

Editorial

It is time to say goodbye after serving as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of this journal for the past four years. In these years, I hope that our editorial efforts have succeeded in facilitating technical communication within our professional community, that this journal has been worth reading, and that we have provided a good experience to our authors. Our average turnaround time for a review has been reduced by more than 20% over this period: our records for the past 12 months show that the time to first decision for a paper is just 54 days. Our impact factor is commensurate with the size of our community, and TCAD is widely regarded as the top journal in our field. Our acceptance rate is stable at a number between 35% and 40%, which has been our target for the past several years; again, this is a significant improvement of about 47% for articles on which a final decision was made in 2010. We have achieved this by rigorously enforcing the need for substantial additional material over previously published versions of a paper (e.g., conference versions), thus ensuring that papers in this journal provide value to the reader. Our series of keynote papers is consistently widely read and well cited. The monthly TCAD newsletter continues to be a valuable resource for our reader database. In sum, as I look back over the past four years, it seems that we have accomplished a great deal.

By the end of this month, about 1800 fresh manuscripts will have been submitted to TCAD during my term, each going through multiple rounds of review, and I estimate that over 10000 reviews will have contributed to making decisions on these papers. These statistics indicate a fairly obvious fact: that running a journal is an activity that involves the entire professional community, and that the credit for our achievements goes those who have made this possible. Therefore, as I leave, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people.

My thanks go to our authors' painstaking efforts in presenting their outstanding new contributions to their peers. They have been among the most ardent supporters of the journal. Some of their submissions have been accepted, some not; many have gone through multiple rounds of reviews. Regardless of the outcome, my interactions with our authors over the last four years have been, without exception, very collegial and cordial, even on the occasions where we may not have seen eye to eye on the final decision. I thank them all for their support and understanding, and for all of their efforts as contributors to the journal.

I gratefully acknowledge our reviewers, who have selflessly provided their anonymous input to TCAD and have helped improve the quality of the submitted manuscripts by sharing their insights and expertise. Many a paper has seen significant improvements from the originally submitted version due to their critiques. I owe them special thanks for their outstanding efforts in enabling the peer review process. As a small token of

recognition, I am happy to say that we now begin every year with an acknowledgment of all reviewers who have helped us in the past year.

Our Associate Editors have been stupendous over the past four years, maintaining the right blend of speed and quality, and demonstrating a superb dedication to excellence. In many cases, they have worked above and beyond the call of duty, with little to show in terms of recognition beyond the knowledge that they have done their job well, and that they have helped maintain the high standards of this journal. I feel privileged to have worked with this outstanding group of leaders in our profession. I would particularly like to thank Vijay Narayanan, who has served as Deputy EiC and has handled a number of important initiatives over the past four years, notably a variety of special sections and the entire portfolio of Keynote Papers. Thanks are also due to my predecessor, Enrico Macii: several initiatives that have borne fruit during my term commenced during our time as the EiC/Deputy EiC team from 2006 to 2009.

Our Corresponding Editor, Sara Dailey, has been a delight to work with. Her promptness and professionalism is what makes this journal tick: it is because of her that papers are processed on time, issues are assembled and sent to IEEE, and difficult situations are resolved. I could not have asked for a better partner in running this journal. Sara Scudder has been an excellent liaison at IEEE, ever prompt in her responses and patient with our failings (including this editorial, which is a few weeks overdue).

Last but not least, I am indebted to our readers who have indicated in many ways, both through anecdotal conversations and through concrete metrics such as click counts, that they appreciate the contents of this journal.

Next month, a new editorial team will take over, under the able leadership of Professor Vijay Narayanan as EiC and Dr. Charles (Chuck) Alpert as Deputy EiC. Vijay has been instrumental in helping run this journal over the past four years, and Chuck has served as an Associate Editor for many years. They bring an excellent set of credentials to the journal, and an outstanding blend of academic and industry experience, and I have great confidence that they will take the journal to new heights.

I will cherish the opportunity that I have had to serve this journal, and I thank our community for their constant help and support over the past four years.

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Sachin S. Sapatnekar (S'86–M'93–F'03) received the B.Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India, the M.S. degree from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA.

From 1992 to 1997, he was on the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA. Since 1997, he has been with the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA, where he currently holds the Distinguished McKnight University Professorship and the Robert and Marjorie Henle Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is an author and editor of nine books, and has published widely in the area of computer-aided design of very large scale integration circuits.

Dr. Sapatnekar has served as the General Chair and Technical Program Chair of the ACM/EDAC/IEEE Design Automation Conference, the ACM International Symposium on Physical Design, and the IEEE/ACM International Workshop on the Specification and Synthesis of Digital Systems (Tau). He has served on the editorial boards of several publications, including this journal,

IEEE DESIGN AND TEST OF COMPUTERS, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VERY LARGE SCALE INTEGRATION (VLSI) SYSTEMS, and IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS II. He is a recipient of the NSF CAREER Award, a Fulbright Senior Researcher Award to Spain, six conference Best Paper Awards, a Best Poster Award, and the Semiconductor Research Corporation Technical Excellence Award.