Editorial

With this last Editorial, I'm very pleased to welcome the new Editor in Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CONTROL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, Prof. Andrea Serrani, effective January 1, 2017. Andrea Serrani received the Laurea (B.Eng.) degree in Electrical Engineering, summa cum laude, from the University of Ancona, Italy, in 1993, and the Ph.D. degree in Artificial Intelligence Systems from the same institution in 1997. From 1994 to 1999, he was a Fulbright Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, where he obtained the M.S. and D.Sc. degrees in Systems Science and Mathematics in 1996 and 2000, respectively. Since 2002, he has been with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he is currently a Professor and Chair of Graduate Studies. Between 2004 and 2007, Prof. Serrani served as the technical leader for the Reusable Launch Vehicle area of the AFOSR/AFRL Collaborative Center for Control Sciences at The Ohio State University. He has held visiting positions at the Center for Research on Complex Automated Systems of the University of Bologna and at the University of Padua, Italy, and multiple summer faculty positions at the Air Force Research Laboratory, including two AF-ASEE Fellowships. Among other editorial positions, Andrea served as Associate Editor of these Transactions since 2010. Andrea has an outstanding research track record both on theory and applications. He's simply a perfect choice for this position.

2016 has been landmark in terms of volume of submissions – *over 1200!* Our *Transactions* keep on being the premier venue for research papers on major advances in the technology and operation of control systems and on control applications in general.

It is worth to provide a snapshot on statistics and metrics since the beginning of my term as Editor in Chief in 2009. The impact factor increased from 1.858 in 2009 to the current figure of 2.818 whereas the article influence score increased from 0.795 to 1.286. Moreover, the average number of weeks from submission to online post and the median number of weeks from submission to online post decreased from 84 and 71 in 2009 to the current figures of 33 and 32, respectively. The steady improvement of these figures over the years is a significant result and, as always, the full credit goes to the outstanding service of our Editorial Board and of the Reviewers. Our acceptance rate went down from 25% in 2009 to 21% today. Finally, the current backlog has been reduced to 4 issues – a quite healthy figure obtained thanks to the past decision of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society to increase the page budget to 2500 pages for two consecutive years. Since January 2016, the page budget has been reduced back to 2300 pages with the aim to stabilize the publication backlog to the current figure.

Let me now acknowledge the Associate Editors who have finished their terms and gone off the Editorial Board. They are: C. Canudas-de-Wit (CNRS Grenoble), Y. Chen (University of California, Merced), G. Cherubini (IBM Research), N. El-Farra (Univ. of California, Davis), M. Guay (Queen's Univ., Kingston), A. Horch (HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH), B. Jiang (Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics & Astronautics), D. Liu (Inst. of Automation, CAS and Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), J. Lu (Ford Motor Company), A. Serrani (Ohio State Univ), R. Shorten (IBM), S. Tarbouriech (LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse), M. Zefran (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Q. Zhong (Illinois Inst. of Technology). Let me thank all of them for the great service to our *Transactions* and my best wishes for their coming endeavors. I'm leaving to the incoming Editor in Chief the privilege of welcoming the new Associate Editors that have joined the board since January 2017.

I owe many "thank you". The first goes to Frank Doyle, the past Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CONTROL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, who guided and advised me in several occasions. Thank you Frank! Let me also thank Tariq Samad and the CSS Executive Committee for trusting me on this responsibility. Finally, special thanks go to the staff of University of Trieste for the amazing, timely and professional editorial support during my term as Editor in Chief.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Editor in Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CONTROL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY.

THOMAS PARISINI
Past Editor-in-Chief
January 2017

Thomas Parisini is a Fellow of the IEEE and of the IFAC. He received the Ph.D. degree in Electronic Engineering and Computer Science in 1993 from the University of Genoa. He was with Politecnico di Milano and since 2010 he holds the Chair of Industrial Control and is Director of Research at Imperial College London. Since 2001 he is also Danieli Endowed Chair of Automation Engineering with University of Trieste. In 2009-2012 he was Deputy Rector of University of Trieste. He authored or co-authored more than 270 research papers in archival journals, book chapters, and international conference proceedings. His research interests include neural-network approximations for optimal control problems, fault diagnosis for nonlinear and distributed systems, nonlinear model predictive control systems and nonlinear estimation. He is a co-recipient of the 2014 IFAC Best Application Paper Prize of the Journal of Process Control, Elsevier, for the three-year period 2011-2013 and of the 2004 Outstanding Paper Award of the IEEE Trans. on Neural Networks. He is also a recipient of the 2007 IEEE Distinguished Member Award. He is involved as Project Leader in several projects funded by the European Union, by the Italian Ministry for Research, and he is currently leading consultancy projects with some major process control companies (ABB, Danieli, Duferco, Electrolux, among others). In 2012 he was awarded a prestigious three-years ABB Research Grant dealing with energy-autonomous sensor networks for self-monitoring industrial environments. Moreover, in 2016 he was awarded a multi-million EU Horizon 2020 flagship project on monitoring, control and security of critical infrastructure systems. Thomas Parisini served as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Trans. on Control Systems Technology in 2009-2016 and he is currently serving as Vice-President for Publications Activities of the IEEE Control Systems Society. He is also the Chair of the IFAC Technical Committee on Fault Detection, Supervision & Safety of Technical Processes - SAFEPROCESS. He was the Chair of the IEEE Control Systems Society Conference Editorial Board and a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Control Systems Society. He was an elected member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society and of the European Control Association (EUCA) and a member of the board of evaluators of the 7th Framework ICT Research Program of the European Union. Thomas Parisini is currently serving as an Associate Editor of the Int. J. of Control and served as Associate Editor of the IEEE Trans. on Automatic Control, of the IEEE Trans. on Neural Networks, of Automatica, and of the Int. J. of Robust and Nonlinear Control. Among other activities, he was the Program Chair of the 2008 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control and the General Co-Chair of the 2013 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control.