I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief of this prestigious TRANSACTIONS. I am very grateful to Prof. Anthony Muscat, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, for bringing the opportunity to my attention and for his advice and support during the transition, as well as Jim Skowrenski of IEEE - EDS and the members of the Steering Committee who offered me the opportunity. I would also like to thank Marlene James, Rosemary Schreiber and Margaret Rafferty of IEEE Publications for their assistance as I learn the ropes. It is the collective efforts of this outstanding team that has brought the TRANSACTIONS to its current level.

The system of peer-reviewed publication that has lain at the heart of the scientific enterprise for the last two centuries is currently under strain from several directions. The competitive importance of intellectual property makes it difficult for our industrial colleagues to publish cutting-edge research in an open forum. At the same time, the growing pressure to publish in international journals brings increased submissions by authors new to the standards and practices of this medium, and the advent of online publishing is altering the underlying financial models. In this environment, journals must maintain a rigorous review process to ensure the quality of the papers they publish. However, the review process should also be constructive, helping authors to write better papers even when a submission must be rejected. Industrial submissions should be encouraged, with appropriate allowances for maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive data to the extent compatible with open scientific communication. Finally, a global base of authors is critical to a journal dedicated to a global industry, and must be carefully maintained, as must the balance of papers between the different areas the journal currently serves.

The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING has been part of my academic life since I published the first paper from my dissertation in its pages in 1992. Its balanced portfolio of papers focused on improving all aspects of semiconductor manufacturing practice from a variety of disciplines, contributions by authors from all over the world as well as from both industry and academia makes this a truly unique publication that deserves the best efforts of the community it supports. I look forward to hearing from all of you - authors, reviewers, Editorial Board members and staff - on how we can better serve the community better, and encourage you all to participate by submitting, reviewing and publishing the high-quality contributions that have made this TRANSACTIONS a success for three decades.

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