

Editorial

THIS issue marks the completion of my term as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION. I would like to take some space to conclude my three-year term of the editorship.

During the last three years, I have introduced some major organizational changes in an attempt to address the overwhelming number of submissions, the heavy workload of the volunteers, and the priorities of the community. Besides the creation of the new position of Associate Editor-in-Chief, the addition of Track Editors should enable all manuscripts to be overseen by experts with a corresponding field of interest, which will reduce my individual contribution. By introducing the layer of Track Editors, the heavy workload of the Editor-in-Chief can be shared, making the system more sustainable. I would like to sincerely thank my Track Editors, Profs. Christophe Fumeaux, Vincenzo Galdi, Buon Kiong Lau, and Jamesina Simpson for taking up this challenge and helping to test and improve the system.

Another new addition was the formation of a committee to review the system of selecting outstanding Associate Editors and reviewers. Chaired by Prof. Christophe Fumeaux, the committee includes Prof. Vincenzo Galdi, Dr. Duixian Liu, and Prof. Karl Warnick. Thanks to their work, the formulas currently in use have been revised to take into account different considerations in evaluating the overall performance of Associate Editors and Reviewers.

A second committee was also created, the TAP Special Issue Committee chaired by Prof. Vincenzo Galdi. Its members include Prof. Shanker Balasubramaniam, Prof. Danilo Erricolo, Prof. Athanasios Panagopoulos, and Prof. Kin-Lu Wong. I thank them for evaluating the 22 proposals received by the Editorial Office. I accepted the proposal with the highest ranking for an upcoming Special Issue, which is on Antennas and Propagation Aspects of 5G Communications. I look forward to seeing the publication of this timely issue and wish the Guest Editors the best of luck.

Regarding the recent revision of the submission process, authors are now required to critically appraise the significance, novelty, and suitability of their manuscript to the AP-S by answering four questions. This procedure facilitates the paper screening and review process, making it easier to cope with the large volume of submissions. I wish to thank Prof. Tapan Sarkar for making this suggestion.

Also, due to the huge number of submissions and limited page budget, extra effort is deployed to check whether submissions suit the scope of the AP Transactions. During my term, many borderline out-of-scope manuscripts were returned un-reviewed, such as signal processing papers dealing with isotropic antenna without considering mutual coupling effects.

The antennas in those papers can in fact be replaced by any sensors and the scope is, therefore, more suitable for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SIGNAL PROCESSING. After I strictly enforced this policy, the number of this type of unsuitable submissions was largely reduced.

Due to the workload, the past three years has been very challenging and I wish to express my gratitude to various parties who made this journey meaningful and rewarding. Firstly, I wish to thank the AdCom of the AP-S Society for entrusting me with the Editor-in-Chief appointment. It has been my great honor to lead such a respected publication and it has truly been a major milestone of my career. My appreciation goes to my predecessors, Dr. Trevor Bird and Prof. Michael Jensen, for their guidance and full support throughout my editorship.

The workload of volunteers at TAP has always been heavy, this is especially true since paper submissions reached a record high in 2015. I have been blessed to have a team of dedicated and knowledgeable colleagues from the Editorial Board to ensure a reasonable turnover time for submissions while at the same time delivering detailed and quality reviews. My greatest commendation is to Associate Editor-in-Chief Prof. Christophe Fumeaux for his proficient and valuable contributions to the Transactions. In the months we have worked together, I have come to recognize Christophe as one of the most respected scholars in the field. Besides assigning submissions to suitable Associate Editors, he was also involved in various duties that safeguard the quality of the publication. His kind and outstanding service allows me to focus on decision-making and other important EiC matters. I am indebted to him for his support.

My sincere gratitude also goes to Prof. Vincenzo Galdi and Prof. Buon Kiong Lau for volunteering their time and effort in multiple duties since they accepted my appointment of them to Senior Associate Editor; especially in their evaluation of resubmission approval. The success of the Transactions would not be possible without the tremendous contributions from my talented team of Associate Editors. I would have liked to have thanked them here individually, but the limited space would not allow. Listed on the inside back cover, these people have delivered timely and comprehensive recommendations that have greatly facilitated the decision-making process. In addition, I wish to thank our Reviewers. I am fortunate to inherit a large pool of excellent reviewers with a wide variety of expertise. Their thorough, objective reviews form the foundation of the peer review system. I truly value the chance to work with this team of wonderful and diligent volunteers, and a big thank you goes out to them for offering their time and energy in the advancement of antenna and propagation technology.

