T he Earth is a water planet, two-thirds of which is covered by water. With the rapid developments in technology, underwater wireless communications and networks have become a fast growing field, with broad applications in commercial and military water-based systems. The need for underwater wireless communications exists in applications such as remote control in the off-shore oil industry, pollution monitoring in environmental systems, collection of scientific data from ocean-bottom stations, disaster detection and early warning, national security and defense (intrusion detection and underwater surveillance), as well as new resource discovery. Thus, the research into new underwater wireless communication techniques has played the most important role in the exploration of oceans and other aquatic environments. In contrast to terrestrial wireless radio communications, the underwater channel poses serious technical challenges depending on the communications modalities (e.g., acoustic, optical, or RF/magnetic) employed. These include, but are not limited to, ambient channel noise, severe attenuation, propagation delay, multipath, frequency dispersion, bio-fouling, lack of access to precise time synchronization (GPS), and constrained bandwidth and power resources. These challenges also provide an opportunity for design of hybrid and adaptive transmission, such as the underwater acoustic and optical communications and networks, which have somewhat complementary properties, with potential for longer range and higher bandwidth networked communications in size- and power-constrained modems and mobile unmanned systems.

Inspired by the attractive and unique features and potential benefits of advanced underwater communications, the topic of underwater wireless networks has attracted increasing attention from researchers not only in academia, but also in the military and industrial sectors. While a great deal of research efforts have been made in recent years on underwater wireless networks, the aforementioned challenges posed by underwater acoustic as well as optical wireless channel exploitation in future underwater wireless system developments still remain an open problem. As we present Part 2 of this Feature Topic of IEEE Communications Magazine focusing on underwater wireless communications and networking, we aim to address the urgent needs in both theory and application aspects of industry, military, and the research community in order to better understand the recent progress, explore the future potential research directions, and define new research paradigms in underwater wireless communications and networks. The response to our Call for Papers on this Feature Topic was overwhelming, with a total of 52 articles submitted from all around the world. Going through the rigorous two-round review process, Part 1 of this Feature Topic, which consisted of eight excellent articles addressing various aspects of underwater wireless networks, was published in the November 2015 issue of IEEE Communications Magazine. Part 2 of this Feature Topic presents the following four excellent articles focusing on the key issues and emerging concepts of contemporaneous underwater wireless networks and techniques.

The first article, “RSS-Based Secret Key Generation in Underwater Acoustic Networks: Advantages, Challenges, and Performance Improvements,” overviews the advantages, explores the major challenges, and evaluates the performance improvements of received signal strength (RSS)-based key generation techniques in underwater acoustic wireless networks. The second article, “Design Guidelines for Opportunistic Routing in Underwater Networks,” investigates the two main building blocks for the design of opportunistic routing protocols for underwater sensor networks — candidate set selection and candidate coordination procedures — and discusses how the resulting approaches are related to the opportunistic routing protocol designs for different scenarios in underwater sensor networks.
networks. The third article, “A Journey toward Modeling and Resolving Doppler in Underwater Acoustic Communications,” surveys the evolution of Doppler modeling and resolution in underwater acoustic communications through five modeling stages: quasi-static model, uniform Doppler shift model, basis expansion model (BEM), plus path speed model and non-uniform path speed model, and characterizes their respective performance matrices. The fourth article, “Impulse Response Modeling for General Underwater Wireless Optical MIMO Links,” investigates underwater wireless optical communications (UWOC) multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems with $M$ light-sources and $N$ detectors, focusing on the impulse response to characterize the temporal behavior of UWOC links and proposing an $M$-order weight Gamma function polynomial (WGFP) to model the impulse response of $M \times N$ UWOC MIMO links.

We would like to thank all the authors for their excellent contributions and all the reviewers for their valuable reviewing comments. We also appreciate strong support from Dr. Sean Moore, the former Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Osman Gebizlioglu, the current Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Communications Magazine, and the IEEE Communications Society publishing team. Finally, we hope that the readership will find this Feature Topic interesting and stay tuned for new developments in this compelling research area.

**Biographies**

Xi Zhang (F’16) (xizhang@ece.tamu.edu) received his Ph.D. degree from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is a full professor at Texas AAM University. He has published more than 300 research papers, received the U.S. NSF CAREER Award, is an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer, and received four IEEE Best Paper awards. He is the author of an IEEE BEST READINGS journal paper. He has been an Editor for numerous IEEE transactions and journals, TPC Chair for IEEE GLOBECOM 2011, and TPC Vice Chair for IEEE INFOCOM 2010.

Jun-Hong Cui received her Ph.D. degree from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2003. She is now a full professor at the University of Connecticut. Her recent research mainly focuses on underwater sensor networks, autonomous underwater vehicle networks, cyber-aquatic systems, smart ocean technology, and ocean computing. She co-founded the ACM International Conference on Underwater Networks and Systems, and is now serving as its Steering Committee Chair. She has received an NSF CAREER Award and an ONR Young Investigator Award.

Santanu Das is the program manager of Communications and Networking within the C4ISR Department of the Office of Naval Research, where he has broad responsibility for planning, executing, and providing leadership for integrated science and technology projects to develop new capabilities for naval communication networks. He received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, and conducted research at AT&T Bell Labs, Whippany, New Jersey, in areas of 3G wireless and fiber optic communications.

Mario Gerla (F’02) received his Ph.D. degree from UCLA. He was part of the team that developed the early ARPANET protocols under the guidance of Prof. Leonard Kleinrock. He joined the UCLA Computer Science Department in 1976. He is leading several advanced wireless network projects under industry and government funding. His team is developing a vehicular testbed for safe navigation, content distribution, urban sensing, and intelligent transport.

Manzoor Chitre received a Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering via research in underwater acoustic communications. He currently holds a joint appointment with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the National University of Singapore as an assistant professor and with the Tropical Marine Science Institute as head of the Acoustic Research Laboratory. His current research interests include underwater communications, autonomous underwater vehicles, and acoustic signal processing.