

# **A Letter from the New Editor-in-Chief**

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July 27, 2016 (E37-2). In the time of the “High- $T_c$  Cold-Rush”, John Clem created the High- $T_c$  News, a rapid scientific information medium about High- $T_c$  materials, which circumvented the long publication times of traditional journals and was distributed via e-mail. His effort set new communication standards in the superconductivity community. Subsequently, after the European Superconductivity Network SCENET was started, the ‘SCENET News Letter’, distributed online and as hard copies, served the superconductivity community both inside and outside of Europe as an important source of information for many years until the end of SCENET. Alex Braginski then started the European Superconductivity News Forum as a web-based information source. With the cooperation and help of the IEEE CSC, this news forum became, under his guidance, the Superconductivity News Forum (SNF) using the World-Wide Web as the medium for its publications.

In the last 10 years, the SNF has found its place in the international superconductivity community as an important, reliable and fast information source. The praise for the success of the SNF belongs especially to Alex, who as Editor-in-Chief and as electronics Co-editor committed much time and energy to the development of SNF, to Herbert Freyhardt as Co-editor of the Materials Part and to Kenichi Sato as current Co-editor, and Liye Xiao as former Co-editor of the Large Scale Part of the SNF.

I have known Alex for a very long time as a very knowledgeable, well organized and accurate person. We worked together a number of times, but I especially remember our cooperation on the book “100 Years of Superconductivity”, where he was responsible for the chapter on “SQUIDs and Detectors”. This book grew to over 800 pages, and for Peter Kes and me as editors it was not an easy task given the short time for the publication and delayed contributions. I will always remember Alex’s excellent lecture (over the phone) on proofreading, style and editing of scientific contributions. At first, it looked like overkill, but he was fully right and it helped us to keep the standards for that book high and also saved a lot of time by doing things right from the beginning. His exceptionally good organization and excellent knowledge of the field is built into the structure and content of the SNF, as well in its format and selection of that content.

Alex retired many years ago from his position as head of the superconductivity group at the Research Center in Jülich, Germany, but he nevertheless still remains very active. At the beginning of 2016 he decided to step down from the position as Editor-in-Chief of the Superconductivity News Forum. When I received an email by him, Herbert Freyhardt and Kenichi Sato asking me if I would be available to succeed Alex as Editor-in-Chief, I wondered ‘why me’ and my first reaction was “not another year-long fight with broken promises and delays of contributions”. But it is also an exciting challenge and that kept me from immediately saying “No”. After a long and very helpful telephone conversation with Elie Track of the IEEE CSC, it was decided: I agreed to be Editor-in-Chief and would do my best to continue the SNF with its current high standards and to further develop it. Long telephone conversations with Alex

and Herbert gave me the necessary background information and I was ready to jump into the cold water to take over the Editor-in-Chief position. Unexpectedly, (after working in the lab for many years I should have known better) Murphy's Law became very active and private circumstances delayed this step for more than 2 months. After incredible help from Alex, even while on his vacation, and from Herbert and Ken, we bridged that gap so that the next edition of SNF will appear on time and with more contributions than any previous July SNF issue.

Some parts of the SNF will change in the future, others will stay the way they are: there will be a smooth transition to a somewhat modernized and simplified layout of the website, there may be changes in the organization and the authors' contributions, and some focus may change in course of time: I will work to intensify the interaction between readers and the SNF editorial team by bringing up controversial discussion topics in regularly appearing "Letters by the Editor" and I also intend to make the site more appealing to younger readers with attractive and less serious contributions. The further internationalization of the SNF is another topic in the focus of my future plans – a lot has been reached already, but there are still white areas on the map where SNF is not actively represented. Above all, I intend to keep up the high standards that Alex introduced in this news forum and to further develop its standing in the superconductivity community. Alex will remain a member of the editorial team as Editor for Electronics, Herbert will be responsible for the Materials and Ken for the Large Scale contributions. With their help, and the help and interest of the superconductivity community, the Superconductivity News Forum will thrive and expand its importance and impact as a news medium for the international superconductivity community.

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