THE last year, 2014, was eventful and rewarding for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION (TAP) and your Editor-in-Chief. Thanks to the contributions of my predecessor, Prof. Michael Jensen, and his team of Associate Editors and Reviewers, the 2-year impact factor of the TRANSACTIONS has continued the climb in 2013 to 2.459 (the 2012 impact factor was 2.332). I am very pleased to report that this year TAP has once again been ranked number two among all IEEE publications based on downloads from IEEE Explore. Both successes indicate that our TRANSACTIONS remains a leading publication in the field of Antennas and Propagation.

A total number of 804 articles were published in 2014, with a slight yearly increase of 1%. We delivered 6548 pages of innovative ideas and technologies, among which were a Special Section: **Antenna Systems and Propagation for Cognitive Radio** with Guest Editors Drs. J. Bernhard, E. Bonek, C. G. Christodoulo, D. Kunkee, and K. L. Melde, published in March; and a Special Issue: **Innovative Phased Array Antennas Based on Non-Regular Lattices and Overlapped Subarrays** with Guest Editors Drs. G. Toso, and R. Mailloux, published in April. My thanks to the Guest Editors, I congratulate them on their excellent work.

Currently, the editorial team is busy handling submissions for a Special Issue on **Antennas for Satellite Communications**. I should take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Guest Editors Drs. Steven Guo, Neil F. Chamberlain, and Y. Jay Guo for volunteering their valuable time and efforts to organize this special issue.

For me, I am privileged to experience the full scope of the editorship in 2014. Aside from accepting and rejecting papers, I have attended meetings, chased down rule-breakers, and performed many other editorial related duties. It appears overwhelming at times but I am genuinely enjoying the role! The interaction and intellectual exchange between Associate Editors and Reviewers has been a pleasant and fulfilling experience for me, and I am extremely grateful for their professionalism and devotion to quality and objectivity; all within a reasonable turnaround time.

Their contributions to TAP are highly commendable considering that a total number of 3177 submissions were received in the period from December 2013 to November 2014 (see Fig. 1), signifying a 10.2% increase from the previous 12-month period. A monthly average of 265 submissions was shared by the 43 active Associate Editors. Amongst the submissions, 25% and 15% were from China (including Hong Kong and Macao) and the United States, respectively, making them the top two submission countries. The remaining countries/regions in the top 10 positions each contributed approximately 3%–5% of the total submissions. Fig. 2 gives a detailed graphical analysis of the number of submissions by country/region.

The workload of the TRANSACTIONS has increased steadily over the past year. In view of this, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Prof. Vincenzo Galdi as a Senior Associate Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION. Prof. Galdi has demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism in his Associate Editorship in the past and was one of the Outstanding Associate Editors of last year. Together with Prof. Christophe Fumeaux, I am confident that the two Senior Associate Editors will make great contributions to the operation of the TRANSACTIONS, and help ensure a smooth running of our publication.

The volume of submissions we receive places a huge amount of pressure on our review process. While I am determined to keep this process as short as possible, I ask authors for their understanding that all Associate Editors and Reviewers are on voluntary assignment to TAP, therefore, their availability is limited and this can cause some delays. The team would appreciate your patience in allowing approximately 12 weeks for the initial review cycle as suggested by the “Information for Authors” on the inside back cover of the TRANSACTIONS.

Despite the heavy workload, I have been very proud of the editorial team's performance. Fig. 3 shows the number of manuscripts with first and final decisions made from December 2013 to November 2014, including manuscripts submitted in previous period. The initial decision time was only 2 months on average while the average time for final decision is 4 months. A total number of 2903 decisions were made in this period (those receiving final decision at their first review appear in both curves). As shown in Fig. 4, 45% of the submitted papers required subsequent revisions before a final decision. Since it is likely that submissions will undergo revisions before being accepted, the average submission-to-acceptance time for the 763 published papers in regular issues of 2014 is about 6.7 months. It is noteworthy that 80% of the acceptance decisions were made within 9 months from initial submission. Accepted papers are usually published within 3 months after the receipt of final files. Fig. 5 shows a detailed submission-to-acceptance time in regard to the regular issues of 2014.

In the hope of expediting the review process, it is my duty to remind authors to closely follow the submission formatting requirement of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION. The submitted paper should be single spaced, in two columns, with all figures and tables placed at their appropriate locations within the text, preferably near their first mention. The inclusion of detailed “Index Terms” would facilitate the selection of the review panel (to aid in this process, download IEEE Taxonomy by going to http://www.ieee.org/documents/taxonomy_v101.pdf). Please do not attach separate tables and figures in the initial review process as they are only
Fig. 1. Number of submission by month from December 2013 to November 2014.

Fig. 2. Number of submissions by country/region from December 2013 to November 2014.

