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Publisher's Note

Most Cited Paper Award

The Publisher presents the second annual "Most Cited Paper Award" for *Journal of Visual Communication and Image Representation*. Our most cited paper award offers an alternative to committee-selected "best papers". The only objective and transparent metric that is highly correlated with the quality of a paper is the number of citations. We hope that the design of this most cited paper award will ensure fairness and equal opportunity for all authors published in the journal. It is our hope that this award will stimulate the best minds to release their best work.

Papers for this distinction are determined solely on the basis of the highest number of cites, excluding self-citations, received for all journal articles published between the years 2005 and 2007 [data culled from SCOPUS reports (www.scopus.com) created on January 15, 2008]. The winning paper is "Vector sigma filters for noise detection and removal in color images," by R. Lukac, B. Smolka, K.N. Plataniotis, and A.N. Venetsanopoulos, J. Vis. Commun. Image R. 17 (2006) 1–26.

We congratulate Drs. Lukac, Smolka, Plataniotis, and Venetsanopoulos for this great achievement.

Rastislav Lukac received the MS (Ing.) and Ph.D. in telecommunications from the Technical University of Kosice, Slovak Republic, in 1998 and 2001, respectively. From February 2001 to August 2002, he was an assistant professor with the Department of Electronics and Multimedia Communications at the Technical University of Kosice. From August 2002 to July 2003, he was a researcher with the Slovak Image Processing Center in Dobsina, Slovak Republic. From January 2003 to March 2003, he was a postdoctoral fellow with the Artificial Intelligence and Information Analysis Laboratory, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. From May 2003 to August 2006, he was a postdoctoral fellow with the Edward S. Rogers Sr., Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Since September 2006, he has been a senior image processing scientist at Epson Edge, Epson Canada Ltd., Toronto, Canada. He is a contributor to seven books and he has published over 200 papers in the areas of digital camera image processing, color image and video processing, multimedia security, and microarray image processing. Dr. Lukac is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and IEEE Circuits and Systems, IEEE Consumer Electronics, and IEEE Signal Processing societies. He is an editor of the books *Color Image Processing: Methods and Applications* (Boca Raton, FL., CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2006) and *Single-Sensor Imaging: Methods and Applications for Digital Cameras* (Boca Raton, FL., CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2008). He was a guest editor of the *Real-Time Imaging*, Special Issue on Multi-Dimensional Image Processing; *Computer Vision and Image Understanding*, Special Issue on Color Image Processing; *International Journal of Imaging Systems and Technology*, Special Issue on Applied Color Image Processing; and *International Journal of Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence*, Special Issue on Facial Image Processing and Analysis. He is an associate editor for the *Journal of Real-Time Image Processing*. He serves as a technical reviewer for various scientific journals, and he participates as a member of numerous international conference committees. He is the recipient of the 2003 North Atlantic Treaty Organization/National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NATO/NSERC) Science Award.

Bogdan Smolka received the Diploma in physics from the Silesian University, Katowice, Poland, in 1986, and the Ph.D. in automatic control from the Department of Automatic Control, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland, in 1998. From 1986 to

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1989 he was a teaching assistant in the Department of Biophysics, Silesian Medical University, Katowice. From 1992 to 1994, he was a teaching assistant at the Technical University of Gesslingen, Germany. Since 1994, he has been with the Silesian University of Technology. In 1998, he was appointed an associate professor in the Department of Automatic Control. Since 1999, he has also been an associate researcher with the Multimedia Laboratory, University of Toronto, Canada. In 2007 Bogdan Smolka was promoted to professor at Silesian University of Technology. He has published 170 papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings on digital signal and image processing. His current research interests include low-level color image processing, human–computer interaction, and visual aspects of image quality.

Konstantinos N. Plataniotis received the B.Engineering in computer engineering from the Department of Computer Engineering and Informatics, University of Patras, Patras, Greece, in 1988 and the MS and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech), Melbourne, Florida, in 1992 and 1994, respectively. From August 1997 to June 1999 he was an assistant professor with the School of Computer Science at Ryerson University. He is currently an associate professor at the Edward S. Rogers Sr., Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, where he researches and teaches image processing, adaptive systems, and multimedia signal processing. He co-authored, with A.N. Venetsanopoulos, the book *Color Image Processing & Applications* (Springer Verlag, May 2000, ISBN 3-540-66953-1), he is a co-editor of the book *Color Image Processing: Methods and Applications* (Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2006). He is a contributor to seven books, and he has published more than 300 papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings in the areas of multimedia signal processing, image processing, adaptive systems, communications systems, and stochastic estimation. Dr. Plataniotis is a senior member of IEEE, an associate editor for the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks*, and a past member of the IEEE Technical Committee on Neural Networks for Signal Processing. He was the technical co-chair of the Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE) 2001 and CCECE 2004. He is the technical program chair of the 2006 IEEE International Conference in Multimedia and Expo (ICME 2006), the vice-chair for 2006 IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference (ITSC 2006), and the image processing area editor for the IEEE Signal Processing Society e-letter. He is the 2005 IEEE Canada "Outstanding Engineering Educator" Award recipient and the co-recipient of the 2006 IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award.

Anastasios N. Venetsanopoulos received the Bachelors of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering degree from the National Technical University of Athens (NTU), Greece, in 1965, and the MS, M.Phil., and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Yale University in 1966, 1968, and 1969, respectively. He joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of Toronto in September 1968 as a lecturer and he was promoted to assistant professor in 1970, associate professor in 1973, and professor in 1981. Prof. A.N. Venetsanopoulos has served as chair of the Communications Group and associate chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering. Between July 1997 and June 2001, he was associate chair: graduate studies in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and was acting chair during the spring term of 1998–1999. Prof. A.N. Venetsanopoulos served as the Inaugural Bell Canada Chair in Multimedia 1999 and 2005. Between 2001 and 2006 he served as the 12th Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering of the University of Toronto and on October 1, 2006, he accepted the position of founding vice-president research and innovation at Ryerson University. Prof. A.N. Venetsanopoulos was on research leave at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, the National Technical University of Athens, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the University of Florence, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and has also served as adjunct professor at Concordia University. He has served as lecturer in 138 short courses to industry and continuing education programs and as consultant to numerous organizations; he is a contributor to 35 books and has published over 800 papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings on digital signal and image processing and digital communications. Prof. Venetsanopoulos was elected as a fellow of the IEEE "for contributions to digital signal and image processing"; he is also a fellow of the EIC and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the National Technical University of Athens in October 1994. In October 1996 he was awarded the "Excellence in Innovation Award" of the Information Technology Research Centre of Ontario and Royal Bank of Canada, "for innovative work in color image processing and its industrial applications." In November 2003 he was the recipient of the "Millennium Medal of IEEE". In April 2001 he became a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. In 2003 he was the recipient of the highest award of the Canadian IEEE, the MacNaughton Award, and in 2003 he served as the chair of the Council of Deans of Engineering of the Province of Ontario (CODE). In 2006 he was selected as the joint recipient of the 2003 IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award.