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ANNUAL REPORT

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of TASSA,



TASSA has completed a busy year in 2018.

The highlight of the year was the TASSA 2018 Conference held at Boston University. The Co-Chairs Neşe Lortlar Ünlü and Selim Ünlü, both from Boston University, organized a successful conference and hosted close to 300 Turkish-American science and scholars who attended the sessions during June 2-3, 2018.

The conference participants enjoyed greatly the keynote speakers and all program participants. Many speakers shared their research. Eight young scholar awards were given, including the inaugural Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin Awards, a poster session was organized, and a job market gave Turkish universities and research organizations to recruit Turkish students. Overall, the Boston TASSA conference made every member of the Turkish Science Diaspora very proud.

We were also busy in 2018 holding elections for new Board directors and completing the audit of the financial condition and operations of TASSA. We continued to communicate with our contact base through The Bridge, the TASSA newsletter. The readership of The Bridge, the number of visitors to our web site and special media sites continue to increase. We have also made significant gains in both individual and institutional membership. We sincerely thank all those who support TASSA in many ways.

I wish everyone many successes in their fields.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Selim Ünlü". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

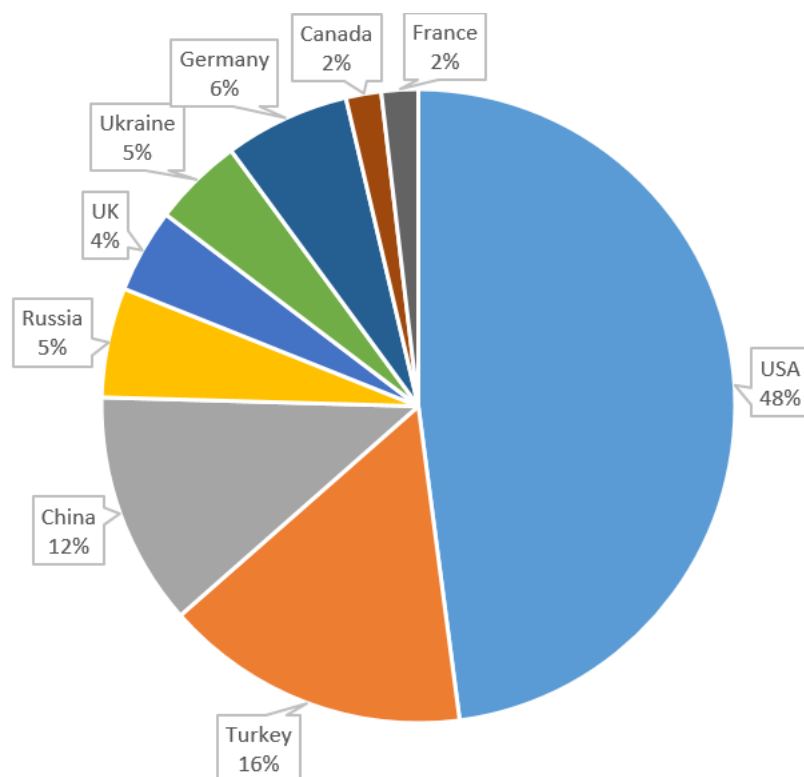
## 2. Board of Directors, Executive Committee Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic</u>
January, 2018	Organization Committee Formation
February, 2018	Sponsorship Documentation
March, 2018	Conference Organization Details I
April, 2018	Young Scholar Awards 2018 Decisions
May, 2018	Conference Organization Details II
June, 2018	TASSA 2018 Conference
September, 2018	Board Elections

## 3. Membership Activities

- TASSA membership has expanded in 2018 with 136 individual members, 102 student members, 18 institutional members and conference sponsors.
- TASSA became active in Facebook as of 2015, currently the number of followers are 1,138.
- In 2018 TASSA website on average received 2,932 hits, 441 visits and 961 page views per day. Maximum page view in one day was 3,205, maximum visit 1,849 and maximum hit 22,787. During 2018, the most page views, visits and visitors comes from California, whereas the most hits number comes from Massachusetts.

