

From the Editor-in-Chief:

June 2020



Looking Back and Looking Forward

Welcome to the June 2020 issue of the ISIF *Journal of Advances in Information Fusion (JAIF)*. This year we embark on the 15th year of JAIF, and it is my first as Editor-in-Chief. I have served JAIF in several editorial roles since 2008, and I am privileged and honored to take over the leadership role this year.

I would encourage all of us in the information fusion community to take time to familiarize ourselves with the contents of the 28 excellent issues of JAIF that have been published in the last 14 years. This includes a total of 147 full articles, many informative editorials, and five special issues on the following topics:

- Nonlinear Derivative-Free Filters: Theory and Applications;
- Estimation Involving Directional Quantities;
- Extended Object Tracking;
- Evaluation of Uncertainty Representation and Reasoning Techniques;
- Multiple-Hypothesis Tracking.

The success of JAIF rests principally on the hard work and creative research efforts of the information fusion community, leading to a collection of excellent published manuscripts. Equally important are the efforts of the JAIF editorial board. This has been led by two distinguished Editors-in-Chief: Dale Blair (Vols. 1–8, 2006–2013) and Uwe Hanebeck (Vols. 9–14, 2014–2019). The initial vision for JAIF was encouraged and led first by our former VP for Publications Yaakov Bar-Shalom, and now by our current VP for Publications Dale Blair. Behind the scenes, exceptional effort was expended by our first Administrative Editor Robert Lynch (2006–2015), and since then by our current Administrative Editor David Krout. Managing the journal would simply be impossible without this support. I would like especially to thank David for helping me as I have taken over the Editor-in-Chief duties this year.

What is the vision for JAIF? It is to be the premier forum for archival work in information fusion. Of course, other fine publication venues do exist. Nonetheless, JAIF is uniquely positioned at the intersection of multiple lines of research that span signal-level

processing, communications, detection-level and track-level exploitation, situational awareness, and uncertainty modeling for a broad range of applications. Ultimately, the focus areas of the journal are defined empirically by what has been published and what special issues are in preparation. Again, I encourage all to browse the contents of past issues!

In addition to familiarizing ourselves with the JAIF past, I would like to call on the information fusion community to participate actively in the present and future of JAIF. First, consider volunteering to review papers or to join the editorial board. Second, consider preparing a manuscript for submission. We particularly encourage the submission of expanded versions of papers presented in the ISIF FUSION conference series. Preparing a journal manuscript is hard work, and, particularly for researchers in industry, often needs to be done on personal time in addition to other professional commitments. It can be an opportunity to develop one's

work more fully while furthering its relevance to the research community.

Finally, consider serving as a guest editor while organizing a special issue on a topic of interest to the community. Note that five of the last nine JAIF issues are special issues; we plan to continue to have approximately half of future issues be special issues. This allows those outside the editorial board to have a significant impact on the direction of the journal.

Contributing to JAIF in a variety of capacities is a rewarding endeavor that will help to strengthen the standing and relevance of JAIF in the research community, to the benefit of all JAIF authors and readers. I look forward to working together with all of you in the years to come.

Stefano Coraluppi
Editor in Chief