

EDITORIAL

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In the previous issue, I referred to a series of broad consultations that I conducted with the IJTAF community in 2022 as part of my transition into the role of Editor-in-Chief. These discussions generated many invaluable suggestions that I have begun to implement in 2023. One particularly promising idea was to create an award to recognize the best paper published in the Journal within a calendar year. I am delighted to report that World Scientific, our publisher, has agreed to support an annual Best Paper Award with a cash prize of USD 1000 to be divided equally between the authors of the winning paper. Needless to say, the cash prize is only a small part of the reward for what I hope will become an established and prestigious award, providing further incentive for high-quality submissions to IJTAF, especially by early career researchers seeking to increase the exposure and impact of their work.

In discussions with the Editorial Board, we determined that the optimal procedure for the selection of the award winner would be as follows: The Editor-in-Chief, who has the final say on all accepted papers, prepares a list of candidate papers and nominates them to the Managing Editors, who have the opportunity to make further nominations; each Managing Editor then indicates their preferred paper, as well as a potential runner-up and provides a short explanation for their choices; the Editor-in-Chief collects all the preferences and makes a recommendation for the winner, seeking consensus within the Managing Editors whenever possible.

I am very happy to announce that, following the steps outlined above, the winner for the 2022 IJTAF Best Paper Award is *Accounting Noise and the Pricing of CoCos*, Vol. 25, No. 7 & 8 (2022), 2250028 (60 pages) by Mike Derksen, Peter Spreij, and Sweder van Wijnbergen. In the view of the Editorial Board, the paper presents a well-balanced blend of theory and practice, addressing a relevant question — namely, how to price Contingent Convertible bonds in a realistic setting where information is conveyed to markets through noisy accounting reports — with rigorous mathematics and application to data.

The two runners-up were, in no specific order: *Optimal Cross-currency Mortgage Decisions*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (2022), 2250010 (31 pages), by Eva Lütkebohmert, Thorsten Schmidt, and Tianjiao Zhu; and *Short Selling with Margin Risk and Recall Risk*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (2022), 2250007 (33 pages), by Kristoffer Glover and Hardy Hulley.

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All three papers will be available as free access on the Journal website through 2023. Many congratulations to all the authors!

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge another major change at IJTAF: After being in charge of the administration of the Journal since its creation in 1998, shortly after joining the publisher in 1997, Yubing Zhai stepped down from her role as VP/Executive Editor at World Scientific to pursue an opportunity as Editor with ACM Journals. Yubing has been a key supporter of all past Editors-in-Chief of IJTAF and it is not without a touch of sadness that I see her leave the team. Please join me in sincerely thanking Yubing for her exemplary service to the International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Finance and wishing her great success in her new endeavors.