access) is around 36 weeks on average. To cut down the review span further, we have setup a SWAT team (a special group of reviewers who provide urgent review help) to contribute quick reviews for those papers that do not have enough reviews. Another factor is the acceptance rate. Due to huge annual submissions and limited page budget, the acceptance rate has to be lowered (below 30%), which would make this journal more selective and implicitly push the quality of this journal higher. Finally, to deal with the backlog problem caused by the increase of submissions, with the blessing of the leadership team of Vehicular Technology Society, we have not only increased the annual page budget but found additional funding to publish more papers from last year as well. We foresee potential dropoff in the (two year) impact factor due to the publications of more papers, but we expect more steady and healthy growth of TVT in the long run. The whole editorial team (editors, reviewers, and publication staff) will continue to work hard together to shorten the review and publication times while providing valuable and thorough reviews to our authors professionally and constructively and, hopefully, deliver the best product possible to our readers.

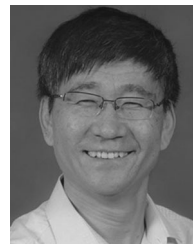
A journal will not be successful without our dedicated volunteers, i.e., the editors and reviewers. To acknowledge their contributions, each year we select top editors and reviewers for the Top Editors Award and Top Reviewers Award, respectively. Among more than 100 editors, we first recognize our *Top 15 Editors* for their great editorial services in terms of timeliness, quality, and workload. This year, the following editors are recognized as the top performers (in alphabetical order): B. Akin, E. Au, J.-C. Chen, D. Benevides da Costa, N.-D. Dao, Z. Ding, G. Mao, D. Marabissi, R. Dinis, R. Souza, W. Song, S. Sun, T. Taniguchi, M. Yacoub, and C. Yuen. Among them, we have selected three (Dr. E. Au, Dr. R. Dinis, and Dr. R. Souza) for the *Top Editors Award* for their exemplary performance in terms of the timeliness and high quality reviews. We have also recognized D. W. K. Ng (University of British Columbia, Canada), N. Zhao (Dalian University of Technology, China), T. Riihonen (Helsinki University of Technology, Finland), and T. Nguyen (Ecole de Technologie Supérieure, Canada) with the *Top Reviewers Award* for year 2015. Our heartfelt appreciation to their tremendous efforts and contributions to TVT!

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the help I have received from many volunteers: My former student Dr. L. Guo, who is now an Assistant Professor at Binghamton University, continues to serve the journal as one of the system administrators, in spite of his workload at the beginning of his

academic career; my current students Mr. J. Liu and Mr. H. Ding, who have spent a lot of volunteering time to help me manage the workflow for TVT; our Area Editors, Dr. G. Bauch, Dr. N. Kato, Dr. A. Khaligh, and Dr. C. Mi, who have done a tremendous job in handling the papers in a timely fashion; and Ms. S. Parikh, our IEEE representative to ScholarOne, Mr. C. Perry, our publication editor, and Dr. W. Zhuang, our current VP Publications, who are always available whenever I turn to them for help. Thanks also goes to our editors who have tried their best to find qualified reviewers and deliver timely editorial decisions and have to endure my constant 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! Of course, I must thank you, our authors and readers, who have valued our product. We most certainly need your continued support by submitting your contributions

to our journal. I thank you for your strong support in the past and hope you will continue to support us in the future.

Have a healthy and productive New Year 2017!



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