HELLO, dear readers and researchers! It is my pleasure to welcome you to another year and an exciting 2019 for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY. I would like to open this short editorial message by thanking all the wonderful people that have supported the operations of this journal in 2018 and helped maintain the quality and smooth functioning of these transactions. First and foremost, special thanks to Dr. Weihua Zhuang, the Vice-President of Publications of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society and Dr. Michael Fang, who have both countless times offered their advice and guidance, especially in the more complicated moments of the year. In that regard, I must also mention the Board of Governors of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society for overseeing this publication and helping guide its operation. Special recognition is also needed to Ms. Sonal Parikh, IEEE representative to Scholar One, for always giving support with the Manuscript Central system and guaranteeing that all of our authors and editors could use the system without problems. Big thank you to Mr. George Criscione, our Journal Coordinator, for taking care of the publication of all of our issues in 2018 and making sure that all went well in that regard. Finally, I am also grateful for the help of our administration team, composed of Mr. Bomin Mao, Mr. Fengxiao Tang, and Mr. Tiago Gama Rodrigues, who, despite the increased workload in 2018, still maintained their work quality. Without all these help, IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology would not be what it is and 2018 would have been a much more turbulent year. Instead, because of them, our journal is better than ever, and for that, I am very grateful.

Following up from an amazing 2017, I am happy to inform you all that 2018 was even better and has brought great news. First of all, for the second year in a row, we had a record number of submissions: 3349 in 2018, while in 2017 we had 2572. As you can see, this is a huge leap and shows the growing interest of authors in our journal! This, of course, is mainly due to our Impact Factor, which increased from 4.066 in 2016 to a wonderful 4.432 in 2017, demonstrating not only an increase in interest but also in quality for our journal. More surprisingly, despite the big increase in the number of submissions, our processing time has actually decreased. In an effort to respond to authors as soon as possible, the first-round decision time average was 1.92 month in 2018, down from 2.37 months in 2017. We understand how it is important for authors to get decisions quickly, so we are proud to give these numbers to all of you!

However, the only reason we are even capable of providing this quality of work is due to the great effort of all of our editors and reviewers. This year, we would like especially to recognize our top editors Sheng Zhong from Nanjing University in China, Bilal Akin from the University of Texas-Dallas in the USA, and Yuichi Kawamoto from Tohoku University in Japan. These three have time and time again provided quick and informative comments and decisions to our authors, helping to improve the manuscripts we receive and have handled a substantial amount of our submissions. Our top reviewer awards go to Jie Gao from Ryerson University in Canada, Vitor Monteiro from the University of Minho in Portugal, M. Hadi Amini from Carnegie Mellon University in the USA, and Fabio Patrone from the University of Genoa in Italy. Huge thanks to all of them for their hard work! I understand that this is a tough job, especially as volunteers, but your help is highly valued and it is the reason that this journal can handle so many submissions and has increased in quality year after year.

For 2019, we will strive to improve even more, always increasing the quality of our journal and publications. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY should always be a standard in its area and continue to introduce innovative technologies. In that regard, we want to expand our coverage of Autonomous, Connected and Electrical Vehicles. For that, we will continue to strengthen our editorial board and introduce special sections and issues in remarkable areas of vehicular technology. Regarding the editorial board, in 2018 we, unfortunately, had to part ways with two of our area editors: Dr. Gerhard Bauch and Dr. Junshan Zhang. They will be deeply missed for their immense contributions to our journal. In their place, Dr. Mohamed Cenk Gursoy will join Dr. Sumei Sun as an Area Editor of the Wireless Communications area, while Dr. Lin Cai will join Dr. Tomoaki Ohtsuki as an Area Editor of the Wireless Networks and Mobile Services area. Those are two excellent professionals who I trust immensely and that have already supported this journal a lot in the past, so I have no doubt that they will only help us improve. Besides them, Dr. Alireza Khaligh will continue his important work as Area Editor of the Vehicle Electronics and System and Dr. Richard Yu will offer his expertise as lead editor of the Connected Vehicle Series special section.

This is all for me in this message. For continued readers and authors, thank you for your support and attention and for helping us become better and better. For new readers and authors, welcome to our journal! Our mission is to always deliver the best quality and be the very best in the amazing world of vehicular technology.

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