Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Welcome to the January 2016 issue of the IEEE *Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics* (*TVCG*)! I am pleased to introduce this special issue containing 104 papers presented at IEEE VIS 2015, which includes the Conference on Visual Analytics Science and Technology (IEEE VAST 2015), the IEEE Information Visualization Conference (IEEE InfoVis 2015), and the IEEE Scientific Visualization Conference (IEEE SciVis 2015), held in Chicago, Il, USA, from the 25th to the 30th of October 2015. These papers, selected from 460 submissions, were recommended for acceptance by the Program Committee of these three conferences, after having undergone a rigorous and competitive two-round review process.

The cooperation between *TVCG* and IEEE VIS has been considerably growing over the years in terms of the number of publications in the *TVCG* IEEE VIS special issue, and of the size of attendance to IEEE VIS. This special hybrid publication model enables timely dissemination of many high-quality research results from the world's top visualization conferences to *TVCG* readership, while improving the overall visibility and quality of IEEE VIS publications through a rigorous journal-style review. Since 2011, the authors of over 100 *TVCG* regular papers were invited to give an oral presentation of their recent work at IEEE VIS, thus providing a unique opportunity for the VIS audience to keep abreast of high-quality visualization research featured in regular issues of *TVCG*, and encouraging more *TVCG* authors to attend IEEE VIS. This closely coupled relationship between *TVCG* and VIS should lead to a more timely exchange of new ideas, to a rapid dissemination of visualization research via an integrated forum for both publications and presentations, and to further expanding our visualization research community.

Many individuals have committed their time and effort to this *TVCG* issue, and I would like to thank all of them for their excellent work. Special thanks are due to the guest editors of this special issue, who are the IEEE VIS Papers Cochairs: James Ahrens, Gennady Andrienko, Min Chen, Bongshin Lee, Kwan-Liu Ma, Huamin Qu, Jos Roerdink and Melanie Tory. They tirelessly led the two-round review process with tight deadlines to deliver this issue. The papers committees of the three conferences also played a significant role by participating in a second round of reviews for papers that were accepted with minor revision. I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts that went into the timely production of this issue by the IEEE and IEEE Computer Society staff, especially Erin Espriu, Meera Patel, and Kimberly Sperka, as well as the IEEE VIS publication coordinator, Meghan Haley. Thanks are also due to Joyce Arnold and Alison Larkin for *TVCG* peer review support. I would also like to acknowledge the support from behind the scenes by the IEEE VIS Conference Committees, the IEEE VGTC Executive Committee, and the IEEE Computer Society Publications Board. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to *TVCG* AEIC, Chuck Hansen, IEEE VIS 2015 Program Chairs, Gautam Chaudhary and Terry Yoo, IEEE VIS 2015 General Chairs, Michael E. Papka, and Maxine Brown, and the VIS Steering Committees, for coordinating and working on the integration of *TVCG* papers with the VIS program.

With the OnlinePlus subscription model started in 2011, *TVCG* subscribers have been able to receive online access plus a printed book of article abstracts and a quarterly, searchable interactive disk that gives readers the flexibility of accessing content anywhere. *TVCG* is one of the top journals presenting important research results and state-of-the-art seminal papers in computer graphics, animation, visualization and visual analytics, augmented and virtual reality, human-computer interaction. *TVCG* is the venue to find extended versions of the best papers of many leading conferences, symposia, and workshops in the field. *TVCG* is well known for its fast reviewing cycles and for the early availability of preprints in the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library and in IEEE Xplore. I encourage you to browse through www.computer.org/tvcg, to continue submitting your best work to *TVCG*, to consider contributing as a reviewer, and to become a personal subscriber of *TVCG*.