

IEEE CIS VP-Members Activities Vision Statement

It will be my great pleasure to serve as *Vice-President for Member Activities* (VP MA) of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) for the period 2019–2020.

My initial contact with computational intelligence was as a PhD student in Computer Science at Tulane University (in USA) in the mid-1990s. My PhD thesis focused on a field which is now called evolutionary multi-objective optimization which was at its early stages at that time. During my PhD studies, I decided to become a student member of the IEEE and I have remained as a member since then. In 1999, I attended the *IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation*, and I liked it so much the atmosphere and the interaction that I had with other attendants that I have continued to attend all but one of its further editions (I only missed the 2001 edition, which took place in South Korea). My formal involvement with the CIS started in 2005, when I accepted the invitation of David Fogel to become a member-at-large for the IEEE CIS Membership Committee. Since then, I have been a member of several committees and sub-committees, including the *Nominations Committee*, the *Awards Committee* and the *IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Award Committee*. Additionally, I was the *General Chair* of the *2013 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation* (which took place in Cancún, México), and I have also been the *Chair* of the *Evolutionary Computation Technical*

Committee, the *Distinguished Lecturers Program* and the *Strategic Planning Sub-Committee for Technical Activities*. Furthermore, I was elected as a member-at-large of the *IEEE CIS Administrative Committee* (AdCom) for the period 2016–2018.

Clearly, membership is the heart of the IEEE CIS, and the VP MA is responsible for serving its more than 7,300 valuable members through a number of activities aimed to provide them with a nice atmosphere that provides appropriate and extensive networking and which helps them for their career development. Under “Member Activities” there are 12 sub-committees, which focus on a wide variety of activities, some of which will be briefly described next.

The *Chapters Sub-Committee* is responsible for overseeing and promoting the development of CIS Chapters all over the world. Chapters are the soul of the CIS and constitute our main source of membership. Therefore, one of my priorities will be to increase the number of Chapters particularly in regions in which they are scarce. Additionally, I will also encourage the possible collaboration and a higher involvement of the members in the activities that the CIS offers. Needless to say, it is very important that Chapters remain active (e.g., by organizing conferences, invited talks, etc.) and that they exploit the resources that the CIS has available for them. One example of such resources is the *Distinguished Lecturers Program*. This Program (which runs under a Sub-Committee of Member Activities) allows Chapters to invite world-leading computational

intelligence researchers to deliver talks using a scheme by which the plane ticket of the Distinguished Lecturer is covered by the CIS and the Chapter only needs to cover his/her local expenses.

The *Students Activities Sub-Committee* develops activities for undergraduate and graduate students who are CIS members. The CIS also provides travel grants to support students and researchers from developing countries to attend our main conferences.

The *Young Professionals Sub-Committee* supports professionals who graduated within the past ten years so that they can develop a very successful career. Member Activities also has a Sub-Committee to promote the elevation to *Senior Member* (for those members having at least 10 years of experience) or to *IEEE Fellow* (for members who have had an outstanding performance), which is the highest-level recognition given to an IEEE member.

The *Women in Computational Intelligence Sub-Committee* develops and organizes activities for promoting equal opportunities and rights for both genders.

The *Social Media Sub-Committee* promotes the use of social networks among our members, and also promotes CIS membership and activities.

The *Webinars Sub-Committee* develops and organizes webinars to disseminate knowledge on hot topics related to computational intelligence (free of charge) to our members.

The *Industry Liaison Sub-Committee*, promotes the transfer of computational intelligence technologies from researchers

in academic institutions and industrial laboratories to industries, entrepreneurs and government agencies. It also allows companies to announce job opportunities for CIS members.

As the new VP MA, one of the main challenges that I will face will be to retain and increase our membership, for which I plan to place a particular emphasis in the high potential available at areas such as the Latin America and the Asia-Pacific regions in which there is a growing interest in computational intelligence. For this task, I will build upon the excellent work done by

my predecessor, Dr. Pau-Choo (Julia) Chung, who has also been of great help to make this transition as smooth as possible.

I will also encourage a higher involvement of our members in CIS activities, with the aim of making them feel that they are part of a valuable Society that looks after its members, by supporting them, encouraging networking and helping them to develop their careers. I am convinced that the more they get involved, the more they will appreciate the value of their CIS membership, while contributing to the

development of computational intelligence and the IEEE.

Clearly, the IEEE CIS has a lot to offer for those eager to get involved and I encourage all CIS members to get the maximum benefit from their membership. For more information about the CIS and to get involved in some of the many activities that we have for you, please feel free to contact me at: ccoello@cs.cinvestav.mx

If you are not a member yet, please look at the many opportunities that you are missing and join CIS as soon as possible. I can assure you that it is worth doing it!

Marios M. Polycarpou
IEEE CIS 2018 Awards Committee Chair,
University of Cyprus, CYPRUS

2019 IEEE CIS Awards

Neural Networks Pioneer Award

Yoshua Bengio

University of Montreal, CANADA

For fundamental contributions to neural network based natural language processing.



Recognized as one of the world's leading experts in artificial intelligence and a pioneer in deep learning, Yoshua Bengio studied in Montreal, earned his Ph.D. in computer science from McGill University in 1991, and did post-doctoral studies at MIT.

Since 1993, he has been a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Operations Research at the

Université de Montréal, and he holds the Canada Research Chair in Statistical Learning Algorithms. In addition, he is the Scientific Director of IVADO and Mila, the Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute, the world's largest deep learning academic research group.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, he is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the recipient of the Marie-Victorin Prize in 2017, and was named Radio-Canada's Scientist of the Year for 2017. In 2018, he was awarded the 50th anniversary medal of Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie.

Yoshua Bengio is one of the world's most cited computer scientists, thanks to his three books and more than 500 publications. His h-index stands at 129, with more than 142,000 Google

Scholar citations. His ambition is to understand the principles that lead to intelligence through learning, as well as promote the development of artificial intelligence for the benefit of all.

Fuzzy Systems Pioneer Award

Hisao Ishibuchi

Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), CHINA

For contributions to fuzzy rule-based classifier design.



Hisao Ishibuchi is currently a Chair Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SUSTech, China. After completing his MS studies on precision mechanics in Kyoto University in 1987, he joined