

Editorial

Lynette A. Jones

THIS past year saw many changes in the journal with a new editor-in-chief and associate-editor-in-chief, the publication of the journal now being only in the OnlinePlus format with no printed version, and the introduction of a new feature, *News from the Field*, that highlights areas of interest to the haptics community. The research of award winners at the Haptics Symposium and EuroHaptics has been featured and an overview of haptics courses taught in different universities around the world has also been provided. In the present issue of ToH, *News from the Field* highlights the first Asia Haptics Conference held in Tsukuba, Japan, in November 2014. This conference was unique in that it was the first haptics conference that featured only hands-on demos with no oral presentations. There is a report on the conference, together with a description of the research of the winners of the best demo award and of those who received honorable mention at the conference.

The start of a new year is a time of transition for the journal with several associate editors completing their terms of service and other new members joining the Board. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional service provided to the journal by Rick Adams, Seungmoon Choi, Martha Flanders, Keyvan Hastrudi-Zaad, Miguel Otaduy, and Will Provancher, who have now completed their terms as associate editors. I am very grateful for their commitment to the journal and hard work over the years. We have six new members who have joined the Editorial Board: Jeremy Fishel, Matthias Harders, Hiroo Iwata, Angelika Peer, Roope Raisamo, and Dangxiao Wang. Jeremy Fishel is a co-founder and the director of research at SynTouch, a company that manufactures biomimetic tactile sensors. His interests are in tactile sensing and human and robotic grasping. Matthias Harders is a professor in the Institute of Computer Science at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, where he heads the Interactive Graphics and Simulation Group. His research covers the areas of computer haptics, virtual/augmented reality, and physically-based simulation. Hiroo Iwata is a professor in the Faculty of Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. His research interests include haptic interfaces, locomotion interfaces and spatially immersive displays. Angelika Peer is a professor at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom. Her areas of expertise include robotics, haptics, teleoperation, human-human and human-object interaction as well as human motor control. Roope Raisamo is a professor of computer science at the University of Tampere, Finland, where he heads the Tampere Unit for Computer-Human Interaction. His interests are haptic interaction, computer vision, and multimodal systems. Dangxiao Wang is an associate professor in the State Key Laboratory of Virtual Reality Technology and Systems at Beihang University, China. His research interests include haptic rendering, neurohaptics and medical robotic systems.

Finally, as is the custom in the first issue of the year, I am delighted to announce the recipients of the meritorious service awards. These citations recognize four individuals whose diligence and dedication have contributed to the success of the journal. This year's recipients are Seungmoon Choi for his work as an associate editor, and Christian Duriez, Evren Samur and Dangxiao Wang for their work as reviewers. Congratulations and thank you.

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Editor-in-Chief



Jeremy Fishel received the BS degree in mechanical engineering in 2005 from the California State University Long Beach, two MS degrees in biomedical engineering and aerospace and mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2007 and 2009, respectively, and the PhD degree from the Biomedical Engineering Department at USC in 2012 for his work on fluid-based tactile vibration sensing and the development of Bayesian exploration. He is a cofounder and the director of Research at SynTouch, which manufactures biomimetic tactile sensors. Since then, he has been recognized by *Popular Mechanics* as one of the 2013 Innovators of the year and accepted as a delegate into the Academy of Achievement in 2014 under the personal recommendation of General David Petraeus. His professional interests are in pioneering applications in tactile perception and robotic dexterity.



Matthias Harders is a full professor at the University of Innsbruck, and the head of the Interactive Graphics and Simulation Group, which he had founded at ETH Zurich in 2003. His research covers the areas of computer haptics, virtual/augmented reality, and physically based simulation. He has so far supervised or coadvised four PostDocs and 14 PhD students. He has published more than 100 scientific publications including 13 books/book chapters, 30 journal papers, and 61 fully peer-reviewed conference papers. Based on his previous research, he has also cofounded the successful spin-off company VirtaMed. He has strongly contributed to the growth and development of the still growing haptics research field and community, for instance by co-founding the successful EuroHaptics conference series in 2000, as a cofounder and the first elected chair of the IEEE Technical Committee on Haptics from 2008-2010, or as a cofounder of the *IEEE Transactions on Haptics (ToH)* in 2008. He has led and participated in several national, EU, and international projects. He was an associate editor for *ToH* from 2008-2011 and began his second term as AE for *ToH* in 2015. In addition, he is currently an associate editor of the *ACM Transactions on Applied Perception*, *MIT Presence Journal*, *Virtual Reality Journal*, and the *Springer Series on Touch and Haptic Systems*.



Hiroo Iwata received the BS, MS, and PhD degrees in engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1981, 1983, and 1986, respectively. He is a professor in the Faculty of Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Tsukuba, where he teaches courses on human interfaces and leads research projects on virtual reality. His research interests include haptic interfaces, locomotion interfaces, and spatially immersive displays. He was a vice president of the Virtual Reality Society of Japan from 2010 to 2013. He has exhibited his work at the Emerging Technologies venue of the SIGGRAPH every year from 1994 to 2007. He was the general chair of the World Haptics Conference in 2007 as well as Asia Haptics 2014.



Angelika Peer received the diploma engineering degree in electrical engineering and information technology in 2004 and the doctor of engineering degree in 2008 from the Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany. She is currently a full professor at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom. Before, she was senior researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Automatic Control Engineering of the Technische Universität München and TUM-IAS junior fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies. Her research interests include robotics, haptics, teleoperation, human-human and human-robot interaction as well as human motor control.



Roope Raisamo is the head of the TAUCHI Research Center, a member of the management board of the School of Information Sciences, and a tenured professor. He leads a research group composed of 15 people which focuses on multimodal interaction. He is also responsible for the strategic research development program at the University of Tampere in the field of Human-Technology Interaction. He is a member of the ICT council of the Tampere Chamber of Commerce and on the steering group of the DIEM program managed by TIVIT Oy. He is also a member of the board of SoSE graduate school. In his research group, he heads a number of research projects funded by the Academy of Finland, Tekes, and the European Union. He is responsible for the research collaboration between the University of Tampere and Stanford University in the field of human-technology interaction, and research collaboration between Nokia Research Center and the University of Tampere. His teaching duties involve supervision of MSc theses and doctoral students.



Dangxiao Wang (M'05-SM'13) received the PhD degree from Beihang University, Beijing, China, in 2004. Currently, he is an associate professor in the State Key Laboratory of Virtual Reality Technology and Systems at Beihang University. From 2004 to 2006, he was a postdoc at Beihang University. From 2006 to 2007, he was an assistant professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering and Automation, Beihang University. His research interests include haptic rendering, NeuroHaptics, and medical robotic systems. He has been the chair of Executive Committee of the IEEE Technical Committee on Haptics (IEEE TCH) since 2014, and had served as the vice chair for publications of the IEEE TCH from 2011 to 2014. He is a senior member of the IEEE.