

Juan Manuel Ramirez Cortés, IMS President (2023–2024)



In this issue I would like to express our heartfelt recognition to our dear colleague Bruno Andò for his hard work and dedication as Editor-in-Chief of the *Instrumentation & Measurement Magazine* during his 5-year term that now concludes. During that period, we witnessed Bruno's initiatives to incorporate necessary changes in accordance with the requirements of our community, such as increasing the number of magazine issues published each year and presenting the publication to members in Bright Copy with a modern and functional style. Even more relevant is to highlight the planning he conducted with excellent vision to propose the various technical topics, special issues of conference papers, free topics in the I&M framework, and regular issues, as well as the arduous work to coordinate with the various associate editors and article reviewers.

May this communication serve also to convey our gratitude to our dear colleague and friend Melanie Ooi for assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief of our *Magazine* starting in January 2024. We are sure that Melanie will take on the challenge that this position presents with the high level of commitment that she usually imposes in her activities and offer the full support of the Instrumentation and Measurement Society (IMS).

As we approach the end of the year, we can see with great satisfaction how the various projects proposed in the diverse areas have taken shape and how the permanent programs evolve in a positive manner. *IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement* (TIM) keeps moving forward with an increasing number of submissions per year, on the order of several thousands, and an impact factor with positive trending.

We see with pleasure how the number of participants at our major sponsored conferences stabilized and improved over the attendance registered during the pandemic. The local activities organized in our Chapters around the world keep taking advantage of the Chapter support opportunities and IMS's Distinguished Lecturer Program for in-person actions, and so on.

A very important achievement in 2023 was having been recognized by the IEEE with the Technical Activities Board Award

for Society/Council Impact in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This award was established in 2022 to honor an IEEE society or council that has encouraged DEI by developing activities, programs, and services aiming to promote efforts in this area. The IMS is the inaugural recipient of this award. No doubt that this was the result of the participation with precise vision of many colleagues and IMS leaders to include DEI actions as the backbone of the many programs. This approach was taken not only in actions but also in the official government documents of the IMS like the Strategic Plan, The Society Handbook, and Conferences Guidelines. We can say proudly that this has been a totally intentional, strategic, and systematic approach, which has given very good results and satisfaction to the Society. This award commits the IMS to continue fostering an environment to promote an inclusive and equitable culture that welcomes, engages, and rewards the participation of our members, regardless of race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression without discrimination of any kind.

What is next for 2024? Within the numerous programs offered by the IMS, we want to put emphasis on strengthening our service and support to the professional development of our members. That approach is perfectly contained in the concept of being a *Professional Home* for our community. For many years, this has been a living principle of IEEE which the IMS has adopted as a permanent philosophy. This simple phrase has many edges in a complex context like the one of our beloved Society. A first important dimension is the nature of your professional practice, whether in academia, industry, or public service in governmental areas. Within each category there might be also several alternatives in which you may have decided to concentrate your professional development. The other very important dimension contains the several stages of professional development that occur during your career. These stages go from our first steps as undergraduate students until the golden era of the retiree community, passing through the young professional life, when we struggle to obtain a tenure position or to become the director of a research lab which may attract graduate students, postdocs, young researchers, contracts, etc. If things go well, some people may consider creating a startup and begin their own company. Dreams may come to realization when there is a convergence of opportunity, talent, and hard

work. During that journey, the IMS is ready to stand by you there as your professional home.

Whether you are an experienced practitioner in a consolidated stage or member of the retiree community, you may find satisfaction supporting future generations through mentoring work and receive recognition for your valuable contributions. Young students are eager to find opportunities which may guide their journey through the complicated options in their professional lives. For helping to reach that purpose, the IMS is there.

Some colleagues may have on their radar the need to earn professional certifications, or just to be updated through specialized courses in specific areas. Even in the vast world of educational material that the modern media may offer, the IMS is there to help you accomplish your goals.

Academic life demands the existence of professional forums through which we can disseminate our advances in the field, learn and exchange new ideas, get our students involved, and so on. The vast portfolio of our technically- and financially-sponsored conferences presents a wide spectrum of topics related to instrumentation and measurement, which we gladly put forth to the service of our members.

The need to expose new ideas to technical communities through formal communications and aim to publish new findings with strict peer reviewing may find their places in our top-level publications. For that purpose, the IMS is there.

During professional practice in industry or in some research laboratory, colleagues may face the need for and opportunity to generate a new Standard. To reach that goal, the IMS is there.

Professional life in our local communities will imminently require the need for interaction, creating links through local activities and networking. Yes, for that purpose the IMS is also there.

This brief of our vision about the many services that our Society can offer to our members constitutes the backbone of our strategic plans. It is expressed in our governing documents in the form of vision, mission, purpose, and objectives. It is also closely reflected in the organization of the Administrative

Committee in such a way that there exists a specific Standing Committee and an appointed VP who is responsible for those actions. The governing documents and the many details involved in each program can be easily found on our official webpage (<https://ieee-ims.org/>), which is constantly evolving and being updated. Its ultimate objective is to constitute two-way communication between our communities and the several programs handled by the IMS, and so it works as a first point of access to our ecosystem. A few minutes browsing the IMS webpage may bring different perspectives and complementary directions for your productive work.

In addition, you may find possibilities to participate through volunteerism activities, which will be the only way in which the IMS will remain active over the years, by incorporating new generations of talented young colleagues into the design of new comprehensive and strategic plans. Together we can achieve our permanent goal of consolidating the IMS as our *Professional Home* and getting the most of it for our benefit and that of our communities around the world.

Our efforts are aimed at achieving that purpose.

Juan Manuel Ramirez Cortés has been with the National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics, and Electronics (INAOE), Mexico since 2007 and currently holds an appointment as titular researcher "C." He is a senior member of IEEE, past president of IEEE Puebla Section, and founder Chair of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society (IMS), Puebla Chapter. He has been a member of the IMS Administrative Committee, serving as President (2022–2023), Finance Vice-President, Treasurer and Executive Vice-President over the years. He received the B.Sc. degree from the National Polytechnique Institute, Mexico, the M.Sc. degree from the INAOE, and the Ph.D. degree from Texas Tech University, all in electrical engineering. He has served at INAOE in administrative positions as Research Director (2016–2017), Coordinator of the Electronics Department (2015–2016), and Academic Representative. His research areas include signal and image processing, pattern recognition, neural networks, computer vision, instrumentation and sensors.