

A Message From the New Editor-in-Chief

IT is with gratitude to the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) that I undertake this new challenge of serving as Editor-in-Chief for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING.

The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING has a long and stellar reputation for publishing novel work in an environment that fosters quality. This profile owes everything to the hard work and dedication of the SPS Publications Board, past editors-in-chief, associate editors, reviewers, paper contributors, and supporting staff. As a member of the SPS Publications Board over the last three years, I have participated in many discussions on how to achieve the next level of excellence for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING. My goals for my term as Editor-in-Chief are shaped by those discussions.

Signal processing is breaking new ground and becoming the enabling technology in a wide range of areas such as biomedicine, genomics, and wireless communications; new opportunities for research are constantly arising. The Transactions needs to seize on those opportunities, to grow beyond the boundaries of the signal processing community, and become the journal of choice for authors to present their novel results. To attract high-quality contributions in a fast-paced field with intensifying competition, the following goals need to be achieved.

First, timely publication needs to be guaranteed.

I plan to work towards significantly shortening the time from submission to electronic posting on IEEEXplore of accepted papers. That means reviewers have to conduct timely reviews; associate editors have to make timely decisions; and the proofs must be reviewed and corrections returned within a few days after they are sent to the authors. These seem like simple goals

yet they are a challenge because they require changes in the culture and practices of our community.

Second, the citation impact factor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING needs to improve. The SPS Publications Board has identified some issues that have kept the citation impact of this Transactions below 2. Some problems have been corrected and, soon, we hope to see a dramatic increase of the impact factor. I plan to pursue additional steps that will enhance the visibility of the Transactions outside the traditional SP community, such as placing greater emphasis on emerging, groundbreaking areas, and attracting papers that have the potential to be cited by a broader research community beyond our own.

Third, it is of ultimate importance that submissions receive high-quality, objective evaluations. I plan to broaden the pool of associate editors by adding experts who meet the highest technical and professional standards and are committed to meet the goals of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING. I will encourage associate editors to assume a leading role in attracting cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary research results to the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING. It is important to note that this does not mean growth in size; these Transactions will necessarily maintain their size but publish papers of higher quality and greater technical relevancy.

I look forward to working with you toward achieving these goals.

I would like to encourage you to contact me directly at athina@drexel.edu with comments, suggestions for improvements, and any concerns.

ATHINA P. PETROPULU, *Editor-in-Chief (2009–2011)*,
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