

Jian-yu Lu, Editor-in-Chief

IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control, 2002–2007



In January, 2002, the *IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control* (TUFFC) began a major evolution to a fully electronic media. At the helm of TUFFC was Dr. Jian-yu Lu who began as our society's fourth Editor-in-Chief (EIC). Because of term limits established by the UFFC Society, Dr. Lu will be stepping down from

this post as of January 2008. His tenure as EIC has been remarkable. When Dr. Lu began his term as EIC, the TUFFC had been published six times a year and the process of submission, review, and publication was a manual process based on the technology of the US Postal Service. Since 2001, there have been extraordinary changes in the infrastructure and processes that support the generation of the *IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control*. The first change was going to monthly publication of the TUFFC in January, 2002. To speed up the review process and shorten the time between manuscript submission and publication, on June 1, 2002, the *IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control* adopted an electronic submission and peer-review system, Manuscript Central (MC). This system provides the platform from which the submission, review, revisions and publication of manuscripts are handled by the authors, Associate Editors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Publication Editor.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jian-yu Lu, the migration, establishment and execution of Manuscript Central has been exceptional; to date we have processed over 2,400 manuscripts. On August 1, 2003, the *IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control* started to accept submission of multimedia manuscripts via MC. The incorporation of multimedia in the TUFFC has been a major improvement and to date we have had 89 such publications. Dr. Lu is the author of the multimedia protocol which he developed for the TUFFC and has since been adopted by the IEEE for all of its publications. Starting with the October, 2006, issue, the *IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency*

Control has published color figures online with corresponding grayscale figures in print without additional charges. To facilitate the peer-review process, we have established a Technical Interest Profiling System (TIPS) that allows authors to specify technical categories and subcategories that best reflects the focus of their manuscript. The interfaces among MC, the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) and the publication house, FASS, have been streamlined and made predictable as a result of much work on the part of FASS, the EIC, and the UFFC Vice President of Publications. During this same interval, the processes that generate the final product for the Transactions were certified compatible with IEEE Xplore system. To date, our transactions are accessible from the UFFC website within the month of publication.

The ongoing quality of the TUFFC is reflected in its status as having the industry's Impact Factor of 5th among 28 acoustic journals and 34th among 206 engineering, electrical and electronic journals. In 2002 we published 1858 pages in our Transactions and in 2007 we published 2755, an increase of 48%. A total of 11 Special Issues have been processed since July 2003 using Manuscript Central, and 10 of them have been published. The latest two Special Issues are the largest by far with 42 submissions for the "Special Issue on Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications of Ultrasound in Bone," and 150 submissions for the "Special Issue on Applications of Ferroelectrics."

We are delighted that Dr. Lu will continue in many roles within IEEE and UFFC as he steps down from his post as the EIC of the UFFC Society's Transactions. Dr. Lu will continue to work with the IEEE Publications Board as he assists them in establishing a new multimedia standard for all IEEE journals and conferences. He will continue to work with the IEEE's and the UFFC's publication boards to improve the quality of some parts of the UFFC's digital archives on Xplore. Dr. Lu will continue his advocacy concerning the issues of Open Access. Most significantly for our society, Dr. Lu is the general chair for the 2008 International Ultrasonics Symposium (IUS) in Beijing, China. For the entire UFFC society, I want to extend our most sincere appreciation for Dr. Lu's leadership and technical contributions to the Transactions. We wish him well in his continued research and teaching at the University of Toledo and look forward to a very successful IUS conference in Beijing in November, 2008.

Dr. Arthur Ballato
President, IEEE UFFC Society, 2006–2007