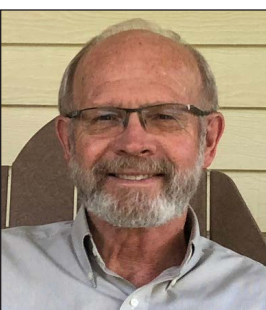


The last few years have been a time of great change for the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (IMS). I know that's said frequently now, but I think our story deserves a bit more detail. Outside forces created extraordinary challenges for the IMS Administrative Committee (AdCom). New strategies were required for nearly everything we do. Fortunately, we had the people and procedures in place to adjust our strategy.



Conferences

The I&M AdCom sees great value in face-to-face meetings in which our colleagues share ideas broadly. Prior to COVID the rules for our eight financially-sponsored conferences included the requirement that at least one author be physically present to discuss the paper results with the audience.

We highly recommended author presence for the ten technically-co-sponsored conferences as well. Without travel that rule became impossible. Instead, we worked with Conference Catalysts to select and adapt a virtual conference platform with maximum opportunity for remote participation and took most conferences virtual. The result was two years of virtual or hybrid conferences where authors worked across time zones to present and discuss papers for the most diverse audience possible.

The AdCom struggled with this compromise, but in the end, it was far better than canceling our conferences altogether. Participation was lower than in previous years, but the opportunity for technical exchange was preserved. We are now in the process of designing the new normal. Valuing diversity and personal interchange, each conference is adapted for the unique circumstances of participating regions, and timely decisions for in-person and virtual presentations are made by the conference committee to assure continued diversity while encouraging in-person participation. It gets complicated, but providing a richer idea exchange remains our seminal goal. We even piloted a hybrid distributed conference that combines virtual presentations with multiple in-person conference/workshop sites to maximize the regional experience of a world-wide conference.

I encourage you to register for one of our conferences. Keep an eye on our website for conference information and paper submission details: <https://ieee-ims.org/>.

Publications

Our publications continue to be recognized for their excellence. *Instrumentation & Measurement Magazine* ranks well in comparison to other publications and is now distributed electronically to increase access. We want our instrumentation and measurement (I&M) culture as well as our technology to benefit engineers and their allies worldwide. Themed content focuses on subjects of importance, today with in-depth articles beyond the headlines.

The *Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement* (TIM) also became an on-line only publication. TIM is the number one journal in the world with so many submissions of high-quality papers that the already large staff of editors and reviewers needed increasing again! The strategy of quality, quality, quality has been extremely successful and has maintained the financial stability of the society even as conferences have struggled.

The actions of the European Coalition called Plan S requires authors in some countries and institutions to submit papers only to Open Access journals that charge the author to publish rather than using the traditional charge for access model. In response to that need, the IMS has created a new gold open access *IEEE Open Journal of Instrumentation and Measurement* (OJIM) which is up and running. Providing this option while dealing with the tidal wave of submissions for TIM was met by expanding our editorial staff yet again.

Our editorial teams are maintaining and growing TIM as well as OJIM, so check out the links on the IMS website and submit your papers soon.

Benefits

Prudent management of expenses and an increase of income thanks to the astonishing success of TIM have put the IMS on sound financial footing. As volunteers themselves, the AdCom fully understands the effort of many members to build the profession of I&M, and we recognize that it is entrusted to us to spend wisely for the benefit of members. To that end, we have increased the award and grant funding. Through awards, we recognize the leadership by example of those in

our profession who best personify the ideals written in our Vision. You can find our Vision, and Mission in our Strategic Plan which is under “About” on the society website: <https://ieee-ims.org/about/ieee-ims>. It is our Vision to “Be the premier international professional Society in the Instrumentation and Measurement (I&M) fields.” And in our Mission, a key to our plan is identified as: “Serve as the professional incubator for the growth of all (particularly younger) members.” Raising up examples is important to spreading the culture of I&M.

In light of those goals, we have increased travel funding for award winners. This will encourage them to personally attend an I&M conference to receive recognition, which in turn will bring them into contact with other members. That contact will naturally promote future cooperation and mentorship. We have also increased travel funding for students to attend conferences. This is the other half of the formula for the future of I&M. Our fellowship grants have also been increased to provide deeper opportunity to promising students in the profession.

I encourage all members to apply for these benefits (<https://ieee-ims.org/>) and to participate in the life of the IMS through publications, technical committees, education, and conferences. It is your society; use it!

J. Max Cortner is currently retired from Boston Scientific CRM although he consults in medical device design verification and quality control. He is a Senior Member of IEEE. As an active member of the IEEE Twin Cities Section since 1972, Max was among the founders of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Instrument and Measurement Society (IMS). He helped organize numerous local test conferences and served as General Chair for the IMTC 1998. Max was Co-Chair of I2MTC held in Minneapolis in 2013. He served on the IMS Administration Committee in the role of Education Committee Chair, I2MTC Board Chair, and as President of the IMS from 2018-2019. He now serves as Senior Past President and is in charge of the Awards Committee.