

Outgoing Editorial

DEAR Readers,

Time flies and it has been already four years since I began my service in the Editorial Board (EB) of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART II: EXPRESS BRIEFS (TCAS-II), first as Associate Editor-in-Chief (AEiC) and later as Editor-in-Chief (EiC). During these years, we have lived difficult situations, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, my term with our journal has been a wonderful adventure in which I have had the privilege to work with a great team of people, including our associate editors, our reviewers and our Associate Editors-in-Chief, Prof. Edoardo Bonizzoni and Prof. Sebastian Hoyos, who have done a fantastic job to improve the quality, impact and visibility of our journal. Thank you so much Edoardo and Sebastian!

I am also in debt with my predecessor, Prof. José M. de la Rosa, from whom I learnt a lot, and showed me the way to make TCAS-II a first-tier flagship journal of IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS). I greatly appreciate the hard work and assistance of IEEE staff, especially Ms. Desiree Noel, who was always there to help when we needed. Of course, none of our activities and initiatives would have been possible without the support and leadership of IEEE-CASS officers, and especially CASS past presidents Prof. Yong Lian and Prof. Amara Amara, present president Prof. Manuel Delgado-Restituto, president-elect Prof. Myung Hoon Sunwoo and Vice Presidents (VP) Publications, Prof. Mohamad Sawan and Dr. Gabriele Manganaro, who guided me during my term as AEiC and EiC. Thanks to the excellent job and intense dedication of all these people, the performance metrics of IEEE TCAS-II have significantly improved in the last years. We have put a lot of efforts in reducing the time from submission to publication, in order to make IEEE TCAS-II a fast publication vehicle. According to the most recent 2023 IEEE Second Quarter Sub to Pub report, our average time from submission to first decision and online post are 5.8 weeks and 9.5 weeks, respectively. The overall time from submission to publication in a printed issue is about six months, which places our journal in a very good position as compared with other letter journals. Our page budget has significantly increased from 1500 in 2018 to 4650 in 2023, the highest number ever published in our Transactions!

We have consolidated the tradition of publishing special issues on IEEE-CASS conferences, based on a conference/journal co-publication format. Special issues have been published for the IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) – the CASS flagship conference, and this year we have published the sixth edition. Special sections have been published in 2022 and 2023 based on the IEEE-CASS regional flagship conferences – such as

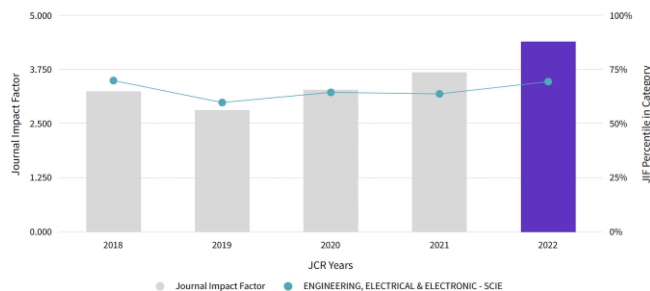


Fig. 1. TCAS-II Journal Impact Factors in the past 5 years.

LASCAS in February APCCAS in November and ICECS in December. There will be more special sections on NEWCAS, MWSCAS in the coming years. Another successful format of special issues is the so-called journal-track symposium, the International Symposium on Integrated Circuits and Systems (ISICAS) – published the sixth edition in 2023. In a continuous effort to improve the quality and impact of our journal, we have also continued some good practices – such as the new reference section requirement for the last page of the papers, and a series of Tutorial Briefs have been published, soon in January 2024 with its 4th edition.

We are starting to see the fruits of these efforts. The number of submissions has significantly been increased to 3945 in the prior 12 months at the time of writing this editorial – one of the highest score in CASS periodicals. As shown in Fig. 1, our Impact Factor (IF) has been improved over the years, booming in the last eight years from 1.136 in 2015 to 3.440 in 2022 – the highest IF in the history of TCAS-II. TCAS-II has also successfully passed the rigorous 5-year (2018–2022) review by the Periodicals Review and Advisory Committee (PRAC) in 2023, and the PRAC committee has commented in their review report “this publication appears to be well-run with healthy submissions, very good turn times and respectable bibliometrics. Actions on Impact Factor improvement noteworthy”.

None of these achievements would make sense if we do not pay attention to give the best service to our authors and readers. This has been my priority during these years and I am convinced that the incoming EB, led by Prof. Edoardo Bonizzoni, will continue working hard to steer this ship in great condition and even better course. To conclude, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you, our anonymous readers. Without your active participation and constructive feedback, none of this would make sense. Thank you so much for your contributions to make TCAS-II a better journal.

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