

# State of the Transactions Editorial

**T**HIS issue of the journal marks the beginning of my final year as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON HAPTICS. It has been a great privilege to work with the haptics community over the past five years and in particular with the exceptional group of people who have served on the Editorial Board. We strive to publish the best research in haptics in the journal and this would not be possible without their outstanding work and commitment. During my time as Editor-in-Chief, they have been instrumental in supporting a number of very exciting innovations including organizing special sessions at the Haptics Symposium and World Haptics Conference where papers from the journal are featured in oral or poster sessions, selecting the winners of the two best paper awards for the journal, initiating focused special issues that are devoted to emerging fields or new areas of applications of haptics, and streamlining the process of getting authors of outstanding papers presented at haptics conferences to submit an expanded version of their conference paper to the journal. Finally, the “News from the Field” feature of the journal has sought to highlight the work of award winners from the four major haptics conferences and also to cover areas of interest to the haptics community.

This past year the journal transitioned in its sponsorship with the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) now publishing the journal and being its primary financial sponsor (90%), with the Consumer Electronics Society being a financial co-sponsor (10%). The journal is featured on the RAS Publications homepage where information about the journal, its governance, awards, and special issues can be found (<https://www.ieee-ras.org/publications/toh>). In 2018, we inaugurated two awards for papers published in the journal. All regular papers published in the preceding year were eligible for these awards and their selection was made by the Editorial Board. The best paper award funded by RAS was given to S er ena Bochereau, Brygida Dzidek, Michael Adams, and Vincent Hayward for their paper on “Characterizing and Imaging Gross and Real Finger Contacts under Dynamic Loading.” The best application paper award funded by Alps Electric Co. was given to Juan Jos e Z arate and Herbert Shea for their paper on “Using Pot-Magnets to Enable Stable and Scalable Electromagnetic Tactile Displays.” These awards were presented at the IEEE Haptics Symposium in San Francisco in March 2018.

The start of a new year is a time of transition for the journal with several Associate Editors completing their terms of service and other new members joining the Editorial Board. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional service provided to the journal by Matthias Harders, Hiroo Iwata, Roope Raisamo, Hong Tan, and Dangxiao Wang who have now completed their

terms as Associate Editors. I am very grateful for their commitment to the journal and hard work over the years.

We welcome six new members to the Board: Jernej Barbi c, Jessica Hartcher-O’Brien, Dongjun Lee, Ilana Nisky, Jinah Park, and Herbert Shea. Jernej Barbi c is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California, USA, working in the fields of computer graphics, animation, and haptics. Jessica Hartcher-O’Brien holds a Delft Technology Fellowship Assistant Professorship in Haptics in the Department of Industrial Design Engineering at the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. Her research interests include haptic perception, psychophysics, natural haptic interactions, and the application of haptics for multisensory design. Dongjun Lee is a Professor with the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Seoul National University, Korea. His main research interests include dynamics and control of robotic and mechatronic systems with particular emphasis on aerial/mobile robots, teleoperation/haptics, multirobot systems, and industrial control applications. Ilana Nisky is a senior lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Her research interests include human motor control, haptics, robotics, human and machine learning, teleoperation, and robot-assisted surgery. Jinah Park is an Associate Professor in the School of Computing at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea, leading the Computer Graphics and Visualization Research Laboratory. Her current work involves developing VR simulations with haptic feedback for education and training purposes, as well as understanding 3D interaction behavior in VR environments. Herbert Shea is a Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique F ed erale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. His main research focus is on elastomer-based actuators, with current research centered on smart soft machines for wearable haptics and for soft robotics. I look forward to working with all of you.

In closing, I would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, associate editors, and IEEE staff who have contributed to the success and excellence of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON HAPTICS in 2018. I am particularly grateful for the dedication, hard work, and responsiveness of our peer review specialist at the IEEE, Samantha Jacobs, she is a pleasure to work with.

LYNETTE A. JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Department of Mechanical Engineering,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
77 Massachusetts Ave.,  
Cambridge, MA 02139.  
(e-mail: [ljones@mit.edu](mailto:ljones@mit.edu))