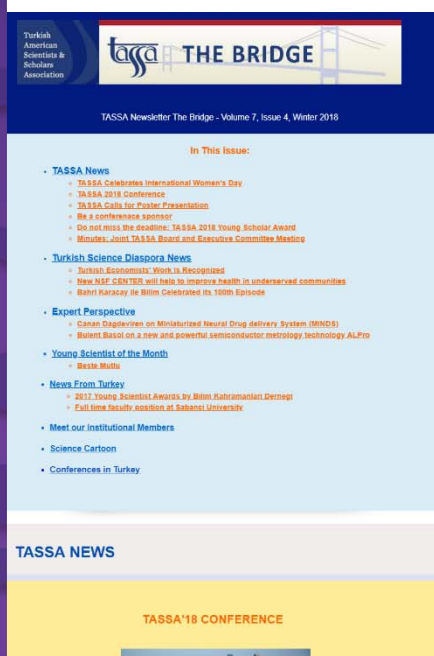
The percentage of visits to our website by countries in 2018 is as follows:



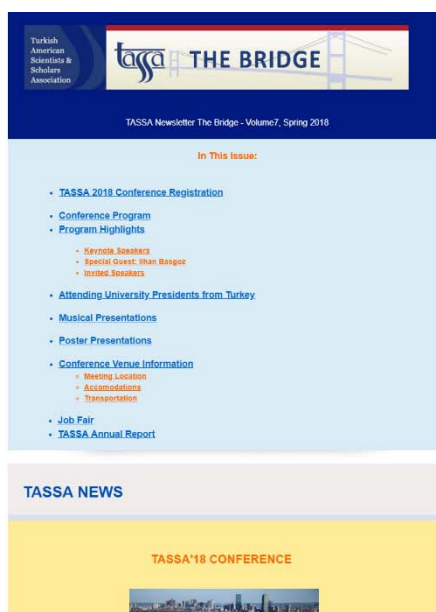
## 4. Communication with the TASSA Community

In line with TASSA's mission of connecting the scientific community in Turkey and the United States, the quarterly newsletter, the Bridge has been published throughout 2018.

### Winter Newsletter



### Spring Newsletter



### Fall Newsletter



The Bridge aims to serve the community in multiple ways, serving its function as the main channel to reach out to more than 5,000 members within the Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

Primarily, the Bridge highlighted the success stories from the Turkish-American community, functioning both as a news platform as well as a source of motivation for aspiring members of the scientific community. 2018 was a great year for the Turkish-American scientific community which TASSA held its 8th annual conference “Disruptive Technologies” in Boston, MA, where the Turkish American Academic community came together.

The Young Scholar profiles were highlighted in each issue of the Bridge, celebrating the dynamism and frontier research of upcoming Turkish American scientists and scholars.

The Bridge has also attracted great attention. The following statistics show the extent of this interest:

- The current number of individuals, who received the newsletter is 5,025. The open rate is 35% on mobile devices and 65% on desktop/laptops.
- The announcement that had the highest opening rate was “Chobani Visited CD Group” email that was sent out in June, 2018.

TASSA's mission to inform the community has also continued offline.

## 5. TASSA Activities

### TASSA'18 Conference



TASSA'2018 took place on June 2-3, 2018 in Boston, MA at the Boston University, and was a great success thanks to the more than 270 attendees and countless volunteers. The highlight of the conference is as follows:

The TASSA'2018 Conference, had the usual mix of opening remarks, keynote presentations, panels, and social events.

- The theme of the TASSA'18 Conference was "Disruptive Ideas and Technologies". Disruptive technologies are game-changers and they fundamentally change the manner, in which things are done. New technologies continue to evolve in different sectors, but not all of them are able to impact the way people live.
- The opening remarks were given by the conference co-chairs, Selim Ünlü and Nese Lortlar Ünlü and by the TASSA President, Haluk Ünal.
- We were lucky to have esteemed keynote speakers like President of TÜBİTAK, Hasan Mandal, the President of TIAX, Kenan Şahin, and Selçuk Şirin from NYU.
- The panels of the TASSA' 2018 were organized on the following four topics with high social impact: (1) Engineering and Physical Sciences, (2) Health Sciences, (3) Economics, and (4) Social Sciences. The panels brought together key stakeholders from industry and academia across the globe to discuss how disruptive ideas and technologies affect their sector.

