Editorial
Message From the Editor-in-Chief

A WARM welcome to a new year for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (IEEE TVT) from myself as the Editor-in-Chief and all Editorial Board Members of the journal to our respected readers and contributors. I would like to start the second year of my term as the EiC with great appreciation to all authors, reviewers, editors, and the officers of the Vehicular Technology Society who have helped the journal to continue being one of the best venues for publication of high-quality articles in the field of vehicular technologies. Last year we had a record number of submission of 5109 submissions, with 13,676 Transactions pages published. Despite that large number, the journal has continued to complete the peer-review process of the majority of paper in a reasonable time frame with great scrutiny, keeping the acceptance rate at a relatively low level and increasing the impact factor among all other scientific journals in the field high to 6.239. Our Transactions now ranks THIRD according to the *Google Scholar Metrics* under the category of "Engineering and Computer Science," "Computer Networks & Wireless Communications," well ahead of all other competing journals in the field. Those great results could not be achieved without great support from our authors, reviewers, and editors, as well as from the continuous support of our home VT Society.

IEEE TVT is one of the largest IEEE Transactions with a broad scope from mobile radio to vehicular electronics. TVT implements several unique and distinguished features that have created huge interests among the authors. Among those features, TVT focuses on highly interested and emerging topics on autonomous driving and future mobile radio and network technologies and follows the highest level of work ethics as a professional journal. TVT allows authors to choose between a long (Regular) and short (Correspondence) paper at the time of submission in one of the four technical areas of Wireless Communications, Wireless Networks and Mobile Services, Vehicular Electronics and Systems, and Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Systems. Initial submissions for new regular papers may have up to a maximum page length of 14 pages, while for correspondence this is 5 pages. Subsequently, final submissions after revision may have maximum page length of 16 pages for regular papers and 6 pages for correspondence papers! This gives the researchers sufficient space to publish their novel ideas and results, especially for short papers. Currently, to offset the cost of publishing, the Transactions, for all papers submitted in 2020 or later, the Board of Governors of the VTS implements a mandatory page charge of US$220.00 for each Transactions page exceeding ten printed pages for regular papers and US$220.00 for each Transactions page exceeding five printed pages for correspondence papers. However, as a VTS member, this journal provides one additional free page (or $220 discount in the overlength page charge) to a paper whose the corresponding author is a VTS member. It is therefore a great time to join VTS if you are not a member yet. In addition to the additional free page, you can broaden your knowledge with complimentary tools and resources as a VTS member. Please visit https://vtsociety.org/engage/membership/ for more information.

As stated earlier, TVT regular submissions are divided into four technical areas of Wireless Communications, Wireless Networks and Mobile Services, Vehicular Electronics and Systems, and Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Systems. Each of those technical areas is administrated by two predominant researchers with vast expertise in their respected field, called Area Editors. The role of Area Editors is to assign suitable and ready-for-review submissions to an expert in the field of the paper, called Associate Editor, who will subsequently assign the paper for peer review to at least three expert reviewers. All submissions at the beginning of the process and before they are being assigned to the Area Editors, go to an administrative check. This administrative check could also include the EiC and/or senior editors checks on suitability of the paper in terms of relevance, contributions, and originality of the presented work. At this early stage, we may inform the authors if there are certain problems with their submission and make an editorial decision if needed. The hierarchal system implemented in the journal provides a very effective and timely peer review process, for which in most cases the authors receive the first decision in a timely manner, much quicker than many of other journals in the field but with high-quality and a strict peer-review process. Over the past 12 months, the average days from submission to first decision is only 62.6 days, while the average days from submission to final decision is only 70.7. This is another important feature of the IEEE TVT that provides authors with a fast, and at the same time, high-quality review process.

Over the course of 2023, and with the increased number of submissions, we will continue to recruit new editors and reviewers for the journal, especially in the areas of high submission rate and from regions that are currently less represented in our editorial team. I strive to balance the editorial representation with a diverse team from all regions and countries, genders, ages, and technical level of expertise to create the outmost diverse and ethical editorial team for the journal. I will also continue monitoring final review decisions for all and every submission to the journal to make sure that all correct procedural steps have been followed and all submissions have been given an equal opportunity for review and publications in the journal, purely

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based on their technical merits. At the same time, we thrive to finalize the review process of any paper which for any reason has been left in the system for a longer than usual time, by adding extra editorial support.

I would like to conclude this editorial message by thanking all the fabulous people who have supported the operations of this journal in the past and helped maintain the quality and smooth functioning of the transactions. First special thanks to Prof. Weihua Zhuang, 2023 VTS President, Prof. Jae Hong Lee, 2022 VTS President, and Prof. James Irvine, Vice-President of Publications. Countless thanks should go to Prof. Nei Kato, the past EiC, and his team, who have provided me with great guidance during and after the transition period in 2022, and their role in enhancing the quality and ranking of the journal. I would like to thank the Board of Governors of the IEEE VTS for overviewing this flagship journal of the Society and helping guide in its operation. I would like also to thank our Associate EiC, Prof. Lin Cai, who shares the heavy load of journal operation and strategic planning, and our hard-working Area Editors: Cenk Gursoy and Lingyang Song (Wireless Communications); Dusit Niyato and Tomoaki Ohtsuki (Wireless Networks and Mobile Service); Bilal Akin and Matthias Preindl (Vehicular Electronics and Systems); and Richard Yu and Qingyang Song (Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Systems). I will continue receiving publications assistance from great team at IEEE, including Mr. George Criscione, our Journal Production Manager, Ms. Sonal Parikh, IEEE representative to ScholarOne, without their efforts the journal could not be in your hands at the start of each month in its best shape. Finally, I would like to thank my employer, The University of Sydney, for allowing me to spend a great deal of my daytime for managing this journal.

I will update all readers with more exciting news about the journal during the year in this Editorial series and on the IEEE TVT webpage. I would like to thank all continuing authors, readers, editors, and reviewers for their support and attention and for helping the journal to become the number one place for publications of top-quality research. For new readers and authors, welcome to our journal! IEEE TVT's mission is to always deliver the best quality and be the very best in the exciting world of Vehicular Technology.

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Abbas Jamalipour (Fellow, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan, in 1996. He holds the position of Professor of ubiquitous mobile networking with the University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW, Australia. He has authored nine technical books, eleven book chapters, more than 550 technical papers, and five patents in the area of wireless communications and networking. He was the President of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society during 2020-2021. He held the positions of the Executive Vice-President and the Editor-in-Chief of VTS Mobile World and has been an elected Member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society since 2014. He was the Editor-in-Chief IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, the Vice President-Conferences, and a Member of Board of Governors of the IEEE Communications Society. He sits on the Editorial Board of the IEEE ACCESS and several other journals and is a Member of Advisory Board of IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS journal. He is the General Chair or Technical Program Chair of several prestigious conferences, including IEEE ICC, GLOBECOM, WCNC, and PIMRC. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical, Information, and Communication Engineers, and the Institution of Engineers Australia, an ACM Professional Member, and an IEEE Distinguished Speaker. Since January 2022, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY. Dr. Jamalipour was the recipient of the number of prestigious awards, such as the 2019 IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Technical Achievement Award in Green Communications, 2016 IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Technical Achievement Award in Communications Switching and Routing, 2010 IEEE ComSoc Harold Sobol Award, 2006 IEEE ComSoc Best Tutorial Paper Award, and more than 15 Best Paper Awards.