

# Editorial

**D**EAR SIGNAL PROCESSING LETTERS readers:

I am delighted to be allowed to lead these LETTERS. My thanks go out to Signal Processing Society President Ray Liu and SPS VP Pubs Mari Ostendorf for their confidence in me.

And I am humbled to follow Anna Scaglione in this role. I've known for some time that Anna is the consummate signal-processing researcher. Only recently I've been able to see behind the curtain, to her work here for the last two years as SPL EIC (sorry: this means "Signal Processing Letters Editor-in-Chief"). Of each hour in her day she seems to have found two. I've been a Senior Editor here for a year or so, which means I look at some of the submissions and see if they are worth review. Anna's been looking at every decision for *all* editors; and sometimes she over-rules. She has been amazing.

Anyway, for those of you who don't know me, I've been involved with SPS's Sensor Array & Multichannel (SAM) TC for years, and now I'm assisting SAM Chair Dominic Ho. I was an Associate Editor for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SYSTEMS, MAN AND CYBERNETICS (Parts A–C, at the time) and the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON AEROSPACE AND ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, and both was and am AE for the *IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine* and for the *Journal of Advances in Information Fusion*. After my AE stint at the AES Transactions I served as EIC for six years, ending with 2011. I am now the AES Society Vice President for Publications. And VP Pubs is ... an interesting position. It's not what you think. Ask Mari.

SPL has made strategic moves over the past few years: the Senior Editor role to pre-screen manuscripts; the SPL track for papers at ICASSP; and the "fifth page" of bibliography (just like ICASSP). What's next? For a better answer ask me in a few months. But I will speculate now, anyway:

- Authors submit to SPL because of its selectivity and impact; but also because SPL promises (and delivers) swift

review and publication. That requires coordinated labor from editors, staff and reviewers. The last is key, and it is you: for each paper you submit to SPL you ought to be willing to review at least three. That's only fair.

- Most SPS publications are aimed at a slice of SPS membership. SPL, on the other hand, serves all SPS interests. Consequently editorial coverage, balance of content and responsiveness to changing fields are all of concern.
- Hence the role of SPL must be examined. SPL's strength is its hasty schedule, so it seems to me that it ought to cater to manuscripts that genuinely need to be published very quickly—news the world wants to read about in tomorrow's paper. Perhaps this ought to form a larger part of each editorial decision?
- All of us—authors, editors and managers—must be aware of the Open Access (OA) publication model. Several organizations, and not just in the USA, have recently and strongly encouraged OA publication of the research they have sponsored; and competitive venues are offering OA. IEEE has had little choice but to consider OA, and I think it has made creditable and reasoned moves to embrace it. Right now OA is optional, but suppose it becomes IEEE's only mode of publication in a few years?

I think that OA bears the closest watch: Will it mean more articles or fewer? Better articles or not? More practical/experimental articles and fewer theoretical ones?

Editorially, SPL is a wild ride: a torrent of submissions, draconian selectivity and a tight review/publication schedule. But there are some very good people helping out behind the scenes at IEEE, people like Lisa Jess and Martin Morahan. I have confidence in this team, and I am looking forward to the task. And I'm looking forward to seeing your submissions.

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