

Editorial

THIS third issue of 2015 consolidates the more efficient management in the modern manuscript management system. 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 7 weeks, whereas the average time to the final decision is about 2 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 over 900 per year. The efficient review process ensures the high quality of the journal: Only about 25% of the submitted papers are accepted for publication.

We are also working to reduce the backlog of papers published in the IEEE Xplore by advance posting, but not yet physically included in an issue. It is worth nothing 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 included in an issue, i.e., citations to advance posted papers counts. Thanks to the extraordinary financial efforts of the IEEE Systems Council and the processing cost savings, we have been able to increase the page count up to 1300 pages, and we are trying to further increase it for 2016. With this third issue, all accepted papers that were submitted in the old manuscript management system have been finally included in an issue.

This issue collects some papers in the area of information technology, communications, wireless systems, power systems,

grid systems, environmental engineering, and transportation. Papers address various topics encompassing theory, technologies, design methodologies, and applications.

In order to increase the effectiveness in serving our community, the IEEE Systems Council (which is sponsoring our journal) approved a new policy concerning the page limits: Up to 8 pages are complimentary (including text, figures, and tables, as well as optional authors' biographies and photographs) and up to an additional 4 pages are allowed with the extra page charge of \$150 per page. This new policy applies to all papers submitted from January 1, 2015, including tutorial and survey papers.

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 having 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 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 (2007–2012). He has been an Honorary Professor with Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary, since 2014, and a Guest Professor (equivalent to Honorary Professor) with Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology, Maoming, China, since 2014. 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.

Prof. Piuri is a Senior Member of the International Neural Network Society and a Distinguished Scientist of the Association for Computing Machinery. He 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, and he is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL (2013–2015). He was the IEEE Director and an IEEE Delegate for Division X (2010–2012), the President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2006–2007), the Vice President for Publications of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (2002–2004) and the IEEE Systems Council (2008–2011), the Vice President for Membership of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2003–2004), and the Vice President for Education of the IEEE Biometrics Council (2008–2009), and he is the 2015 IEEE Vice President for Technical Activities. He was the recipient of 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).