Miguel Ángel Sotelo

ITSS and Open Access Publications

Every time I have the opportunity to address the ITSS community, I try to convey a clear message, easy to understand and remember. In this case, I would like to draw your attention to the Open Access wave that is flooding the entire scientific community worldwide. The wave started in Europe, propelled by the European Commission under the so-called "Plan S". Most European research funding agencies have already stuck to this plan, urging researchers to publish their research results in Gold Open Access journals alone. It remains to be seen whether or not other countries like USA or Japan will follow this path, but it seems that Open Access mandates are surging everywhere. This matter is of the utmost interest to IEEE, given its potential financial impact. However, it is also a fantastic opportunity for IEEE to take a leading role in fundamentally transforming the current collective approach to scholarly publications online. The window of opportunity is small because the open access world has been growing exponentially over the past decade and new approaches have been recently tested. In the meantime, IEEE is transforming their operations and business plan with a view to adapt to the new scenario. In this framework, the ITSS is making plans for starting a new Open Access Journal covering Intelligent Transportation and Mobility topics. The new publication is expected to complement the already existing hybrid ITSS journals, such as the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine, offering the ITS community a full plethora of options for their research results. I will keep you updated about the latest developments on this matter.

This year, the ITSS has participated in the general review that the IEEE Society and Council Review Committee (SCRC) carries out periodically (every five years). The work performed to complete the review report has made us reflect about our strategic and operational plans. No doubt, a general review of this type is an opportunity for self-analysis and improvement. As a result of that, we are planning to streamline our operations in the coming months. I hope all

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ITSS members can benefit from the improvements that the ITSS will implement as a consequence of the 2019 IEEE review.

Let me remind you that the ITSS is constantly seeking support from their members in order to contribute to different activities and initiatives. In this regard, we are looking for ITSS colleagues willing to serve as representatives of our society in different IEEE committees, Associate Editors of our conferences and periodicals, etc. If you think you can contribute to the ITSS somehow, just let us know and we will do our best to find the perfect fit for you.

I hope we can meet in the next great event sponsored by the ITS Society, the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference 2019 that will be held in Auckland, New Zealand (October 27-30, 2019). Let's meet Down Under and share experiences, ideas, and our prospects for the future of Intelligent Transportation.

Sincerely,

Miguel Ángel Sotelo
President. IEEE Intelligent
Transportation Systems Society

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