Editorial
Message From the Incoming Editor-in-Chief

LET me begin by highlighting the tremendous work of the previous Editors-in-Chief: Prof. W. J. Emery, Prof. P. Gamba, and Prof. A. C. Frery in establishing IEEE GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING LETTERS (GRSL) as one of the premier journals for short papers. The journal publishes new ideas, results, and formative concepts in remote sensing.

Statistics show that the number of submissions to GRSL has steadfastly increased since its inception in 2004. The journal accepts roughly 25% of the manuscripts that are submitted annually. It has a 5-year Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 2.401 with a 2017 JIF of 2.892. The popularity and prestige of the journal can be attributed to its Normalized Eigenfactor Score of 2.39909 and the Article Influence Score of 0.786.

Under the wings of Prof. Frery, I have learned a lot. He has taught me to be meticulous, adhere to the code of ethics in publishing and focus on time efficiency. I feel that these three attributes are prime in conveying high-quality scientific publications to the research community. In his article [item 1) in the Appendix], Prof. Frery clearly explains the steps to prepare a manuscript for publishing in IEEE GRSL. A must-read for all enthusiasts.

I plan to appoint well-recognized researchers and academicians both in theoretical and applied Earth observation as Associate Editors. I would like to implement the recent IEEE recommendation of retiring Associate Editors after they have served the journal for 6 years. This will bring in a fresh composition to the Editorial Board.

I would like to promote the organization of Special Streams (SSs) on dedicated and exigent topics. This will allow timely dissemination of high-quality research articles to the concerned scientific community. I request the readers to follow the SS announcements at http://www.grss-ieee.org/letters/special-streams/.

There have been rapid technological advancements in the field of geosciences and remote sensing. New research themes have emerged due to these advancements. Knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines is merging to extract new meaning from the existing data. A new paradigm worth exploring.

I will promote a better integration structure between journals from other technical societies. This will include sharing information of submissions (privacy intact), authors, and reviewers. I aim at improving the mechanisms and practices for seamless manuscript transfer among journals.

Reviewers and Associate Editors form the backbone of all scholarly communications. Every year the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) organizes an Editor's Luncheon at the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) and invites all its Associate Editors and five most-valued reviewers from each journal (i.e., TGRS, GRSL, and JSTARS) of the preceding calendar year. In addition to this event, I plan to organize an annual Associate Editors meeting during one of our flagship GRSS conferences. This should open discussions to further enhance the journal's appreciations to the far-reaching research community. We could learn from each other's experiences and bring forth concerns and suggestions for handling critical cases during the review process. Most efficient Associate Editors shall be rewarded.

At present, the average turnaround time from submission to first decision is about 43 days and the average turnaround time from submission to final decision is about 74 days. I aim to reduce the manuscript turnaround time without compromising the quality of the review process. This could make us more competitive than the open access journals. I plan on integrating the journal with Publons to help recognize peer reviewing.

It is certain that the requirement for reproducibility in scientific research is expanding drastically as more and more sophisticated algorithms are being developed to analyze large complex data sets. Reproducibility needs individuals to concentrate on the crux of an information examination, as opposed to shallow investigations revealed in a composed synopsis. Furthermore, reproducibility makes an investigation more helpful to the scientific community as that the information and the code that is particularly directed toward an investigation are readily accessible.

IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Journals are committed to the philosophy of "reproducible research." We encourage authors to submit their code (software) associated with their article through Code Ocean which is a cloud-based computational reproducibility platform. The authors have the flexibility to upload their code at the time of submission, revision, or after acceptance of their article.

I would motivate authors to submit supplementary materials such as multimedia, extended objects, or any other item intended for publication that is not included in the main body of the article. This is imperative for scientific advancement and encouraged in IEEE GRSL.

Above all, I look forward to comments and advice from authors and readers alike to make GRSL the most coveted journal.

Let excellence be the sole resolution this year.

Happy New Year!

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APPENDIX
RELATED WORK

1) A. C. Frery, "How to successfully make a scientific contribution through IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters," *IEEE Geosci. Remote Sens. Lett.*, vol. 12, no. 6, pp. 1167–1169, Jun. 2015. [Online]. Available: http://www.grss-ieee.org/publications/letters/submission-hints/