

Editorial

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THE first time I encountered *TPAMI* was in the mid-80s when I was in my master's course at Seoul National University, Korea. At that time, overseas delivery was not smooth, so I had to wait a long time to receive the printed journal. I still remember the thrill of seeing the impressive yellow cover page and the papers full of beautiful pictures and equations that I didn't understand them all, though. When I heard that my first paper was accepted at *TPAMI* while I was doing my PhD at USC, I felt a thrill again as if I had won the world. *TPAMI* has been at the center of my professional career for a long time. Therefore, it is truly an honor for me to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief of *TPAMI* after going through AE and AEIC.

First of all, on behalf of the entire *TPAMI* community, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my predecessor, Sven Dickinson. As we all might know, the last five years of Sven's EIC term have been some of the most challenging in *TPAMI*'s history. During this period, the total number of submitted papers nearly doubled due to the explosion of interest in computer vision and machine learning worldwide. This rapid change in scale caused many complex problems in the paper processing mechanism, diversity of scopes, and operation of *TPAMI*. Despite these challenges, Sven's outstanding leadership and vision resolved these issues immediately and effectively. As demonstrated by various indicators, he further solidified its influence by making *TPAMI* the best journal in all fields of CS. *TPAMI*'s IF increased 73% from 9.455 to 16.389 during his five-year term, with the number of AEICs increasing from 6 to 7, and the number of AEs rising 147%, from 72 to 178. For accepted papers, the average time from submission to first decision was reduced to 2.62 months from 2.99 months, and the average time from submission to acceptance was reduced to 10.05 months from 11.91 months. This dazzling achievement would not have been possible without Sven's meticulous strategy, dedication, and passion despite the unprecedented challenges.

TPAMI was first published in January 1979, so it is a journal with a long history of 43 years. The rapid quantitative and qualitative growth of *TPAMI* to become the best journal is, above all, due to many people's voluntary and dedicated efforts in our community. It was possible because countless researchers did their best in their roles based on their best expertise as authors, reviewers, and editorial board members, and secured faith in the transparency and fairness of the paper handling process. I will faithfully fulfill my role as an EIC so that these traditions can be inherited and further strengthened and developed in the future.

Currently, *TPAMI* continues to face new challenges. In particular, I will try to find solutions to the following challenges

First, in a situation where quantitative expansion is progressing rapidly, it is essential to form and maintain an editorial committee consisting of top experts of sufficient size to increase the impact of *TPAMI* further. So, I plan to quickly respond to the increase in submissions and secure enough qualified AEICs and AEs. In inviting editorial members, principles such as reputation in the area of expertise, commitment, and the balance in genders, geographical regions, generations, industry and academia will be applied. Through this, I intend to continuously reduce the average time from submission to first decision and that from submission to acceptance while maintaining the highest quality.

In addition to the size of the AE pool, it is necessary to carefully examine the composition of the AEs in terms of areas. Often it is very tough to find the right AEs that fit the submitted papers, especially when the areas are relatively new or narrow. If the distribution of submissions by topic and the composition of AEs do not match well, difficulties in matching papers doubles, and the overall inefficiency will increase. To enhance the management efficiency through rational paper assignment and reduction of overall workload of AEs, I will periodically analyze the statistics of submissions and make the AE composition fit accordingly.

Another urgent issue is the introduction of a paper matching system. Currently, assigning submitted papers to AEs or selecting reviewers is mostly manual or relies on limited functions of ScholarOne. As the number of papers increases, the time and effort required for such a candidate selection process will increase further. Consequently, this could be a severe bottleneck of the whole paper reviewing process. Therefore, it is required to use a paper-matching system to enhance the efficiency of the paper assigning process of *TPAMI*. Sven has been working on this part, and based on this, I will try to get tangible results soon.

Besides, timely publication of special issues and active invitation of good survey/tutorial/benchmark papers will secure distinction from conferences. The topics may be areas that have reached the early stage of research maturity, or they may be important emerging areas where research is likely to be advanced by publishing a collection of high-quality, peer-reviewed papers.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to David Forsyth, the previous EIC. He appointed me as an AEIC for the first time, gave me a lot of help and advice in many ways while working together, and also spent a lot of time preparing for ICCV2019 as co-general chairs. Furthermore, he encouraged me to apply for this position and spared no support.

And I am fortunate and very excited to work with the stellar AEIC Cohort, including Bernt Schiele, Jiaya Jia, Jana Kosecka, Rene Vidal, Jun Zhu, Pradeep Ravikumar, and Yan Liu. Christoph Lampert has stepped down recently after serving as an AEIC for many years. I believe that the passion and dedication he put into *TPAMI* will be remembered by many. And also, I'm delighted to work as a team with 178 AEs, the best experts in each area, for a new leap forward for *TPAMI*.

In addition, the experience and wisdom of the *TPAMI* Advisory Board will be a great help, and I expect to get valuable advice on making rational decisions on many important issues as collective intelligence.

I look forward to your interest and support so that *TPAMI* can continue to grow in the future.

Kyoung Mu Lee
Incoming Editor in Chief

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