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SCS M&S Magazine

In This Issue

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November 2014 issue of the M&S Magazine. Unfortunately this issue will be the final issue. The magazine published its first issue in January 2010, with Professor Louis G. Birta as its first editor-in-chief. In January 2012, Drs. Andreas Tolk, Il-Chul Moon, and Francesco Longo succeeded the editor role, and the magazine has continued to its 14th issue.

While being the editor of the magazine, the main difficulty was encouraging the community to contribute their articles to the magazine. The vision of the founding editor was embracing the SCS membership and the larger community working on the modeling and simulation (M&S). Given that the M&S community continues to grow in industry and academia, we conjecture that the magazine was not able to provide enough incentive to receive contributions from researchers and practitioners. From the retrospective view, the magazine was not competitive in providing enough acknowledgement of the community to the contribution authors. Many journals receive increased volume of submissions when the journals are indexed as SCI(E), which is a widely known journal indexing service. We made efforts to turn the magazine into a regular publication as the other journals of SCS, and such efforts include updating the article template, disseminating call-for-contributions and receiving a ISSN number. The next ideal step for vitalizing the magazine would be applying for the index service, such as DBLP, SCOPUS, etc, but we decided to end our effort at the moment.

Still, we expect that there will be an endeavor to restart a publication that aims at publishing short, timely, and creative articles in the M&S field. One type of publication venues that the M&S community is missing is a letter-type, quick-turn-around, and well-recognized journal publication. Such letter publications are common in the field of computer science, physics, mathematics, etc. This is a niche market where transaction/full article type journals; i.e. Simulation, JDMS, ACM TOMACS, would not fit for the purpose. It should be noted that, although short communications are published in Simulation, such short contributions are rare in the venue. Some of our contributions actually became pretty successful, like the discussion on "What makes up an M&S Scholar?" or "Do we need M&S Science?" However, we never were able to establish an active discussion within the magazine itself.

In spite of the ending of the magazine, we are pleased to report that we have a good collection of contributed articles for the final issue. We received a high number of contributed articles to the magazine for this issue, and the contributions consist of 1) nine papers for the special issue including the issue editorial, and 2) a regular contribution about modeling and simulation on disease spread. Prof. Matteo Baldoni, Prof. Cristina Baroglio, and Prof. Alfredo Garro prepared a special issue of "Agents and Multi-Agent Systems: From Objects to Agents." They prepared an editorial dedicated to the contributions for the special issue. The regular contribution from Prof. Taesik Lee provides a model for disease spread to virtually experiment the mitigation strategy through simulations. We are certain that these would be interesting read.

Again, it is unfortunate that we cannot continue the magazine due to the circumstances. However, at the same time, we feel that this is a good closure of the magazine with interesting articles.

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