

Message from the Editor-In-Chief

Also this year as the flagship publication of the IEEE Nanotechnology Council (NTC), I am pleased to report that the IEEE Transactions on Nanotechnology (TNANO) has achieved new heights across all endeavors of operation.

2017 is the third consecutive year with record numbers in terms of number of submissions; moreover, selectivity has remained nearly constant, so confirming that TNANO has reached an excellent level of overall scholarship. In quantitative terms, Manuscript Central Scholar One reports the following very impressive statistics for the 2017 calendar year (the data for 2016 is reported between parentheses):

Number of regular manuscript submissions: 797 (758)

Number of “Letter” submissions: 124 (0)

Total number of submissions: 921 (758)

Acceptance rate: 31% (28%)

Rejection rate: 50% (54%)

Revise-and-resubmit rate: 19% (18%)

My sincere thanks goes to all constituencies of TNANO for such an accomplishment: the readers, supporters, contributors, reviewers and the Editorial Board; an additional and special acknowledgment for her day-by-day support in all operations is owned to the TNANO Periodical Assistant, Ms. Jessica Alcorn of Allen Press.

In qualitative terms, I am pleased to announce a new impact factor (IF) of 2.485 as reported by the 2016 Journal Citation Report published by Clarivate Analytics (2017). This represents a 46% increase from the 2015 IF, upholding TNANO’s status as one of the leading peer-reviewed engineering journals in the field of nanotechnology.

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As a top-tiered periodical, every submission to TNANO is professionally evaluated; decisions by the Editorial Board are based on an in-depth review and scrutiny. TNANO strives for the highest technical excellence with a very selective acceptance rate; so under these tight requirements, not all submissions can be published. Therefore, an outcome of the review process is both an acknowledgement and encouragement to the authors (as our most important community) to continue to strive for the highest technical achievements.

Here there are few additional highlights/news:

- 2017 saw the reinstatement of the category “Letters” for manuscript submission to TNANO; a “Letter” is at most 4 page long (inclusive of figures and bibliography in the required two-column IEEE format). 124 submissions were received under the category “Letter” in 2017 for both regular and Special Issue manuscripts. A “Letter” follows the same competitive and peer-reviewed criteria as a regular manuscript submitted to TNANO. Even though only partial data is currently available at this early date, the average delay of a 2017 “Letter” submission (regular manuscript with delay from submission to first decision) stands at 22 days.

- A graphical abstract is now required for each accepted manuscript when the final files are submitted. Please adhere to this policy so not to further delay the publication of an accepted manuscript. All specifications and details for the TOC Graphical Abstract can be found at

<http://sites.ieee.org/tnano/toc-graphical-abstract/>

- As TNANO is closely aligned with the other technical activities of the IEEE NTC, Special Issues and Sections consisting of selected and expanded manuscripts presented at the two flagship NTC-sponsored events (IEEE NANO and NMDC 2017), are in progress; I expect 2018 to continue to yield Special Issues for these events as well as additional Special Sections covering themes and

areas of interest to nanotechnology.

- In 2017, TNANO successfully passed the comprehensive and periodic review by IEEE so meeting all periodical criteria for full compliance in operation under the strictest technical and ethical requirements.
- In addition to its own web site (found at <http://sites.ieee.org/tnano/>), news about TNANO also appear in the Nanotechnology Newsletter (<http://sites.ieee.org/nanotech/newsletter/>). The IEEE Nanotechnology Newsletter provides a summary of the latest news and is also sent to those on the IEEE NTC mailing list to provide information on related publications, conferences, opportunities, events, and developments in nanotechnology and applications.
- The award for the best paper published in 2016 in TNANO was presented at NANO 2017 in Pittsburgh to Yasunao Katayama, Toshiyuki Yamane, Daiju Nakano, Ryosho Nakane and Gouhei Tanaka for their manuscript titled “Wave-Based Neuromorphic Computing Framework for Brain-Like Energy Efficiency and Integration”.

Finally, I would like to remind and clarify few items of operational nature that authors should be familiar.

- As detailed previously, IEEE TNANO is a peer-reviewed periodical sponsored by the IEEE NTC. Therefore, TNANO must comply with the scope and technical objective of its sponsoring Council; TNANO will not expand its publication activities in areas already well and clearly covered by other IEEE societies/journals. This policy is based on ethics and a collegiate behavior that the IEEE expects from all editors and volunteers. Moreover, submissions to TNANO should be focusing on nano-engineering and technology rather than on nano-science. The assessment of such in-scope requirement is made at the earliest by considering the technical contents (and provided bibliography) of a submission, so that authors are promptly notified without causing unnecessary delay.
- All contact authors must be specified as part of

the submission process of a manuscript. If this information is not provided, regretfully a submission will be voided using an administrative reject decision.

- I remind prospective authors that a previously rejected paper to TNANO cannot be resubmitted; only papers declined under the “revise-and-resubmit” category can be resubmitted to TNANO for further consideration under an additional round of review (multiple rounds under “revise-and-resubmit” decisions are highly discouraged).
- Submitted articles must not have been previously published, or currently submitted for journal publication elsewhere. An extended version of an article appearing in any conference proceedings can be submitted, provided that it has substantially new content with respect to the original conference version. The conference paper must be cited in the main text and the cover letter (or additional documentation) must clearly describe the differences with the conference version and clearly identify the new contributions. Manuscripts that exceed the threshold of similarity with already published articles (as found by tools provided by the IEEE) will be administratively rejected, so not allowed to be resubmitted to TNANO. All authors are responsible for understanding and adhering to the submission guidelines of TNANO.
- Over the last year, I have received many emails from potential authors asking for an assessment of the suitability of their manuscript based only on the title and abstract and prior to a formal submission. Such request is not contemplated in my role as EIC and is contrary to IEEE regulations, because a manuscript cannot be evaluated based on such limited information. Hence, be advised that such requests will not be met.

2018 already looks as an exciting year; overall, TNANO continues to show a remarkable growth to sustain a multi-year momentum in technical excellence. Therefore, I expect with confidence that the Editorial Board will be further enlarged with outstanding colleagues, so that the increase in number of submissions will not cause an undue

burden to the editors, volunteers and reviewers.

As always, I am available to answer questions pertaining to TNANO. Also do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alcorn, for non-editorial matters; she can be reached at jalcorn@allenpress.com.

I really appreciate your support and look forward to work closely with all of you in 2018 and continue to further improve TNANO in the months ahead.

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