Fig. 3. Manuscripts with first and final decisions made from December 2013 to November 2014, including manuscripts submitted in previous periods. Those not marked with data label represent 0 manuscripts. Manuscripts received final decision at initial review appear in both curves.

required after acceptance. Also, authors should provide their complete affiliations and contacts in the submission record, otherwise the submission will be returned. Please note that all rejected papers are entitled to be resubmitted one more time, but
subject to the prior written approval from me or the Senior Associate Editor. The request should be sent to tap.editor@ieee.org, supported by a response letter to the editorial board’s comments, along with a revised manuscript with changes highlighted in red. Authors are encouraged to visit TAP’s website (http://ieeeaps.org/aps_trans/) for more submission instructions.

It has been found that some authors did not disclose their previous works that were closely related to the submitted manuscript. Here, I would like to bring to the attention of our authors the following three points, as stated in the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board (PSPB) Operations Manual:

Section 8.2.1.B5
“When submitting an article, authors shall disclose whether or not the article has been published previously or if it is still under active consideration by another publication. In addition, if an author submits an article to a non-IEEE publication while that article is under review by IEEE, the author shall immediately notify IEEE about the additional submission.”
Section 8.2.1.B9

“If authors have used their own previously published work(s) as a basis for a new submission, they are required to cite the previous work(s) and very briefly indicate how the new submission offers substantive novel contributions beyond those of the previously published work(s).”

Section 8.2.4.F2

“If author(s), within the evolutionary publishing paradigm, have used their own previously published or submitted material as a basis for a new submission, Section 8.2.1.B.9 requires that the author(s) cite the previous work(s) and very clearly indicate how the new submission differs from the previously published work(s).”

Please note that failure to inform the editorial office of previous related work, or multiple submissions, is considered unethical and will be subject to corrective action.

As you can imagine, the Associate Editors and Reviewers experience a heavy workload. Authors can greatly facilitate the review process by paying extra attention when revising a manuscript. Please bear in mind that the goal of the revision is not only to answer reviewer’s queries, but to address and clarify the points that were raised through modification and improvements to the paper. Therefore, authors should include their clarifications in the revised paper to enhance its quality. Also, for ease of reference, please highlight all changes made in the manuscript in red. To avoid confusion, do not include the original or outdated manuscript in the revision record.

I wish to add a few reminders to authors who are preparing the final files after a paper has been accepted. Submitting authors are reminded to transfer the e-copyright form under “Manuscripts with Decisions” in the ScholarOne Manuscripts Author Center. If changes are required in the decision letter, please respond to the final comments in the cover letter and describe any changes to the final manuscript. However, changes implemented should not be highlighted in the final files, as the paper will be posted for viewing onto IEEE Xplore Early Access. Also, please check your final files carefully because only minor, editorial changes are allowed when the corresponding author receives the manuscript page proof for their final proofreading.

Last but not least, I am delighted to invite your submissions for the upcoming Special Issue on Theory and Applications of Characteristic Modes with Guest Editors Drs. Buon Kiong Lau, Hiroyuki Arai, Dirk Manteuffel, and Sean Victor Hum. It is planned for publication in July 2016 and the deadline for submissions is July 31, 2015.

The success of the TRANSACTIONS depends heavily on the joint effort from authors, reviewers, and editors. Please allow me to thank you again for your continued support. I wish you a very happy and prosperous new year.

Kwok W. Leung, Editor-in-Chief
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Kwok Wa Leung (S’90–M’93–SM’02–F’11) was born in Hong Kong in 1967. He received the B.Sc. degree in electronics and Ph.D. degree in electronic engineering from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, in 1990 and 1993, respectively.

From 1990 to 1993, he was a Graduate Assistant with the Department of Electronic Engineering, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. In 1994, he joined the Department of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong (CityU), as an Assistant Professor and is currently a Professor. He was an Assistant Head of the Department from 2009 to 2013. From January to June, 2006, he was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA. His research interests include antenna designs, guided wave theory, computational electrodynamics, and mobile communications. He was an Editor for HKIE Transactions and a Guest Editor of IET Microwaves, Antennas and Propagation. He has served as an Associate Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION and IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters.

Prof. Leung is a Fellow of HKIE. He received the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) Young Scientists Awards in 1993 and 1995, awarded in Kyoto, Japan and St. Petersburg, Russia, respectively. He received Departmental Outstanding Teacher Awards in 2005, 2010, and 2011, and a CityU Research Excellence Award 2013. He was the Chair of the IEEE AP/MTT Hong Kong Joint Chapter for the years of 2006 and 2007. He was the Technical Program Chair, 2008 Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference, Hong Kong, the Technical Program Co-Chair, 2006 IEEE TENCON, Hong Kong, and the Finance Chair of PIERS 1997, Hong Kong. He was rated as an Outstanding Associate Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS and received IEEE TRANSACTIONS Commendation Certificates twice in 2009 and 2010. He was a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society from 2012 to 2014. Since August, 2013, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION.