

## IEEE CIS VP-Conferences Vision Statement

It is my pleasure and a great honor to serve as Vice President for Conferences of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (IEEE CIS). High-quality conferences are indeed one of the main opportunities for researchers and students to present their work and create an innovative networking environment. Together with Conference Committee members, I will put all my effort into continuing the excellent work done by previous VP Conferences in the past years, ensuring the best environment to conference organizers so they can provide attendees an excellent experience both in terms of scientific content and networking.

One of my first activities related to the IEEE CIS was the creation of the Rio Chapter in 2011, serving as the founding Chapter Chair for five consecutive years. During these years, I organized several invited talks to publicize the Computational Intelligence area and the IEEE CIS mission.

However, attending and organizing conferences have always been one of my priorities. After organizing special sessions and being a member of the organizing committee of various international conferences, my first experience as General Chair was in 2005, of the Fifth International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Specifically for IEEE CIS, my involvement in the organization of conferences started in 2011, as International Chair for South & Central America of IJCNN 2011, in San Jose, USA, and Program Chair of IJCNN 2013, in Dallas, culminating as General Chair of IEEE WCCI

2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More recently, I have served in different CIS Conference Committees, first as Chair of the IEEE CIS Technically Co-Sponsored Conferences Sub-Committee and then as Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee, in addition to being a member of the IEEE CIS Bid Sub-Committee and the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. These previous experiences allowed me to better understand how CIS runs its flagship conferences and technical cosponsored conferences. They also gave me a better idea of the difficulties encountered by conferences organizers, from the preparation of bids and budgets, to the final organization of the approved conference. Organizing a conference involves a lot of time and dedication. CIS will be eternally grateful to the volunteer work of the General Chairs and all organizing committee members who have put a lot of effort to keep the high standard of our conferences.

Based on the excellent work done by Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier and Gary Fogel in recent years, as the past VP-Conferences, the structure of the Conference Committee will be maintained with the following sub-committees:

- ❑ Future Conferences
- ❑ Conference Finance
- ❑ Conference Bids
- ❑ Technical Co-Sponsorships
- ❑ Conference Activities and Communications
- ❑ Strategic Planning

All these sub-committees have key roles in the organization, planning and definition of new strategies for CIS conferences.

Future Conferences Sub-committee is responsible to plan future CIS events,

looking for proposals for either the society's main conferences, such as the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (IEEE WCCI) and the IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence (IEEE SSCI), or other smaller size but, nonetheless, important conferences that complete the spectrum of the CIS core activities. Some of these smaller conferences include IEEE CIFE on Financial Engineering and Economics, IEEE CIBCB on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, IEEE CIVEMSA on Virtual Environments for Measurement Systems and Applications, IEEE ICDL-EpiRob on Development and Learning & Epigenetic Robotics, IEEE CISDA on Security and Defense Applications, IEEE BESC on Behavioral, Economics, and Socio-Cultural Computing, and IEEE DSAA on Data Sciences and Advanced Analytics. The IEEE World Congress of Computational Intelligence (IEEE WCCI), on the other hand, is the largest technical event organized by CIS. IEEE WCCI, held on even years, congregates researchers and students from all areas under the Computational Intelligence roof, hosting the three flagship conferences of CIS: the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), the IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE), and the IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (IEEE CEC), which are separately organized in odd years. IEEE WCCI encourages cross-fertilization of ideas among the three big areas of CIS and provides a forum for intellectuals from all over the world to discuss and present their research findings on computational intelligence. IEEE WCCI also incorporates special sessions on cross-disciplinary and

CI applications areas, which allow the organization of hybrid sessions, outlining research topics of a variety of computational intelligence techniques. The next IEEE WCCI meetings will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, and Padova, Italy in 2020 and 2022, respectively. The IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence (IEEE SSCI) is another important CIS conference, held every year around December. IEEE SSCI is organized as an association of more than twenty symposia. IEEE SSCI 2020 will be organized in Canberra, Australia, and IEEE SSCI 2021 will be in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Conference Finance and Conference Bids Sub-Committees are responsible to evaluate the proposed budgets and bids received from potential organizers. Careful preparation of a bid and its associated budget is a very important step to a successful approval and realization of a conference. The Conference Committee provides all the support and advice to help General Chairs. Instructions for the preparation of proposals are available on the CIS website (<https://cis.ieee.org/conferences/conference-proposals>). We are preparing a new document to be uploaded on CIS website, to further facilitate the work of general chairs. This document will contain guidelines to prepare the budget Excel file, explaining in details the CIS rules regarding conference budgets and the important entries that need to be included to achieve a successful

event. We are also preparing a guide to better help conference chairs in all steps of the organization.

Technical Co-Sponsorship Sub-Committee deals with the evaluation of proposals of various other conferences that are handled by local organizations with a technically co-sponsorship from CIS, expanding the participation of CIS to other related topics and countries.

Strategic Planning Sub-committee is where new ideas are proposed and discussed. One of the new strategies being discussed in this Sub-Committee is the organization of an Industry Focused Conference ("CI Expo") with industry applications of CI/AI/machine learning. CIS conferences should be promoted and associated with the new wave of Artificial Intelligence. These actions can contribute to CIS's overall growth in terms of membership and volunteers' participation, as well as attracting young entrepreneurs to join our society. We will continue to support this important initiative, providing all the necessary support to consolidate the Industry Focused Conference, in order to increase the participation of companies' personnel; improve sponsorship from industries; attract young entrepreneurs – startups to find capital investment; and increase the participation of students – find employment opportunities.

There are some other important issues that need to be considered and discussed. It is important to define efficient strategies to attract younger talents

to get involved in conference activities. It is essential to propose and promote actions to train and get younger professionals to serve in conference organization roles so that they can lead our flagship conferences in the future.

Another key issue is to continue our aim to increase the participation of women in the IEEE CIS Conference leadership. We are definitely committed to keeping looking for new strategies to obtain a more gender balance in the leadership of CIS conferences, as well as in their organizing committees. We encourage and promote women to contribute in all capacities, giving them the same visibility as men.

As already mentioned by previous VP Conferences, the most important component of our conferences is their scientific quality. Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to keep the highest attention to a very strict reviewing process, performed by Program and Conference chairs with the help of Technical Co-Chairs, on the basis of expert review reports. We will continue to improve the online submission and reviewing systems, providing authors, reviewers and Program Chairs a suitable and user-friendly environment to guarantee a high scientific program for CIS conferences.

I would like to stress that I am available and open to receiving suggestions, comments and new ideas to improve CIS conferences. All are more than welcome to contact me directly at [marley@ele.puc-rio.br](mailto:marley@ele.puc-rio.br).

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## IEEE CIS VP-Technical Activities Vision Statement

**I**t is my great pleasure and honor to serve as Vice President for Technical Activities of the IEEE Computa-

tional Intelligence Society (IEEE CIS) for the period 2020–21. And I am extremely fortunate in doing so after my predecessor, Hussein Abbass, who did an excellent job in starting quite important initiatives as the successful IEEE CIS

Technical Challenge as well as redefining some operational aspects of the Technical Activities Committee.

I have been an IEEE member for a long time, since I was an engineering student interested in Artificial Intelligence