

From the Editor-in-Chief

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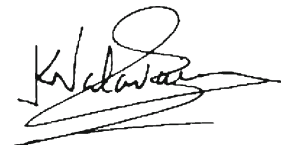
Dear Colleagues,

This is the last issue of the year. I want to thank all of you for your help and contributions. I want to thank the authors, the reviewers, the members of the Editorial Board, my Assistant and the Springer team. There are not enough words to say about the Springer team (Nathalie, Anneke, Marie Veth and Irish). They are the best - period. I have worked with them for several years now, and I sincerely say that every time we meet, it is as if I am home! This team is not just professional and friendly, they LIKE what they do. I thank them

for being who they are, and I am looking forward to working with them in the future, too.

I wish you Happy Holidays and a prosperous new year.

Enjoy the issue.



Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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