

# EIC Editorial

Lynette A. Jones 

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THIS issue of the journal marks a transition in its sponsorship with the journal now being published by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS). Since the journal's inception, RAS has been a financial co-sponsor of the journal together with the Computer Society and Consumer Electronics Society (CES). As of January 2018, the primary financial sponsor of the journal is RAS (at 90 percent), with the CES as a financial co-sponsor at 10 percent support. This transition in sponsorship has taken place over the past year and we look forward to working with our colleagues in RAS to enhance the visibility of haptics and its contributions to the robotics community. I would like to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of Eugenio Guglielmelli, RAS Vice President of Publication Activities and the Publication Activities Board itself in working to ensure the continued success of the journal.

Submissions to the journal will still be made through ScholarOne and we will continue to be an electronic-only publication. The terms of Associate Editors on the Editorial Board have changed as of January 2018, with Associate Editors having an initial term of three years, renewable once. The Associate Editors whose two-year appointments finished in December 2017 all agreed to serve on the Editorial Board for an additional year for which I am very grateful. As in the past, a Management Committee will act as the trustee for the journal and will provide oversight of the journal's budget and overall finances.

One very exciting new development for the journal is the establishment of two best paper awards that will be given for the first time this year. Satoshi Tadokoro, 2017 President of RAS, was successful in securing funding from Alps Electric Co. for an award for the best application paper published in the *IEEE Transactions on Haptics* in the previous calendar year. RAS will fund another award for the best paper published in the journal in the preceding year. All regular papers published in the preceding year are eligible for these awards whose selection will be made by the journal's Editorial Board. The awards will be presented at the World Haptics Conference (WHC) held biennially or at the IEEE Haptics Symposium in the intervening year. The Editorial Board is very appreciative of the tireless efforts made by Satoshi Tadokoro in establishing these awards.

We strive to publish the best research in haptics in the journal and this would not be possible without the outstanding work performed by the Associate Editors, reviewers, and of course authors. Given that haptics is a highly inter-disciplinary field, it is important for the journal to attract submissions from an extensive research community and for these communities to be aware of the journal's content and scope. Focused special issues devoted to emerging fields, such as the Smart Materials special section in the present issue of the journal, and invitations for authors presenting outstanding haptics papers at conferences to expand their conference paper into a full journal paper are strategies that we use to enhance our visibility. We look forward in the coming years to augmenting our presence at robotics conferences by using workshops and tutorials as a catalyst for special issues.

Finally, as is the custom in the first issue of the year, I am delighted to announce the recipients of the meritorious service awards. These citations recognize four individuals whose diligence and dedication have contributed to the success of the journal. This year's recipients are Volkan Patoglu for his work as an Associate Editor, and Benoit Delhayé, Shogo Okamoto, and Seokhee Jeon for their work as reviewers. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the journal and broader haptics community. In closing, I would like to thank all of the authors, reviewers, associate editors, and IEEE staff who have contributed to the success and excellence of the *IEEE Transactions on Haptics* in 2017.

Lynette A. Jones  
*Editor-in-chief*

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