Duke UNIVERSITY

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December 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD). The pivotal role that TKDD plays in the evolving landscape of Knowledge Discovery from Data (KDD) inspires my vision for its future, and I am eager to contribute to its ongoing success.

The rapid development of KDD over the past two decades, coupled with the recent disruptive breakthroughs in AI and machine learning, presents both challenges and unprecedented opportunities. One of the paramount challenges is managing the exponential growth in research articles, particularly in the domain of machine learning, which risks inundating and overshadowing many reputable publication venues. Navigating this complex landscape while ensuring TKDD maintains its status as the flagship journal in data science and data mining is a formidable challenge for the incoming EIC.

My multifaceted vision for TKDD focuses on three crucial dimensions:

1. **Comprehensive Collaboration with ACM SIGKDD and the KDD Conference**: To forge a symbiotic relationship between TKDD, ACM SIGKDD, and the KDD Conference, creating a more integrated and comprehensive publication platform. This entails the introduction of a visionary approach by incorporating a new category of vision articles in TKDD. Authors of such articles would be invited to present vision talks at the KDD conference, thereby establishing a dynamic and reciprocal relationship. Moreover, there is an opportunity to enhance the quality of the tutorial program at the KDD conference by considering tutorial submissions that are accompanied by a survey article published or under consideration by TKDD. The creation of a dedicated TKDD journal track at the KDD conference, highlighting selected articles from TKDD, would further solidify this collaboration and benefit both the journal and the conference.

2. **Distinctive Focus on Systems, End-to-End solutions with Applications**: Acknowledging the unique strength of TKDD and the KDD area lies in its practical connection with systems and applications. My strategy involves revitalizing this connection by actively encouraging submissions that emphasize systems, data sets, benchmarking, and end-to-end solutions. This strategic shift aims to distinguish TKDD from competing journals, positioning it as a nexus between theoretical advancements and real-world applications. Additionally, exploring innovative collaborations with emerging venues, such as arXiv, will be pursued to attract a broader range of high-quality submissions.

3. **Evolution of Submission and Publication Processes**: Addressing the shortcomings of the current review process is paramount. I advocate for an exploration of the open-review model to foster greater transparency and interaction between authors and reviewers. Beyond publication, the journey of a paper should not conclude; instead, TKDD should actively encourage post-publication interactions. This may involve facilitating follow-up comments, encouraging iterative discussions and extensions, and fostering ongoing discussions among the TKDD community. Such an approach not only enriches the scholarly discourse but also ensures that published work remains relevant and impactful.

In light of the evolving landscape of academic publications and the challenges faced by journals in retaining readership, I propose the establishment of an advisory committee and a SIGKDD liaison. This strategic move, regardless of the EIC selection, serves dual purposes:

- **The advisory committee**: Dedicated to the ongoing evaluation and upgrading of TKDD's directions and strategies, ensuring alignment with the evolving needs of the KDD community.
- **The SIGKDD liaison**: Focused on exploring and streamlining collaboration between the KDD conference and TKDD, maximizing the synergies between these two pivotal entities.

With a wealth of experience spanning over 20 years in the KDD area, including roles as the former chair of SIGKDD and the former EIC of IEEE TKDE, I bring a unique perspective that aligns with the challenges and opportunities TKDD faces. I am confident that my expertise can contribute significantly to steering TKDD towards new heights.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my application. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing to TKDD's continued success and am available for further discussions.

Sincerely,

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