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After Two Years



This is my last message to you as President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, after two years of living with the pandemic. What happened during these two years? Progress has been made on our priorities.

A first priority is the relation with Artificial Intelligence. The IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence has been launched in 2020, three issues have been published in this first year and 6 are expected in 2021. Thanks to our past President Nikhil Pal for initiating the collaboration with our four partner societies to create this journal establishing more than ever the intertwining of Computational Intelligence with Artificial Intelligence, and thanks to its founding editor-in-chief Hussein Abbass. To complete our interactions with Artificial Intelligence, the first IEEE Conference on Artificial Intelligence will be organized in the Santa Clara Valley, USA, in June 2023, led by the CIS.

Another of our priorities is the diversity in all its forms in our activities.

Regarding diversity in the sector of activity, we have focused for two years on strengthening relationships with industry, with the hope to have more members from industry involved in the life of the Society, being promoted to senior and fellow grades, participating in technical committees and conference organization. Two surveys have been sent to all CIS members to identify the expectations of all categories of members, depending on their gender, their age and experience, their geographical origin and more specifically their industrial, governmental or academic position. Their results have already been taken into account to the extent possible. A major event in this regard is the decision of the CIS Administrative Committee to create a new Committee for Industrial and Governmental Activities, starting in January 2021, with Piero Bonissone as the founding Vice President. There is no doubt that this committee will present a new vision of Computational Intelligence, highlighting real world applications, proposing standards, and participating in ethical achievements of Artificial Intelligence.

Another aspect of diversity, gender balance, is a tradition of the CIS. This year, 30% of CIS Distinguished Lecturers are women, around 40% of CIS subcommittee and technical chairs are women, 50% of the CIS Executive Committee are women, an exceptional participation of women in management positions. According to the IEEE Women in Engineering pledge that we decided to support in 2020, the organizers of CIS sponsored conferences and events work to invite panelists, keynote and plenary speakers of both genders.

An effort is also done to involve CIS members from all regions and special attention is given to the region of chairs and members of subcommittees, standing and technical committees in order to take into account all parts of the world. CIS sponsored conferences are organized every year around the world. The IEEE Latin American Conference on Computational Intelligence is a prototype of a regional conference allowing local CIS chapters to have a common activity. Chapters are

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clearly a major component of the CIS. They have been provided with financial supports and guidance, including through calls for project proposals. Chapter projects supporting diversity in gender, age and expertise and industry are clearly welcome. Last but not least, students and young professionals have been the object of all the attention of the CIS Executive Committee, with for instance a first CIS Student chapter Forum.

It has been my privilege to be the president of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society and I am really grateful to all the officers for their outstanding leadership and activity during these two years: the Vice President for Finance Pablo Estevez who steered the ship through the storm of the pan-

demic, the Vice President for Conferences Marley Vellasco who had the heavy task, with all CIS conference organizers, to successfully manage CIS sponsored conferences at a time when no face-to-face meetings were possible, the Vice President for Technical Activities Luis Magdalena for his rigorous and dynamic management of technical committees and of the CIS grand challenge, the successive Vice Presidents for Publications, James Keller and Kay Chen Tan, as well as all our Editors in Chief, for the universally recognized quality of CIS publications, the successive Vice Presidents for Member Activities, Carlos Coello Coello and Sanaz Mostaghim for their active participation in the achievement of several of the priorities I mentioned, the succes-

sive Vice Presidents for Education Simon Lucas and Pau-Choo (Julia) Chung for developing innovative education resources in Computational Intelligence. Many thanks also to Jo-Ellen Snyder and Tom Compton for their constant support.

I will not conclude this last message without congratulating all the awardees recognized for the quality of their work by various CIS awards in 2020 and 2021. They are the pride of our Society. Finally, I express my appreciation to all of you who have participated in CIS conferences despite their virtual form and who have contributed to all CIS activities, making the CIS a brilliant and enthusiastic network.



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