Journal of scheduling (2019)

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In June 2019, the Journal of Scheduling will celebrate its 21st birthday. As we look back over the years, we see that the journal has had strong contributions from many of our colleagues from a variety of different theoretical areas and application domains, including industrial and manufacturing engineering, computer science, operations research, health care, transportation and business. The diversity of disciplinary domains becomes evident from the various special issues that our journal continues to produce regularly.

The last issue of 2018 represents such a special issue. It focused on *New Challenges in Scheduling Theory*, featuring selected papers that were presented at a workshop held in Aussois in March and April 2016. The guest editors were Jacek Blazewicz, Benjamin Moseley, Erwin Pesch, Denis Trystram, and Guochuan Zhang. The second issue of 2018 was also a special issue featuring papers that were presented at the seventh MISTA conference held in August 2015 in Prague. Its guest editors were Zdenek Hanzalek, Graham Kendall, Barry McCollum, Premysl Sucha, and Greet Vanden Berghe.

Several years ago, we started inviting survey papers that cover scheduling topics that are of wide interest. In 2018, we published an invited survey paper on *Makespan Minimization in Semi-Online Environments* by Leah Epstein. In the future, we hope to have at least one such invited survey paper every year.

It has been sad to note that some of our colleagues in the scheduling community are no longer with us. We were particularly saddened to learn that Joseph Leung had passed away in April 2018. Joseph Leung was a person who had made major contributions to our field. We published an obituary in the last issue of 2018.

The Journal has continued to grow its reputation and its profile throughout 2018. Some highlights of the Journal's

performance in international metrics can be outlined as follows.

- Our Journal is placed in the top quartile in all four of the categories in which it features in the SCImago Journal and Country Rank. The placings are: Artificial Intelligence (25th place from 160), Engineering (Miscellaneous) (31/329), Management Science & Operations Research (30/138), and Software (39/321).
- Our Thompson Reuters impact factor is 1.153.
- In 2018, we had 200 new submissions and we accepted 41 research articles.
- The acceptance rate of the Journal is in the range 20–25%.
- The average time that it has taken to turn around submissions (i.e., the time taken between submission and first decision) in 2018 was 72 days, with the completed submission turnaround times (i.e. the time taken between submission and final decision) taking around 182 days.

We are pleased to see that the number of article downloads for the Journal has increased significantly over the years. The figures are:

2014: 31,986
2015: 38,660
2016: 42,508
2017: 47,943
2018 (Jan–Nov): 46,982

The total downloads for 2018 are not yet known because the December figures were not available at the time of writing. However, it would appear that the trajectory of year-on-year increase, since 2014, will continue once we are able to add in the figures for December 2018.

Our usual practice is to finish the Editorial by thanking all those who have done so much over the year to make the Journal such a success. The editorial team at Springer have offered such a high level of support. Particular thanks should be given to Ramya Murali, Bharathi Ramachandran, Faith Su,

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Matthew Amboy and Neil Levine. We are also very grateful to the Editorial Board and to all the reviewers for giving their time so generously to ensure that the high standards of the Journal are maintained. Finally, we would like to offer our

gratitude to the authors and readers who contribute so much to the Journal.

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