

# Editorial

## Farewell Message From the Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

**H**ELLO, readers of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (TVT). With this message, I would like to officially announce that I will no longer be the Editor-in-Chief of this beloved journal as my term comes to an end. Due to an increase in the number of submissions (which I will detail below), the Board of Governors of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society (VTS) saw fit to have multiple people share the responsibility of being Editor-in-Chief. Thus, I am happy to announce that my successors are Prof. Abbas Jamalipour, the new Editor-in-Chief, and Prof. Lin Cai, the new Associate Editor-in-Chief. Prof. Jamalipour works at the University of Sydney (Australia) and has long served this journal as an editor (since 2009), besides having multiple highly-respected publications in *Wireless Networks and Vehicular Networks*. Prof. Cai works at the University of Victoria (Canada) and has served us as the Area Editor of Wireless Networks and Mobile Services at TVT since 2018. There is no doubt in mind that this journal is in very capable hands and they will lead it into a bright future.

In July 2017, I had the honor of succeeding Prof. Yuguang Fang as the Editor-in-Chief of TVT. Prof. Fang overlooked an incredible period for this journal, significantly increasing the quality of the papers published by carefully selecting accepted papers and curating a qualified team of editors. This increase in quality led to more people referencing TVT papers, which in turn increased the Impact Factor of the journal. Consequently, the popularity of TVT increased and the number of submissions went up accordingly. After such fantastic work as Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Fang continued to help the journal by kindly advising me during my term. I am very thankful for his help as the transition period had some difficulties. I also want to express my gratitude towards Prof. Weihua Zhuang, the Editor-in-Chief before Prof. Fang and the Vice-President of Publications of VTS during all of my term. Prof. Zhuang also oftentimes offered feedback and advice and has made my term easier and calmer as result. Thank you as well to Prof. Javier Gozávez for his support, specially giving careful advice on how to handle special issues.

Speaking of my term, following the work of Prof. Fang as an example, I did my best to improve the quality of published papers even further. For this, I tried to recruit experienced professionals for our editorial board. I also made sure to follow up with them and instruct them so they are well equipped to judge papers and decide which ones are ready to publish (and how to instruct

authors to further improve their works before publication). Additionally, I also tried to maintain the tradition of TVT of offering periodic special issues that focus on upcoming and trending topics in research, to keep our journal in the vanguard of its area. The result can be seen in the table below, where I am happy to report that in most citation metrics, i.e., metrics that measure how many citations TVT papers receive and therefore how influential they are in the literature, our journal has seen a significant and clear increase in stature. These numbers put TVT in the top quartile of journals in the computer networks and wireless communications areas. TVT also has, in 2020, a h5-index of 120 and a h5-median of 175, putting it in 3rd place among journals of its area.

Year	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor	Eigenfactor Score	Article Score	Influence Score
2016	4.066	4.057	0.03713	1.166	
2017	4.432	4.275	0.04101	1.116	
2018	5.339	4.864	0.04657	1.094	
2019	5.379	5.119	0.05425	1.105	
2020	5.978	5.429	0.05223	1.112	

As it happened with Prof. Fang, this increase in citations was accompanied by a higher amount of submissions. In 2016 we had 2119 original papers sent to TVT, but in 2020 that figure was 4438. It cannot be understated how high of a workload this is, which is what motivated VTS to increase the number of editors, area editors, and now Editors-in-Chief. Furthermore, the increase in the quality has also seen our journal become more popular with readers. We went from the 19th most downloaded venue in 2016 to the rank 7 in 2020, approaching three times the number of downloads. These figures, which are detailed below, show the healthy state in which TVT encounters itself and I am very happy to be able to present these figures.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Submissions	2119	2574	3348	4028	4438
Downloads	677,432	918,836	996,549	1,140,083	1,567,220
Rank	19th	17th	14th	8th	7th

Of course, by no means these results are the fruit of my work. I had plenty of help from the most prepared personnel. I already mentioned Prof. Fang and Prof. Zhuang, but I also must thank every member of the editorial board that worked with TVT in these last 4 years. Special thanks to the area editors as well that worked during all or some of my term: Profs. Gerhard Bauch, Lingyang Song, M. Cenk Gursoy, Lin Cai, Tomoaki Ohtsuki, Richard D. Souza, Alireza Khaligh, Matthias Preindl, and Bilal Akin. All of our editors did fantastic work during these years and,

despite the increased workload, offered decisions and feedbacks to our authors on time. I am also thankful to the reviewers who worked diligently and, of course, to all the authors who trust and believe in TVT to be the receptacle of their precious research.

Going beyond the editorial team, I want to thank the administrators that helped taking care of the ManuscriptCentral system and respond to queries from authors. Handling TVT is a lot of work and there are new tasks every day. Without their support, I would have been overwhelmed and I am very grateful for their aid. The administrators that worked at least some part of my term were Tiago Koketsu Rodrigues, Fengxiao Tang, Bomin Mao, Motoko Shiraiishi, and Hiroaki Hashida. I also want to thank the IEEE representative with ScholarOne that helped TVT not only during my term but also since before, Ms. Sonal Parikh. Many times we had to turn to her with issues beyond our power regarding the system and she always acted quickly and effectively to keep the review process of the journal up and running. I also want to mention all the IEEE staff that have, in one way or another, helped keep TVT operations smooth during my term. These people have offered support always in a kind way and without them, things would not have gone well: Dan Henson, George Criscione, Zuleima Davis, Brooke Johnson, Hemmanuel Cruz, and Corrie Peterson.

Finally, special thanks to all members of the Board of Governors of VTS. They overlook not only TVT but also other publications of the society as well as operations of the society in general. They always offered insightful feedback to improve

TVT at each step of the way. I want to specifically mention how they quickly reacted to the increase in submissions and increased our page budget. This was instrumental in making sure that accepted papers kept being published without delay, as without the increase in budget, the higher number of papers would just quickly fill up the queue.

All the people mentioned here work daily to make sure that TVT maintains the quality level that is expected of it. We are all passionate about vehicular technology and want to make sure that this journal is capable of leading the area and making innovations possible that will, hopefully, make people's lives better. This capable team of people will, at least partially, continue with the journal and I am certain they will support the new Editors-in-Chief. Although my term is ending, my love for TVT remains and I will always be available to help the journal in any capacity. I know that Prof. Jamalipour and Prof. Cai are ready to take this endeavor and I am excited to see how the journal will grow in their capable hands. It is the goal of all of us to keep TVT as the best place for vehicular technology research to serve you, all of our authors, and readers. At the end of the day, this journal is made for you and we want to offer you the best experience possible.

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**Nei Kato** (Fellow, IEEE) is currently a Full Professor and the Dean of the Graduate School of Information Sciences (GSIS), Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan. He has authored or coauthored more than 400 papers in prestigious peer-reviewed journals and conferences. His research interests include computer networking, wireless mobile communications, satellite communications, ad hoc & sensor & mesh networks, UAV networks, smart grid, AI, IoT, Big Data, and pattern recognition. During 2018–2021, he was the Vice-President (Member & Global Activities) of the IEEE Communications Society. During 2015–2017, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the *IEEE Network Magazine*. He was the Chair of Satellite and Space Communications Technical Committee during 2010–2012 and Ad Hoc & Sensor Networks Technical Committee during 2014–2015 of the IEEE Communications Society. He is a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Communications Society and Vehicular Technology Society. He is a Fellow of The Engineering Academy of Japan and a Fellow of IEICE.