Editorial

February 25, 2021

It is a real honor for me to be allowed to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Cryptology. I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for being trusted with this demanding but also rewarding task. I wish to express special thanks to my predecessor Prof. Kenny Paterson for leaving the journal in such an excellent shape.

Using the words of the proverbial curse, we can definitely state that we currently live in *interesting* times. Even before *alternative facts* became a popular term, several scientific journals of high reputation had already been plagued by problematic publications, due to honest mistakes as well as wilful and deliberate fraud by authors. Fake conferences and journals are making money by accepting even the most ridiculous publications. The system of unpaid peer review is being strained to its limits. This results in frustration for authors who feel that the fruit of their research does not get the attention it deserves in a timely manner. Reviewers feel forced to read and comment upon sloppy work and sometimes notice that their carefully worded suggestions are ignored by authors. Finally, programme committtees and editors have a difficult task to obtain quality input to base their decisions on in a timely manner.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has a big impact on the traditional conference model. For journals like ours it can be an opportunity to attract more attention as a target for high-quality submissions.

In order to make this happen, we need to fulfill several conditions. Firstly, we need to continue our efforts to drive down the time between submission and publication, without sacrificing on the quality of reviews.

Secondly, I believe we need to make a big effort to attract even more papers of high quality. I believe that Special Issues, or their modern incarnation Topical Selections, are one way to increase the visibility of the journal and to attract papers from a wider pool of authors. I urge you, the cryptographic research community, to think about topics that deserve a special issue and to submit proposals to me.

Thirdly, I will try to broaden the expertise of the Editorial Board such that we cover all the areas of our wonderful research field: cryptology.

I am looking forward to work with you all!