

Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

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It is my great honor to be the new Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Network and Systems Management*.

My association with JNSM began before it was published for the first time in 1993. While working as a tenure track assistant professor, I received a flyer in my mail about a new journal in the planning stages of being launched that focused on the network management area and featured Manu Malek as the founding Editor-in-Chief. This initial announcement listed the journal's original name, which was a long title that reflected operations, administration, maintenance, and network control—all critical components of network management. However, when the first issue came out, the journal actually bore the much more compact title: *Journal of Network and Systems Management*. Since then, the journal has been commonly known in the research community by its initials, JNSM.

I immediately felt that my research was a good fit for this newly launched journal, so, I submitted a manuscript for possible consideration. To my delight, my manuscript was accepted, and it was published in the second issue of the first volume in June 1993. Around the same time, I started serving as a reviewer for JNSM, but by 1995, Manu had already asked me to serve on the editorial board of JNSM, which I gladly accepted. In 1997, I co-guest edited a special issue on 'Fault Management in Communication Networks', and in 2002, Manu asked me to be a Senior Technical Editor for JNSM—a role I've continued to serve in until now.

With the emergence of the web, I felt that it was important for JNSM to have an online presence. Thus, in 1995, I suggested to Manu that I start and maintain a web-page for the journal, and from this discussion, the JNSM on-line page (<http://www.cstp.umkc.edu/jnsm/>) was born as a leaf page on my department's web-site. Here, I added information on issues along with abstracts of each paper. With the plan to publish special issues, Manu forwarded me the call for papers, which I announced

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through this web-site. Until recently, I have maintained the JNSM homepage. However, there was no longer a need to maintain a parallel page since the publisher, Springer, has one for JNSM already. The old link still works but is now automatically forwarded to Springer's JNSM web-site.

When Manu Malek announced recently that he was stepping down as the EiC, I debated whether to put my name in the hat for the position. At the recommendation of some editorial board members, I decided to put my name forward, and to my great delight, I was selected.

Under the strong and dedicated leadership of Manu, JNSM's acceptance rate for general issues has dropped from about 70% in 1996 to approximately 30%, and we've published more than thirty special issues. It has become a respected journal with its recent impact factor of 1.356 and a ranking of 18 out of 77 journals in the Telecommunications category, according to Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports®. While the Telecommunications category contains a broad area beyond communication networking, this ranking highlights JNSM as the premier journal in the network management area.

My goal is to continue and strengthen the respect JNSM has earned under Manu's leadership. Certainly, this starts with the publication of high quality papers that make an impact on the field. No doubt, a strong editorial board plays an important role. In this regard, I'm fortunate to be supported by both an Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) and a board of Associate Editors (AEs). I welcome comments and suggestions from the research community for continual improvement of JNSM.