Message from the ISMAR 2023 Science and Technology Journal Program Chairs and TVCG Guest Editors

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In this special issue of *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)*, we are pleased to present the journal papers from the 22nd IEEE International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR 2023), which will be held as a hybrid conference between October 16 and 20, 2023 in Sydney, Australia. ISMAR continues the over twenty-year long tradition of IWAR, ISMR, and ISAR, and is the premier conference for Mixed and Augmented Reality in the world.

There are 45 papers in this special issue, which were selected from 230 submissions, for an acceptance rate of 19.6%. From these 230 submissions, 5 were desk rejected and 1 was quick rejected. These papers were either not anonymized, submitted to two different venues or did not contain enough detail to replicate the work. In total, 225 papers went out for full review and received four or more reviews concluded by a rating on a scale from one to six. Each paper has an overall score calculated as the mean of the reviewers' scores.

As program chairs we aimed for the highest possible reviewing standards and conducted a decision process in a fair, rigorous, and transparent way. There was a single paper submission category, papers from 4 to 9 pages in length, plus 2 pages of references. All submissions underwent a review process that encompassed two reviewing stages, overseen by a coordinator from the Program Committee (PC), which was comprised of 59 internationally renowned experts from the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, and Europe. After PC members had declared their conflicts and provided their preferences, the program chairs assigned coordinators. For every PC member, as well as the program chairs, for every paper where they had a conflict of interest, both the reviewer assignments and reviewer names were hidden. We used a double-blind process to mitigate bias in the reviewing process. Thus, the external reviewers were not aware of the identity of the authors and vice-versa.

After all reviews were received, authors were permitted, though not required, to submit a rebuttal. During the rebuttal phase reviewers were able to read other reviews. After the rebuttal phase an online discussion phase among the reviewers started, in which the reviewers for each paper came to a consensual initial recommendation for each submission among the following three possibilities: conditionally accept, reject, or discuss with additional readers. For each of the papers that were recommended for further discussion, an additional reviewer from the PC was assigned to provide an extra review. After additional reviews were received the program chairs convened for a series of video-chat meetings, where a consensus agreement was reached on bulk rejected submission. The bulk reject category consisted of submissions below a defined average score. All remaining submissions were discussed among the chairs in further video-chat meetings. Note that, for each submission, only program chairs without a conflict of interest with the paper joined the discussion.

Following its conditional acceptance, each paper then went through a revision cycle, and was assessed by its coordinator and the program chairs. All papers were then subjected to a thorough IEEE CrossCheck review to check for plagiarism. Finally, the papers recommended for acceptance to IEEE TVCG were forwarded to the TVCG board for their consideration and approval.

Many individuals have contributed a great deal of time and energy towards making the technical program of ISMAR 2023 a success. We would like to thank the authors of all submitted papers, the members of the Program Committee, and the 418 external reviewers. We also wish to acknowledge James Stewart for his outstanding support with the PCS system, and we would also like to thank the Publications Chairs Mohammed Safayet Arefin, Xinxing Xia and Christos Mousas for collecting materials and assisting in the production of this special issue. We warmly thank the members of the ISMAR Steering Committee for their continuing support, Kiyoshi Kiyokawa for support and advice as *TVCG* liaison, the General Chairs, Barrett Ens, Denis Kalkofen, Gelareh Mohammadi and Franck Guan for their support throughout the entire process, and all the ISMAR community members. We also thank the previous IEEE ISMAR and IEEE VR program chairs for their contributions to the selection process and this message.