

Editor-in-Chief's Year-End Message

Dear Readers,

Another fantastic year for TIM comes to an end, and I am delighted to share with you both the great achievements of 2019 and the exciting plans ahead. As always, let us start with the most important aspect, which is the quality of our journal.

Journal Quality – I am happy to report that our strategy of focusing on quality, and only quality, continues to pay off. According to the 2018 Journal Citation Report (JCR), published in June 2019, TIM remains in Quartile 1 (Q1) of the Instruments and Instrumentation category. In addition, TIM's Impact Factor has increased from 2.794 to 3.067, and in terms of Impact Factor without Self Cite (2.650), we are the number one journal in general Instrumentation and Measurement (I&M). TIM's other metrics have also improved across the board. According to Scopus, TIM remains the number one journal in general I&M, with a CiteScore of 3.84 and an SJR of 0.878. All these metrics and more can be seen on our website¹ under the "Metrics" menu.

These achievements are not possible without the collective work of a very large team consisting of authors, reviewers, AEs, associate editor-in-chiefs (AEiCs), past EiCs, and our administrators. I would like to sincerely thank this team, and I look forward to continuing our work at this excellent level.

Editorial Board – Last year, I reported that we have received a substantial increase in our submissions. That trend continued this year, giving us nearly 15% more submissions compared to 2018. To accommodate this increase and to ensure that our AE's quality of work is not adversely affected, we have added more AEs to our editorial board, which now consists of 81 members. You can see them on our website, under the "Associate Editors" menu. It might be helpful if I remind our readers that these new AEs were recruited from our existing pool of reviewers, whose performance metrics that we already have are the number of articles reviewed, the number of articles published in TIM, response/decline rates, average review time, and average reviewer quality as scored by the AEs who used that reviewer. These criteria are already mentioned on our website,² and they allow us to choose our best performing reviewers for our AE positions.

Survey/Review Articles – You may recall that TIM started accepting survey/review³ articles in 2018. This has proven to be a hit, as we have received a good number of submissions

in this category and we have already published some excellent survey and review articles, for example, in the October 2019 and November 2019 Issues. These articles can easily be found because they are on the top of the table of content of the issue. They are wonderful references that can bring up to speed researchers, for example, graduate students who want to start research in their thesis topic, relatively quickly and conveniently in one reading. We look forward to more high-quality survey/review articles in the future.

Two-Part Issues in 2020 – I mentioned last year that not only has the *number* of submissions gone up, but so has their *quality*. This means that the number of accepted articles has also gone up noticeably, so much so that our backlog has started to grow large. While this growth does not affect our timeliness (authors' version of an accepted article is posted with a DOI in IEEE Xplore within days of acceptance), we would still like to assign accepted articles to specific issues in a reasonable amount of time. Our issues are already quite large at almost 400 pages each, so increasing the size of each issue is not the best solution. At the same time, permanently increasing the number of issues per year may be premature, since the submission numbers may stabilize in the near future. Therefore, to ensure the timely printing of our accepted articles at this time, we have decided to print a few two-part issues in 2020, where each part is printed and bound separately. In fact, we already tested this concept successfully with the October 2018 Issue, which was printed in two parts. Thus, in 2020, look for four to six such two-part issues to allow us to print our backlog faster. At the end of 2020, we will revisit this strategy and decide whether to keep it or change it.

Extension of TIM@I²MTC to Other IMS Conferences – You might remember that last year, I wrote about a new initiative: TIM articles presented at the IEEE I²MTC conference, referred to as TIM@I²MTC. This initiative provides the authors of TIM articles, published or e-published in a given calendar year, with the option to present their article at next year's IEEE I²MTC conference. There is no review process; if an article has been accepted in TIM in year *Y*, it will be accepted automatically for the presentation at I²MTC *Y*+1, as long as at least one author registers the article at the conference in time. The pilot was successfully tested at IEEE I²MTC 2018 in Houston, TX, USA, with 11 TIM articles presented, and it continued in IEEE I²MTC 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand, with 17 TIM articles presented. You can read the 1-page report on the latter in our magazine.⁴ Due to this success, we have decided to expand the initiative

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¹<http://tim.ieee-ims.org/>

²Check TIM's web site, "Associate Editors" menu, "How to become an AE" submenu.

³Check TIM's web site, "Authors" menu, "Survey/Review Papers" submenu, for the criteria of survey/review articles.

⁴S. Shirmohammadi "TIM@I²MTC: Presenting IEEE TIM journal papers at the IEEE I²MTC conference," IEEE Instrumentation & Measurement Magazine, Vol. 22, Issue: 5, Oct. 2019, p. 75.

to two additional IMS conferences: IEEE MeMeA and IEEE SAS. This means that if you have a TIM article published or e-published in 2019, you can present it at IEEE I²MTC 2020,⁵ IEEE MeMeA 2020,⁶ or IEEE SAS 2020,⁷ the latter two only if your article fits the conference scope (medical measurements and sensors, respectively). As I wrote last year, this is an excellent opportunity for TIM authors to utilize the additional dissemination platform provided by the conference to present their work to colleagues, get feedback, widen their networks, and generally promote their work more. For more information about this, please visit the conference websites. I will also send an e-mail to all eligible TIM authors in early January with detailed instructions.

2020 Associate EiCs – Last but not least, it is time to introduce our AEiCs for 2020. I am very happy to introduce our new AEiCs: Dr. Gaozhi (George) Xiao from the National Research Council of Canada and Prof. Vedran Bilas from the University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, both past winners of

our TIM Outstanding AE Award.⁸ I am also happy to announce that our returning AEiCs will be Prof. Ruqiang Yan from Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China, and Prof. Dario Petri from the University of Trento, Trento, Italy.

This also means that the two-year terms of our AEiCs, Prof. Salvatore Baglio from the University of Catania, Catania, Italy, and Prof. Kurt Barbé from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium, are finished. They both did an outstanding job, and on behalf of myself, authors, reviewers, AEs, and administrators, I want to sincerely thank them for their excellent service and contributions to TIM.

Looking forward to a fantastic 2020!

Sincerely,
SHERVIN SHIRMOHAMMADI, *Editor-in-Chief*
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, ON, Canada

⁵<https://i2mtc2020.ieee-ims.org/>

⁶<https://memea2020.ieee-ims.org/>

⁷<https://2020.sensorapps.org/>

⁸Check TIM's website, "Associate Editors" menu, "Outstanding AEs" submenu.