

Editorial announcement

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Some of the readers may have already heard the very sad news that Prof B. John Davies, Professor Emeritus of UMIST and Founding Editor-in-Chief of *The International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology* (IJAMT) since 1985, had passed away in December 2013 after a spell of illness.

Under Prof Davies' strong leadership, IJAMT grew from its initial 12 issues a year to today's 72 and in recent years saw rapid increase in submission rates from 1,023 in 2006 to 2,530 in 2013. The impact factor has also risen steadily and, in 2012, it stood at 1.205. Over the years, IJAMT has become one of Springer's largest journals, and hence two more regional editors, Prof M. S. Shunmugam for India and Prof E. Budak for the Middle East, were added recently, in addition to the three long-standing regional editors, Prof K. Cheng for Europe, Prof A. Y. C. Nee for Asia and Prof D. Russell for North America.

After some search and deliberation by Springer, Prof A. Y. C. Nee, an eminent scholar in manufacturing engineering and a past President of CIRP, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief to succeed Prof Davies with immediate effect.

To commemorate the sterling contributions made by Prof Davies in shaping IJAMT, an annual B. John Davies Best Paper Award (the Davies Prize) for the best paper published in a calendar year will be established. The prize will be awarded in the following year following a rigorous appraisal by a panel of experts.

We would like to thank all the authors, reviewers and readers for their unfailing support, are looking forward to receiving high-quality papers and will jointly work towards a greater success of IJAMT.

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