

# Editorial

## A Message From the New Editor-in-Chief



Naofal Al-Dhahir

I'm humbled and thrilled to serve as the new Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS (TCOM). I have just returned from GLOBECOM'15 where I attended the ComSoc publications council meeting and the TCOM editorial board meeting. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the outgoing EiC Prof. Robert Schober and his predecessors, TCOM is in great shape publishing the highest quality research in our area. The average TCOM sub-to-first-decision and sub-to-pub times are at their lowest levels since the inception of this prestigious journal back in 1953. With an experienced editorial board of around 100 world-class expert editors in the various PHY and MAC layer communications topics, the average editor load is now below 1.5 papers per month, which is critical to ensure that TCOM editors maintain their excellent performance.

It is a challenging job to maintain the current excellent paper quality and processing efficiency levels of TCOM let alone trying to further improve them. Hence, my first goal as EiC will be to work with all the Area Editors and Editors to ensure a smooth handover, which is no small task. I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Derrick Wing Kwan Ng, who has ably served as the managing Editor of TCOM over the last four years, has accepted to continue in his role. Kwan has done an outstanding job and I'm looking forward to working closely with him to maintain TCOM's tradition of excellence.

The wireless editorial area in TCOM attracts a major fraction of the total submissions and, as its Area Editor over the last four years, I have worked with the outgoing EiC Prof. Robert Schober to grow the number of editors in this area to 27. To better manage this growth, my first administrative decision was to divide this area into two new areas, named Wireless I and Wireless II, and to appoint Prof. Huaiyu Dai and Prof. Theodoros Tsiftsis as their new Area Editors. Having worked closely with both Huaiyu and Theodoros over the last four years, I'm confident that they will do an excellent job in their new roles.

In addition, I will explore effective ways to further increase the number of editors from industry. This is a challenging task due to the highly demanding work schedule in industry and also due to the continuing decline in research positions in the telecom industry.

I would like to conclude my first editorial by thanking all of TCOM's reviewers who anonymously and generously volunteer their time to read and evaluate all of our paper submissions. I always welcome new ideas to further enhance the quality and efficiency of TCOM. Please send your suggestions to me at [eic-tcom@utdallas.edu](mailto:eic-tcom@utdallas.edu).

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