Editorial: A Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

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SERVICES computing has become a well-established discipline in the area of computing and information technology. This discipline encompasses the scientific principles and technologies that provide the foundation for packaging computing and data processing functionalities spanning software systems, networks and applications, hardware components and architectures, and other data and information services into easily manageable, elastic and interoperable units for effective delivery, access and use. The rapidly expanding and evolving distributed and pervasive computing landscape embodied in current and emerging areas, such as big data, cloud and edge/fog computing, Internet of Things, cyber physical and cyber human systems, social and urban computing, cognitive computing, mobile computing, health informatics, vehicular computing, etc., presents us with unprecedented opportunities for transforming our individual and social experiences and productivity while introducing significant complexities and challenges with regards to fully availing ourselves of its benefits. Services computing is increasingly playing the central role in making such a rich set of integrated and automated functionalities and technologies easily available to and shareable among individuals, businesses and enterprises. As the flagship publication of the increasingly important discipline of services computing, *IEEE Transactions on Services Computing* (*TSC*) has been playing a central role in providing the outlet for the best research results in this discipline's core areas, which includes service-oriented architecture, web services and mashups, cloud and big data services, IoT services, security and privacy solutions, business process modeling and integration, mobile services, and other emerging areas.

I feel greatly honored to have been elected as the incoming Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *TSC*, and am deeply grateful for this profound opportunity to contribute to and serve the services computing community by acting as the chaperon for the community's premier journal for the next three years. In particular, I feel humbled and privileged to have this opportunity to follow up on the outstanding work done by my predecessor, Dr. Ling Liu, from whom I have learnt a great deal while serving as an Associate Editor of *TSC* for past few years. Similarly, it is a distinct privilege to build on the solid foundation laid by Dr. Liang-Jie Zhang, the founding EIC of *TSC*, who also laid the groundwork for the formation of the ever-growing services computing community through a series of co-located conferences, which is now being referred to as the *Services Computing Federation*, while his inexhaustible efforts continue. Dr. Zhang's indelible contributions to the services computing community and *TSC*, and Dr. Liu's excellent track record as former EIC of *TSC* and her outstanding service to the community will be an inspiration and a constant guide in my efforts towards achieving further success of *TSC*. Through their efforts, *TSC* has already been established as among the most prestigious and impactful venues for disseminating state-of-the-art research related to services computing.

I am eagerly looking forward to working with the community to explore newer ways and opportunities to further raise the reputation, and increase the impact of *TSC*. I look forward to broadening the representation and engagement of diverse communities such as industry, government and various academic units including business, health and medical informatics, engineering and critical infrastructure sectors, and other emerging computing and informatics areas that relate to (or intersect with) the key aspects of services computing. Similarly, I look forward to exploring ways to further enhance the outreach and dissemination of the published scholarly work to, and to solicit high quality work from, a broader set of research communities by leveraging a multitude of media outlets such as scientific news media, social media, news blogs, and by further strengthening ties with relevant conferences. It is also important to increase our agility in quickly incorporating newly emerging and futuristic topics to enable the research community to publish *first-ideas* in the related areas so as to also ensure that *TSC* is actively engaged in fueling innovation and discovery in services computing related areas and beyond. It is also important to continue to strive for higher quality reviews, shorter review periods, and faster publication schedules.

I would like to emphasize and applaud the significant roles played by various contributors since the formation of *TSC* in 2008 in making it a premier journal, including the members of the executive and the editorial boards, researchers who have volunteered their invaluable time in critically reviewing the submitted manuscripts, the authors for submitting the results of years of their hard work, the IEEE Computer Society staff for their highest quality and timely support services, and the production and promotion teams. Their invaluable, continuous support and dedication are

indispensable for the continued success of the journal, and its further rise in reputation and prominence. I join Dr. Liu in expressing our deep gratitude to all for your contributions, commitment and support.

Lastly, as I step in to assume the role of EIC of *TSC*, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the community, our deepest appreciation and thanks to Dr. Liu for her outstanding contributions as the EIC of *TSC* for the last three years. Similarly, I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Liang-Jie Zhang for his foundational work in the discipline, as well as for his tireless efforts in fostering the community. I am looking forward to working closely with you all to promote further growth and success of *TSC*.

James Joshi
Incoming Editor-in-Chief