

Editorial from the New Editor-in-Chief



ON behalf of the AIAA and the aerospace community, I want to thank Dr. Kyle T. (Terry) Alfriend for his substantial contributions to the continued growth and excellence of the *Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics* during his tenure as Editor-in-Chief. The enormous efforts required in evaluating about 300 manuscripts submitted for publication each year are mostly invisible to our subscribers. Terry has worked tirelessly to keep everyone's

manuscript moving through the review process and deserves our gratitude for his professionalism, enthusiasm, and leadership. We wish him well in his retirement as Editor-in-Chief, *JGCD*.

In accepting this responsibility I want to acknowledge my own association with the AIAA, which started over 30 years ago with various stints as a student member, member, presenter, journal author, reviewer, and committee member. I have also been involved with the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, and Institute of Navigation in various capacities. For the last decade or so, I have concentrated on publication and conference activities with NATO's Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development. In addition, since 1993, under Draper Laboratory sponsorship, I have been leading cooperative efforts with several Russian research organizations. I have continued to be a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Lecturer in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. My major professional activities have involved various assignments at Draper Laboratory, most recently as Director, Guidance Technology Center, and Associate Director, Guidance, Navigation, and Control. I appreciate the commitment of Draper Laboratory to support me in my new position as Editor-in-Chief and accept the challenge of applying my skills to this position and in making a significant contribution to the AIAA.

My goals as Editor-in-Chief are:

To maintain the quality of the Journal.

Under the guidance of my predecessors, Terry Alfriend and Don

Fraser, the *JGCD* has become the premier journal in the field. I will seek Associate Editors committed to the same goal and insist that we perform our responsibilities in a timely and ethical manner.

To increase the number of applications-oriented papers.

We must have a better balance between theory and applications in our papers. We need to recognize that to be useful, all good ideas need to be applied to real problems. If we can increase the percentage of papers on applications, we will make the *JGCD* more relevant and job related to the practicing engineer. Subscriptions would also naturally increase and keep the *JGCD* financially viable.

To minimize the time from submission to publication.

Here it is hoped that management skills, modern communication techniques such as e-mail, and commitment from all those involved in the review process will help to minimize the time for reviews. The purpose of the journal is to present the latest, peer-reviewed results of scientific and engineering research in a timely fashion. I will do my part in speedily assigning papers to the Associate Editors. One of the joys of the Editors should be in rapidly bringing new, significant knowledge to our members.

To increase the international involvement in the Journal.

Almost 40% of papers are submitted from outside the U.S. This shows the international preeminence of the *JGCD*. I will work to improve the quality and geographical distribution of the papers submitted.

To listen and respond to everyone's concerns.

I would welcome input on journal content and author and subscriber concerns and any positive help offered to me. Please let me know how we can improve our journal by writing to me at Draper Laboratory. My e-mail address is gschmidt@draper.com

Finally, I want to thank all of the Associate Editors and reviewers for their service and dedication to the *JGCD*. I look forward to working with you this coming year.

George T. Schmidt
Editor-in-Chief