

The First Three Years of PAMI

IN February 1978, the Governing Board of the IEEE Computer Society approved the publication of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE (PAMI). I was then asked to be the Senior Editor. The first issue was published in January 1979. Up to now, 16 issues have been published that include 440 pages (four issues) published in 1979, 700 pages (six issues) in 1980, and 750 pages (six issues) in 1981. Since the announcement of the publication of PAMI in mid-1978, the number of subscriptions has increased from 2000 in December 1978 to 4600 in December 1979, 7000 in December 1980, and 7200 in mid-1981. Many factors certainly contribute to such a success. These include strong support from the IEEE and the Computer Society, the dedication and tireless work of the members of Advisory Board and Editorial Committee, and the enthusiastic support and effort from authors, reviewers, as well as the whole PAMI community.

It has been suggested that PAMI really consists of two related but separate areas, PA and MI. However, the purpose of publishing the TRANSACTIONS is to stimulate a closer tie between the two areas rather than polarizing them. (This also appears to be the trend, and has been reflected very strongly from the meetings of the Advisory Board and the

Editorial Committee.) Computer vision, speech and image understanding, and intelligent robot systems, for example, could be regarded as the resulting research areas from such a close tie. Consequently, many authors and readers, as well as many members of the Editorial Committee, are interested in both PA and MI.

PAMI is now three years old. It has gradually reached its maturity. Early in 1981, I requested a change of Senior Editorship. After a six-month search, the President of the Computer Society, with the advice and consent of the Governing Board and Publications Board, has just appointed Dr. T. Pavlidis as the next Senior Editor of PAMI. Dr. Pavlidis is not a stranger to the PAMI community. Under his Editorship, I am sure that PAMI will continue its growth to better serve the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Advisory Board and Editorial Committee, the Computer Society's Publications Board, Merlin Smith, T. Y. Feng, Dick Merwin, Oscar Garcia, Ed Parrish, and Harry Hayman for their strong support and help during its initiation and the first three years of PAMI.

K. S. Fu, *Senior Editor*