

Farewell

As this issue closes out the 2013 publication year for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CYBERNETICS, it also concludes my term as Editor-in-Chief (EiC). In my six years as EiC our TRANSACTIONS has been through several major changes. In 2008, our scope was updated to better reflect and tighten the concepts of cybernetics in order to better help foster next-generation cutting-edge research areas. In 2013, we were renamed from IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SYSTEMS, MAN, AND CYBERNETICS: PART B to IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CYBERNETICS. This followed a long-term reorganization of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society to more accurately reflect the three principle areas as highlighted in our society name. As such, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON HUMAN-MACHINE SYSTEMS and IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SYSTEMS, MAN, CYBERNETICS: SYSTEMS (SMCS) were the other two TRANSACTIONS reorganized from our original IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SYSTEMS, MAN, AND CYBERNETICS: PARTS A, B, AND C. The upcoming year should be an exciting one, with the introduction of a new TRANSACTIONS for IEEE SMCS entitled the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SYSTEMS. I am particularly enthusiastic about this new TRANSACTIONS, as this is a critical new area of research natural to IEEE SMCS. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CYBERNETICS (TCYB) has been seeing a sharp increase of papers in this area, which is clearly demonstrating great fertilization across disciplines not normally seen together in the past; from engineering to computer science to social science and the humanities. All four of our TRANSACTIONS will play key roles in modern complex human-cyber-physical systems, complex dynamic behavior modeling, and new ways of solving challenges faced by human-kind, just to name a few, for this decade.

Since 2008, our TRANSACTIONS has continued to significantly grow in research article submissions. Ten years ago, in 2003, we had 731 submissions. In my first year as EiC in 2008, we had just under 1400. This has increased to almost 1700 as projected for 2013 at the time of this writing.

Unfortunately, while the increasing volume of submissions to our TRANSACTIONS is very welcome news, our acceptance rates also naturally go down. Currently, the acceptance rate is significantly below 10%, and, from the accepted papers I regularly see, the quality has been constantly rising as well. Thus, the threshold for acceptable papers has also been going up. To tackle the volume of increasing submissions, I have been increasing the size of our editorial board (all volunteers) in the past two years or so. The number of Associate Editors has grown by over 33%, with each Associate Editor handing multiple papers each month. Even with these increases, IEEE TCYB has also increased in impact, with our 2012 Impact Factor at 3.236 as compared to 2007 at 1.353. Again, this is clearly attributable to the high quality submissions by our authors.

The new EiC for our TRANSACTIONS will be introduced in the first issue of 2014, with an editorial detailing exciting new directions and visions for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CYBERNETICS. I conclude my final editorial for our TRANSACTIONS by first thanking our administrative assistants Tyra Martin and Louise Cullen, whose tireless efforts have helped keep us running as smoothly as possible. I say to our Associate Editors who have kept our TRANSACTIONS to its high standards and timeliness of publications: without your dedication, IEEE TCYB would not be where it is today. I would also like to thank all the IEEE SMCS leadership for their unqualified support during my tenure. Lastly, I would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, and readership of IEEE TCYB, for you are the heart and soul of IEEE TCYB! In closing, I leave our TRANSACTIONS, very hopeful for the future. It has been a tremendous honor and a great pleasure to have served as your Editor-in-Chief!

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