

TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of TASSA,



Year 2019 marks two important events for TASSA. The first is the election of the new President of TASSA, Professor Candan Tamerler. Professor Tamerler will assume the presidential duties in March 2020. The second is the appointment of Professor Hasan Ayaz to chair the TASSA Conference to be held at Drexel University. The exact timing of the conference is not set due to many uncertainties surrounding us.

Therefore, I am writing to you for the last time as the President of TASSA. It has been an honor and privilege to serve TASSA for over 10 years. During this time, I have met exceptional people and have greatly benefited from their support. I thank you all. TASSA is an amazing organization with incredible potential to mobilize the resources and the strength of the Turkish science diaspora for the benefit of Turkey and the United States. The TASSA Boards that I have presided over have strived to achieve this goal.

The flagship activities of TASSA are the biannual conferences that bring together scientists, scholars, and students from both the United States and Turkey. I am very proud of helping to organize four conferences during my term. Sincere thanks go to the hundreds of volunteers and organizers for spending countless hours to facilitate these conferences; to hundreds of speakers who shared their research, thoughts, and experiences; and to almost two thousand scientists and scholars who participated; all of which created festive multidisciplinary scientific events. I am grateful for generous funding support from numerous universities and science organizations from Turkey and universities, corporations, and individuals from the United States. I am proud to say that as I leave, TASSA is financially healthy and has a very strong balance sheet.

In closing, I must say a few words about our new President. The TASSA Board has elected a remarkable young scientist in Professor Tamerler to preside over the organization for the next four years. Professor Tamerler is a consensus builder, top-notch researcher, and a caring scholar. I have the utmost confidence in Professor Tamerler that she can carry this organization to new heights.

I wish all of you many successes in your work.

Sincerely,

Haluk Unal

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Haluk Unal". The signature is written in a cursive style.

2. Board of Directors, Executive Committee Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic</u>
July, 2019	Election of new President
September, 2019	Appointment of Hasan Ayaz to chair the TASSA conference at Drexel
November, 2019	Formation of the Program Committee

3. Membership Activities

- TASSA became active in Facebook as of 2015, currently the number of followers is 1.158.
- In 2019 TASSA website on average received 1,513 hits, 328 visits and 621 page views per day. Average unique visitor per day is 252. Maximum page view in one day was 3,225 and maximum visit 376.

Date	Page Views	Visits	Hits	Bandwidth
12/18/2019	814	376	3,225	62.9 M

Date	Visitors	Unique Visitors	New Visitors	Return Visits
10/2/2019	717	553	305	24
2/14/2019	710	503	186	317

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 2019.



TASSA Newsletter The Bridge - Volume 10, Summer 2019

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- [TASSA News](#)
 - [TASSA Board Elects the Next Chairman and President](#)
 - [Save the Date: TASSA 2020 Conference at Drexel University](#)
 - [TASSA Annual Report](#)
- [Turkish Science Diaspora](#)
 - [Daron Acemoglu Named MIT Institute Professor](#)
 - [The First-of-a-kind Research Center in the World](#)
 - [Hayat Onyuksel is Selected as an AIMBE College of Fellows Class of 2019](#)
- [News From Turkey](#)
 - [Medical Nail for Femur Fractures is Developed by Turkish Doctors](#)
 - [Octocopter Named Drone is Designed by Bursa Technical University](#)
 - [Sultans of Turkiye Won a Prestigious Robotics Award in Houston](#)
 - [Turkish Students Received 3 Gold and 2 Silver Medals in the European Physics Olympiad](#)
 - [Research Outputs of Turkey](#)
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 - [Ergun Akleman on Space Filling Structures](#)
- [Young Scholar of the Month](#)
 - [Ahmet Coskun](#)

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.

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 current number of individuals, who received the newsletter is 5,014. The open rate is 30% on mobile devices and 70% on desktop/laptops.

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:

Summer 2019: Ergun Akleman on Space Filling Structures

Interviews with Young Scholars

Summer 2019:
Ahmet Coşkun

5. Accomplishments of the Diaspora

- Economist Daron Acemođlu, whose far-ranging research agenda has produced influential studies about government, innovation, labor, and globalization, has been named Institute Professor, MIT's highest faculty honor.
- The first-of-a-kind research center in the world to identify and characterized the common biological mechanism in heart failure and Alzheimer's disease is co-directed by Önder Albayram.
- The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) has announced the induction of Prof. Hayat Önyüksel to its College of Fellows. Election to the AIMBE College of Fellows is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to a medical and biological engineer.
- Canan Dađdeviren has been selected to participate in NAE's 2019 US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium.
- National Academy of Medicine Elected 100 New Members. Our board member, Mehmet Toner, Ph.D., Helen Andrus Benedict Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown has been elected for creating microfluidic devices with "real life" clinical applications in cancer diagnosis, prenatal diagnosis, regenerative medicine, and tissue engineering.

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President and Chairman of the Board

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

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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

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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

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Mehmet Toner Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Aydoğan Özcan UCLA

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Işıl Erel
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Senior Energy Finance Specialist, the World Bank

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President and Chairman of the Board

Haluk Ünal

Professor, Department of Finance, University of Maryland

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Canan Dağdeviren

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Assistant Professor at MIT Media Lab

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