

Editorial

THIS last issue of 2018 consolidates the significant effort of the IEEE Systems Council to reduce the backlog of papers published in the IEEE Xplore as advance posting, but not yet physically included in an issue. In 2018, the IEEE Systems Council made in fact an extraordinary effort and produced 4000 pages: I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Council, which is sponsoring our journal, for having found the resources to achieve this goal for better serving our scientific and professional community.

This issue collects papers on various aspects of complex systems, systems of systems, communications, energy, and a variety of applications. Papers address various topics encompassing theory, technologies, design methodologies, and applications.

The quality of the journal and the timeliness of the review process rely on the excellence of the Editorial Board and the

reviewers. Therefore, I would like to thank the entire Editorial Board and the many dedicated reviewers for their painstaking collaboration with our journal. I would also like to thank all the authors for their interest in the journal and providing quality papers.

If you have any comment, suggestion, recommendation, or criticism about this journal, please do not hesitate to contact me. Everyone can help in continuously improving our journal. We aim to continue to have a live publication for our live community.

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Vincenzo Piuri (S'84–M'86–SM'96–F'01) received the Ph.D. degree in computer engineering from Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, in 1989.

He is currently an Associate Professor with the Politecnico di Milano, and a Visiting Professor with the University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA, and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA. Since 2000, he has been a Full Professor in computer engineering with the Università degli Studi di Milano, Crema, Italy, where he was the Director of the Department of Information Technology (2007–2012). His original results have been published in more than 400 papers in international journals, proceedings of international conferences, books, and book chapters. His current research interests include intelligent systems, theory and industrial applications of neural networks, machine learning, signal and image processing, pattern analysis and recognition, biometrics, intelligent measurement systems, industrial applications, fault tolerance, digital processing architectures, embedded systems, and arithmetic architectures.

Prof. Piuri is currently a Distinguished Scientist of the ACM, and a Senior Member of the INNS. He is currently an Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SYSTEMS JOURNAL (2013–2019) and was an Associate Editor for the IEEE COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE (2010–2012), the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS (2001–2004), the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT (1997–2002), and various other international journals. He was the 2016 IEEE Past Vice-President for Technical Activities, the 2015 IEEE Vice-President for Technical Activities, the IEEE Director (2010–2012, 2015), the IEEE Delegate for Division X (2010–2012), the President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2006–2007), the Vice-President for Publications of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (2002–2004) and the IEEE Systems Council (2008–2011), the Vice-President for Membership of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (2003–2004), and the Vice-President for Education of the IEEE Biometrics Council (2008–2009). He was the recipient of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Technical Award (2002) for the contributions to the advancement of theory and practice of computational intelligence in measurement systems and industrial applications, the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Distinguished Service Award (2008), and the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Meritorious Service Award (2009). He is currently a Honorary Professor with the Obuda University, Budapest, Hungary, and a Guest Professor (equivalent to Honorary Professor) with the Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology, Maoming, China, Northeastern University, Shenyang, China, and with the Muroran Institute of Technology, Muroran, Japan.