From the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Colleagues,

We are well into the Fall Semester / Quarter of 2021. Another year has almost passed. We still face uncertainties with the pandemic, and such uncertainties do impact our life, productivity and everything else. We do not know for sure whether things will stabilize in 2022, but we hope for the best.

However, one thing does not change, and this is our effort to make our journal even better. We have reduced the paper processing time; we assign multiple reviewers to each paper with the objective to get three solid reviews per each submitted paper; we follow up with emails to the handling editors who monitor paper review progress; we send reminders to late reviewers and to reviewers with approaching deadlines; we also send reminders to invited reviewers who have not responded. These simple things are the least we can do to guarantee continuity and timely decisions. You, the authors deserve this.

Moreover, I would like to inform you that I, as editor-in-chief, review all assignments to handling editors on a regular basis. The goal is not to interfere; the goal is to help. As such, when I see that a specific paper has enough reviews, I make the decision and copy the handling editor. Once more, this is to help, not to interfere.

I also would like to comment on an added check we have implemented. When a paper is submitted, it is checked for overlap and possible duplication (submission duplication). When the system returns a flag, but without specifics, I send

an email to the submitting / corresponding author asking for a clarification. Once I receive a response, then we continue processing the paper. As already mentioned, this is a safety check to avoid complications; it protects both the submitting authors and Springer. During the past four months this surfaced about ten times. In all cases, a clarification was received, and the papers were processed without any further issue/complication.

I believe we are on the right path to improving JINT even more. Switching to CAP helps because papers appear immediately after being accepted without delays. We will continue searching for ways to become even better.

Enjoy the issue.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief

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