

Editorial

Welcome Message From the New Editor-in-Chief

DEAR researchers and readers of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY (IEEE TVT). It is my great pleasure to write this first Editorial for the journal as the new Editor-in-Chief. I started my role as the EiC in January 2022 after completing my service as the President of Vehicular Technology Society (VTS). I must say that the new role requires filling great shoes of my predecessor, Professor Nei Kato, who has enhanced the journal greatly over the past four years, bringing its impact factor to an outstanding level of 5.978.

IEEE TTVT is one of the largest IEEE Transactions (in terms of number of published papers annually) with a broad scope from mobile radio to vehicular electronics and basically any research related to the vehicular technologies. The journal is now receiving over 4500 submissions annually and has some unique features that make it the favorite journal for the researchers in the field. One of those features is for the authors to choose their paper category between a regular paper or a correspondence. Initial submissions for the 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 the short papers, or as we call them, correspondences. 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 corresponding author is a VTS member. It is 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 one of initiatives that I am bringing to the journal at the start of my role is to implement four technical areas for the journal, selectable by the authors at the time of submission. In addition to the previous three areas, the fourth new technical area will address the research and development growth in one of the most interesting fields of interest of the VTS, i.e., the Connected and Autonomous Vehicles. Now, the authors may submit their papers

to one of the following areas: Wireless Communications, Wireless Networks and Mobile Services, Vehicular Electronics and Systems, and Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Systems. These areas are explained in the followings:

Wireless Communications: The use of mobile radio technologies for vehicular, mobile communications and services, including but not limited to, channel propagation, characterization and measurements, wireless communications techniques, MIMO communications, cooperative communications, cognitive communications, UAV/Vehicle-to-X communications, spectrum sharing, interference cancellation and coordination, machine learning for wireless communications, command and control for wireless systems, and consideration of the vehicle as part of the mobile communications environment.

Wireless Networks and Mobile Services: The use of wireless technologies for vehicular communication networks and mobile services, including, but not limited to, network architecture, protocol, and algorithm design; resource management; mobility management; quality of services; network security and privacy; network measurement and analysis; network management; spectrum sharing and multiple access techniques; routing, multicast, and groupcast; energy-efficient and sustainable networks; content distribution and distributed AI applications; wireless mobile sensor networks and Internet of Vehicles (IoV); edge computing/intelligence.

Vehicular Electronics and Systems: The use of electronic or electrical components and systems for control, propulsion, or auxiliary functions, including but not limited to, electronic controls for engineer, drive train, convenience, safety, and other vehicle systems; sensors, actuators, and microprocessors for onboard use; electronic fuel control systems; vehicle electrical components and systems collision avoidance systems; electromagnetic compatibility in the vehicle environment; and electric/hybrid vehicles and controls.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Systems: The use of electrical, communications, and electronics technology for connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) including, but not limited to, architectures, protocols, and algorithms for CAVs, vehicle localization, travel planning, collision avoidance, platooning, decision-making and intelligent control; security, privacy, and dependability; traffic aid systems; traffic control systems; automatic vehicle identification, railway communications and networking; automated transport systems and autonomous driving; moving walkways or people-movers ground transportation systems, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs); unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs).

Each technical area 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 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 go to an administrative check at the beginning before they are assigned to the Area Editors. The hierachal 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 peer-review process. Currently, the average days from submission to first decision is only 59.5 days, while the average days from submission to final decision is only 70.7 (based on the statistics from the past 12 months). This is another important feature of the IEEE TVT that provides authors with a fast and high-quality review process.

I would like to conclude this editorial message by thanking all the wonderful people that 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. Jae Hong Lee, President of the VTS, Prof. James Irvine, Vice-President of Publications, and Prof. Weihua Zhuang, the past Vice-President of Publications of the IEEE VTS, for appointing me to this role. Countless thanks should go to Prof. Nei Kato, the past EiC, and his team, Mr. Tiago Gama Rodrigues, Mr. Bomin Mao, and Mr. Fengxiao Tang, who have provided me with great advice and guidance during and after the transition

period. I would like to thank the Board of Governors of the IEEE VTS for overviewing this flagship journal of the Society and helping guide its operation. I will continue receiving publications assistance from great team at IEEE, including Mr. George Criscione, our Journal Coordinator, 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. I would like also to thank our Associate EiC, a newly created role started in 2022, Prof. Lin Cai, who will share the heavy load of journal operation and strategic planning with me over the next two years. 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 TTV 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 TTV'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 positions of a Professor of ubiquitous mobile networking with the University of Sydney. He has authored nine technical books, eleven book chapters, more than 550 technical papers, and five patents, in his research field, which include wireless communications and networking. He 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. Since January 2022, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY. He was the President of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society during 2020–2021. Previously, 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 of the IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, the Vice President-Conferences, and a Member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Communications Society. He is on the Editorial Board of the IEEE ACCESS and several other journals and a Member of the Advisory Board of the IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS JOURNAL. He is the General Chair or Technical Program Chair for several prestigious conferences, including the IEEE ICC, GLOBECOM, WCNC, and PIMRC. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical, Information, and Communication Engineers (IEICE) and Institution of Engineers Australia, an ACM Professional Member, and an IEEE Distinguished Speaker.