

Special Section: Lessons learned, learning from our failures

IEEE Transactions on Haptics would like to announce a new special section in the journal which will feature short papers (6 pages, maximum of 8 pages) devoted to research and engineering endeavors that have not yielded the results anticipated. These may be considered “failures” in the context Edison used, that is “I have not failed 10,000 times. I’ve successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work.”

Much of the research in haptics is an iterative process and we are all aware of research studies that have been performed and devices built that have not been successful. We are particularly interested in understanding why the experiments or devices were unsuccessful and how that should drive future research. For research manuscripts there should be a clear justification as to how the experiments related to prior work and the hypotheses on which the work was based. The statistical analyses should have been appropriate to the design of the experiments and yet the research did not yield the anticipated findings. Manuscripts devoted to hardware or device design should explicitly indicate aspects of the design that led to failure and what aspects of the design need to be changed to create an effective device. Short papers that provide an overview of research in an area of haptics that has not been as successful an application of haptics as anticipated, would also be appropriate.

This new section in the journal will attempt to disseminate the results reported to the broader research community. Manuscripts submitted for consideration will be reviewed following the usual peer review process. They will be evaluated with respect to the appropriateness and thoroughness of the methods used and the generalizability of the lessons learned for the rest of the community. These criteria should be explicitly addressed in the manuscript.

Deadline for Submissions: October 15, 2018