Last but not least, I wish to praise the outstanding performance of staff members from the administration, system support, and production teams. I thank Adrian Evans,

who was the Editorial Assistant of my predecessor Prof. Michael Jensen, for kindly serving as my Editorial Assistant since the first day of my editorship (August 1, 2013) until Editorial Assistant Elaine Yeung reported for duty in mid-September, 2013. I also want to thank Elaine for her help in setting up my editorial office and for her excellent service through December 2013. Although the periods of service by Adrian and Elaine were short, their contributions are very important and will be warmly remembered. I, of course, have to thank my third Editorial Assistant, Sunny Tse, for the great work in her numerous duties from handling submissions to answering author emails, from webpage maintenance to report preparation. Her impact to the operation of the Transactions is significant and definitely made my job easier over the past two and a half years. Another excellent colleague is IEEE Senior Editor Dawn Menendez who edits accepted papers for final publication as well as confirming page proofs with authors. She is committed to preparing issues in time for publication and caters to the many requests from the Editorial Office. I am in debt to her kind assistance and efficient work. My appreciations go to Sonal Parikh of IEEE ScholarOne

Manuscripts Help Desk for keeping a smooth submission system and modifying the system in response to new organizational needs. A big thank you goes to Anthony VenGraitis from IEEE Intellectual Property Rights Office for his assistance in handling misconducts like plagiarisms, double submission, and other infringements.

Finally, I would like to introduce the incoming Editor-in-Chief Prof. Danilo Erricolo who will start his editorship on August 1, 2016. I am confident that the Transactions and AP-S community will benefit from his vision and leadership. On behalf of the Transactions, I would like to give him a warm welcome and wish him all the very best.

Once again, I am deeply grateful for the honor and privilege of serving as the Editor-in-Chief for this leading journal in our field. Although this is the end of my Editor-in-Chief appointment, I plan to continue to support our publication in any way I can. Thank you and goodbye.

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Kwok Wa (Ben) Leung (S'90–M'93–SM'02–F'11) was born in Hong Kong in 1967. He received the B.Sc. degree in electronics and the Ph.D. degree in electronics engineering from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, in 1990 and 1993, respectively.

From 1990 to 1993, he was a Graduate Assistant with the Department of Electronic Engineering, Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1994, he joined the Department of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong (CityU), as an Assistant Professor, where he was an Assistant Department Head from 2009 to 2013, and is currently a Chair Professor. From January to June, 2006, he was a Visiting Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA. His research interests include antenna designs, guided wave theory, computational electromagnetics, and mobile communications.

Prof. Leung received the International Union of Radio Science (USRI) Young Scientists Awards in Japan and Russia, in 1993 and 1995, respectively. He also received the CityU Research Excellence Award in 2013, and Departmental Outstanding Teacher Awards in 2005, 2010, and 2011. His students received the 2015 iWEM Student Best Paper Award, 2015 IEEE AP-S Eugene F. Knott Memorial Pre-Doctoral Research Award, and 2014 IEEE MTT-S Undergraduate/Pre-graduate Scholarship. He was Chair of the IEEE AP/MTT Hong Kong Joint Chapter for 2006 and 2007. He was the Technical Program Chair, 2008 Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference, Hong Kong, the Technical Program Co-Chair, 2006 IEEE TENCON, Hong Kong, and the Finance Chair of PIERS 1997, Hong Kong. He was an Editor for HKIE Transactions and a Guest Editor of *IET Microwaves, Antennas and Propagation*. He served as an Associate Editor for the *IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters* and the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION (TAP) and received Transactions Commendation Certificates twice, in 2009 and 2010, for his exceptional performance. He has been the Editor-in-Chief of TAP from August 2013 to July 2016. He was a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society from 2012 to 2014 and is a member of the AP-S Distinguished Lecturer Program Committee.