**“Disruptive Technologies in Health Sciences”**, Moderator: Orhun K. Muratoğlu (MGH), Panelists: Umay Şaplakoğlu (GE), Cengizhan Öztürk (Boğaziçi), and Canan Dağdeviren (MIT).

**“Turkish Economy: Challenges and Opportunities”**, Moderator: Ayşe İmrohoroğlu (USC), Panelists: Daron Acemoğlu (MIT), Ufuk Akcigit, (University of Chicago), and Refet Gürkaynak (Bilkent).

**“Society Changing Ideas-Founding of Turkey”**, Moderator: Can Erbil (Boston College), Panelists: Ayşen Candaş (Boğaziçi University and Yale), Mehmet Derviş Kılınçkaya (Hacettepe), Çağdas Şirin (Chobani) and İlhan Başgöz (Indiana Uni)

**“Disruptive Information Technologies”**, Moderator: Charles DeLisi (Boston University), Panelists: Feyzi Çelik (OnePin), Deniz Kural (Seven Bridges), and Yalçın Ayaslı (TCF).

**“Challenges and Opportunities in Turkish Academia”**, Panelists: Can Simga-Muşan (İzmir Ekonomi Uni), Yıldırım Üçtuğ (Atılım Uni), and Esra Gençtürk (Özyeğin University).

**“Research Universities in Turkey”**, Moderator: Haluk Özen (Hacettepe), Panelists: İbrahim Uslan (Gazi), Mustafa Verşan Kök (METU), and Mehmed Özkan (Boğaziçi)



## TASSA'18 Young Scholar Awards

During the conference, TASSA announced two new awards for the first time, namely the Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin awards, to strengthen TASSA's commitment to the exciting Young-Scholar Award Program. Both Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin are inspirational leaders and long-term supporters of TASSA, and through these new awards, their prestigious legacy will continue to inspire, motivate and honor the very best of the next generation of scientists, scholars, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

At the TASSA'2018 Conference, the winners of these Awards were as follows:

- Aziz Sancar Award: Semir Beyaz, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL), (Postdoctoral Scholar)
- Kenan Şahin Award: Ahmet Coşkun, Stanford University, (Postdoctoral Scholar)
- Young Scholar Awards (YSA):
  - Can Bayram, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Junior Faculty)
  - Umut A. Gürkan, Case Western Reserve University, (Junior Faculty)
  - Papatya Kaner, Tufts University, (Graduate Student)
  - Merve Doğan, Northwestern University, (Graduate Student)
  - Aycan Adrian Corum, Cornell University, (Graduate Student)
  - Beste Mutlu, Harvard University, (Graduate Student)

The winners were selected from a pool of applicants in three distinct categories: (i) graduate students, (ii) postdoctoral scholars and researchers from academia and industry, and (iii) junior faculty. For each category, qualified applicants were nominated from all four branches of TASSA, namely Engineering & Applied Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences as well as Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities. Applications were submitted online and self-nominations were also accepted.

The selection process was extremely challenging and exciting due to the high quality and volume of the applicants. The award selection committee was composed of leading scholars in various diverse fields. The committee members were: Aydoğan Özcan (Chair), Bülent Başol, Banu Onaral, M. Selim Ünlü, Gökhan Hotamışlıgil, Mehmet Toner, Paul Weiss, Esen Ercan Alp, Dani Rodrik, Haluk Ünal, and Ayşe İmrohoroglu.

## TASSA President's Service Awards 2018

During TASSA 2018 Conference the President of TASSA, Haluk Ünal, honored six TASSA members with the TASSA President's Service Awards. The winners of the TASSA President's Service Awards 2018 were:

- Esen Ercan Alp, Staff Member, Argonne National Laboratory
- Burhanettin Sandıkçı, Professor of Finance and Business Economics, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California
- Hüseyin Abut, Professor Emeritus, Electrical and Computer Engineering, San Diego State University
- Aydoğan Özcan, Chancellor's Professor and HHMI Professor, Electrical Engineering, UCLA
- Banu Onaral, H. H. Sun Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Drexel University
- Mehmet Toner, Helen Andrus Benedict Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Haluk Ünal also honored İlhan Başgöz with Honorary Membership Award, who is Professor Emeritus of Central Eurasian Studies and Professor Emeritus of Folklore at Indiana University.

