

## Guest Editor's Overview

**T**HIS Mini-Special Issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES is devoted to the publication of selected expanded papers that were accepted for presentation at the 1997 SBMO/IEEE MTT-S International Microwave and Optoelectronics Conference that was held in Natal, RN, Brazil, on August 11–14, 1997. Since 1985, this conference occurs every other year in Brazil. In the beginning, it was organized by the SBMO, the Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society, and had the collaboration of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society. This collaboration has increased every year and, in 1995, the organization of the conference was done with cooperation from both societies. In 1997, the IEEE/MTT-S ADCOM decided to extend this conference the opportunity of having published a mini-special issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES, containing papers accepted for presentation at the conference and which passed the regular review procedure for paper acceptance in this TRANSACTIONS.

To take advantage of the reviewing effort done by the Conference Technical Committee for selecting the conference papers, only 22 out of the 121 conference papers were preselected. The authors of these preselected papers were then invited to submit a more carefully elaborated manuscript for possible inclusion, as a paper, in this Mini-Special Issue. The regular procedure for selecting papers for publication in the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES was then followed. In addition to the originality, quality, and relevance, the efficiency of presentation and clearness were also carefully examined by at least three reviewers per manuscript. As a result, it was possible to select a total of eight papers from the received manuscripts.

A wide variety of subjects were discussed, including microwave circuits, ultrasonic devices, reflector antennas, wave propagation, and optoelectronic systems and devices. There is a concentration of optoelectronics subjects in these accepted papers. This is not only a result of the scientific community interests on the subject, but also the result of the scope of the conference that even included the word “optoelectronics” in its name.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The success for the existence of this Mini-Special Issue was possible due to the dedicated work of several IEEE and SBMO members. A few names should be mentioned here due to the importance of their contribution. Dr. Richard Sparks was of great help in the organization of the first SBMO/IEEE MTT-S Conference in 1985, where I had the honor to serve as the General Chairman. He was very instrumental for having the approval by the IEEE MTT-S ADCOM of this Mini-Special Issue. He served as the International Liaison for several years and has done an outstanding job of informing the IEEE

MTT-S ADCOM of the scope of this conference. Dr. Tatsuo Itoh and Dr. P. R. Herczfeld participated, also of the first SBMO/IEEE MTT-S Conference, and of most of the following ones, giving strong support for the success of this effort. We should also be grateful for the strong help given more recently by Dr. R. J. Trew (former Editor-in-Chief), Dr. J. W. Mink (Editor-in-Chief), and Dr. Linda Katehi, (Associate Editor on Special Issues) of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES. We are equally thankful for the extraordinary help received from our International Liaison, Dr. Denise Consonni. The IEEE MTT-S and SBMO members have also worked very hard, particularly the ones presiding and participating in the conference committees. To all of them, our sincere recognition. Finally, our thanks are extended to the authors for their significant contribution to this Mini-Special Issue. Here also is our word of gratitude to the excellent help from the following reviewers.

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**Attilio José Giarola** (M'58–SM'76–LSM'95) was born in Brazil, in 1930. He received the B.S.E.E. degree from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, in 1954, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1959 and 1963, respectively.

He taught for several years at the Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (ITA), Brazil, Seattle University, and the University of Washington, prior to receiving the Ph.D. degree. In 1962, he joined the staff of the Boeing Company, Seattle, and was responsible for research on infrared detectors and microwave devices. He was an Associate Professor of electrical engineering at ITA and a Visiting Professor at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. During this time, he was the Program Chairman of the First National Electronics Conference in Brazil and conducted research in solid-state devices. From 1968 to 1974, he was an Associate Professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M University, College Station, with responsibilities of teaching and conducting research on electromagnetics, particularly on electromagnetic susceptibility. In 1975, he joined the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil,

where he was responsible for the implantation and development of a research program in antennas, microwave, and optical devices. From 1975 to 1987, he was the Dean of Graduate Studies, UNICAMP, and from 1980 to 1982, he was the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, UNICAMP. He is currently an Emeritus Professor at UNICAMP.

Dr. Giarola is a member of Eta Kappa Nu and Sigma Xi. He was the vice-president and president of the Brazilian Microwave and Optoelectronics Society (SBMO) and was chairman of the first SBMO International Symposium in 1985.