## Expert Opinion

One of the important features of The Bridge is the expert opinions of our members on their research specialty. We had two such stories published in The Bridge:

Winter 2018:	Canan Dağdeviren on Miniaturized Neural Drug delivery System (MiNDS)
	Bulent Başol on a new and powerful semiconductor metrology technology ALPro
Fall 2018:	Ahmet Kuyumcu on Revenue Management

## Interviews with Young Scholars

Winter 2018:	Beste Mutlu
Fall 2018:	Can Bayram

## 6. Accomplishments of the Diaspora

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- Gökhan Hotamışlıgil received the 2018 EASD–Novo Nordisk Foundation Diabetes Prize for Excellence for his outstanding research that led to the groundbreaking knowledge about the relationship between obesity and diabetes and potential paths for treatment.
- M. Pınar Mengüç, head of the Mechanical Engineering Department and the director of the Center for Energy, Environment, and Economy (CEEE) at Özyeğin University in Istanbul, be honored by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).
- Turkish Economists' Work Is Recognized by the Journal of Political Economy (JPE), probably the most prominent journal in economics, published a retrospective issue to celebrate its 125th anniversary. Two Turkish economists, Ufuk Akcigit and Ali Hortacsu, who are faculty members at the University of Chicago, contributed to the issue and research by three Turkish economists, Daron Acemoğlu, Ufuk Akcigit, and Ayşe İmrohoroğlu, were discussed at length.
- New NSF CENTER will help to improve health in underserved communities: TASSA Board member, Aydoğan Özcan, works on new technologies for helping people with low-income, who have diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
- Top Turkish popular science podcast "Bahri Karaçay ile Bilim (Science with Bahri Karaçay) just celebrated its 100th episode.
- TASSA held elections for four Board Member positions on September 30, 2018. Hüseyin Abut, Hasan Ayaz, Bülent Başol, and Ayşe İmrohoroğlu were the elected members. In the new structure of Executive Committee, Sebahattin Demirkan became the new treasure of TASSA.



## 7. TASSA Organizational Chart, Members of the Board and Committees

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### Board of Directors

#### President and Chairman of the Board

Haluk Ünal                      Professor, Finance, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland

#### Board Members

Hüseyin Abut                      Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, San Diego State University

Ercan Alp                      Staff Member, Argonne National Laboratory

Hasan Ayaz                      Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, Drexel University

Bülent Başol                      Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Encore Solar

Ayşe İmrohoroğlu                      Professor of Finance and Business Economics,  
Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California

Aydoğan Özcan                      Chancellor's Professor & HHMI Professor, Electrical Engineering, UCLA

Candan Tamerler                      Wesley Cramer Professor,  
Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Kansas

Mehmet Toner                      Helen Andrus Benedict Professor, Biomedical Engineering,  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School,  
and Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

#### Board Committees

##### Nominating Committee

Ayşe İmrohoroğlu                      University of Southern California

Mehmet Toner                      Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Aydoğan Özcan                      UCLA

## Audit Committee

Bülent Başol  
İşıl Erel  
Ferhat Esen

Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Encore Solar  
David A. Rismiller Chair in Finance, the Ohio State University  
Senior Energy Finance Specialist, the World Bank

## Executive Committee

### President and Chairman of the Board

Haluk Ünal

Professor, Department of Finance, University of Maryland

### Vice Presidents

Kerem Coşar  
Canan Dağdeviren

Associate Professor of Economics, University of Virginia  
Assistant Professor at MIT Media Lab

Managing Director  
Vacant

Treasurer  
Sebahattin Demirkan

Associate Professor of Accounting, Manhattan College

Editor  
Ergun Akleman

Professor at the Department of Visualization, Texas A&M

Communication Director  
Bedriye Akson

MBA, Bentley University

### Representative at European Diaspora

Tuba Fehr

Science and Technology Policy Fellow, AAAS

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