



# Women in Microwaves

## MTT-S MGA WIM Subcommittee: Who We Are and What We Do!

■ Sherry Hess 

The IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S) Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Women in Microwaves (WIM) subcommittee is dedicated to building a network of women in microwaves that attracts, scales, and connects.

Our objectives are to

- promote women engineers/scientists in the microwave community
- attract women graduate students and professionals to join the MTT-S
- increase the visibility of women within the MTT-S.

And to that, I have the pleasure of serving as the chair of the WIM subcommittee (Figure 1), and I am joined by Vice Chairs Wenquan (Cherry) Chee and Jasmin Grosinger and Coordinator Kim Eilert. Our organization is truly global, with regional coordinators Charlotte Blair (United States), Kiki Ikossi (United States), Johana Yan (United States), Dominique Schreurs (Belgium), Sara Barros (The Netherlands), Helen Duncan (United

Kingdom), Alessandra Costanzo (Italy), and Marie Mertens (Belgium) hailing from the Americas/Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and Ye Han (China), Qiaowei Yuan (Japan), Xiuping Li (China), Fauziahanim Che Seman (Malaysia), Aqeela Saghir (Pakistan), Rodica Ramer (Australia), and M S Sivada (India) representing Asia-Pacific.

In 2022, our subcommittee set out to accomplish our objectives by focusing on three areas of activity:

- Print
  - WIM column appearing in all issues of IEEE microwave publications
  - Special focus issues deployed in February and March
- Events
  - WIM events held at Radio Wireless Week (RWW), the International Microwave Symposium (IMS), European Microwave Week (EuMW), the International Wireless Symposium (IWS), Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference (APMC), and the Microwave,



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Antenna and Propagation Conference (MAPCon)—and more—as well as special WIM sessions at regional events and affinity groups, among others

- Webinars and distinguished microwave lectures with WIM representation
- Digital
  - Refreshed website content with new navigation
  - Monthly blog posts.

### Print

To support our print goal, committee members regularly contribute to a monthly WIM column in *IEEE Microwave Magazine*. Each article is written by one

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# WIM Subcommittee



Figure 1. The 2022 WIM Subcommittee.

or more of our WIM members in the greater MTT-S community. We have hit every issue this year with a column and welcome our readers to reach out to any of us on the committee to volunteer a future column.

In addition to our regular monthly column, for the first time we ran a two-part special focus issue in the February and March issues covering research by WIM members in which 21 women within the MTT-S presented their research across six articles (Figure 2). The February issue presented articles covering frequency-selective absorbers, active and passive transmitter front-end components of phased array antennas, and reverberation chamber metrology for wireless Internet of Things devices.

The March issue included articles on wearable energy autonomous RF microwave systems, Internet of Things networks for enabling simultaneous wireless information and power transfer, and passive wireless sensor tags and their use in space. Thank you, Jasmin Grosinger, for your work in making this a reality and ensuring that there will now be an annual special focus issue in March of each year to coincide with Women’s History Month in the United States and the global International Women’s Day held annually on 8 March. If you’d like to contribute an article to a future special focus issue, please reach out to any one of us on the committee.

## Events

To support our second goal pertaining to events, whether live or virtual, the committee regularly organizes, presents at, or simply attends a variety of WIM activities held at numerous conferences and technical events throughout the year. In brief, we started 2022 off with a hybrid WIM session at RWW 2022 in Las Vegas, NV, USA, at which three distinguished women in microwaves from America, Europe, and

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Figure 2. The February and March 2022 issues of IEEE Microwave Magazine focusing on research by women in microwaves.

Asia, including Prof. Wenquan Che (South China University of Technology), Prof. Amelie Hagelauer (Technical University of Munich), and Prof. Rashaunda Henderson (University of Texas at Dallas), discussed the specific research topics on which they are working.

A few months later, we had a live WIM session at EuMW2021 in London, where the full program included guest speakers presenting their current research and success as women in engineering, a panel session, and even a tour of the *Cutty Sark*! And, as many readers know, our largest and most successful WIM event takes place at the IMS each year.

**We have hit every issue this year with a column and welcome our readers to reach out to any of us on the committee to volunteer a future column.**

In 2022, Prof. Zoya Popović of the University of Colorado at Boulder, alongside her many graduate students and industry colleagues, organized a WIM networking event at the impressive Ellie Caulkins Opera House that was standing room only with many of the brightest up-and-coming men and women RF engineers and researchers in attendance.

Not to be overlooked, but not yet concluded at the time of this article deadline, are the following:

- IWS2022 in China
- EuMW2022 in Milan
- APMC in Japan
- MAPCon in India.

A big thank you to all of the WIM representatives who volunteer to spearhead these activities!

### Digital

Our third goal has to do with our always-on presence that can be found on our [mtt.org](http://mtt.org) site using the quick link [mtt.org/wim](http://mtt.org/wim) (Figure 3). On this site you can find everything to do with WIM, including background information on the organization and subcommittee members as well as recent and archived WIM columns appearing in *IEEE Microwave Magazine*, monthly blog posts, upcoming events, recent news, and more. Thank you, Aqeela Saghir, for driving change and refreshing multiple pages on our site.

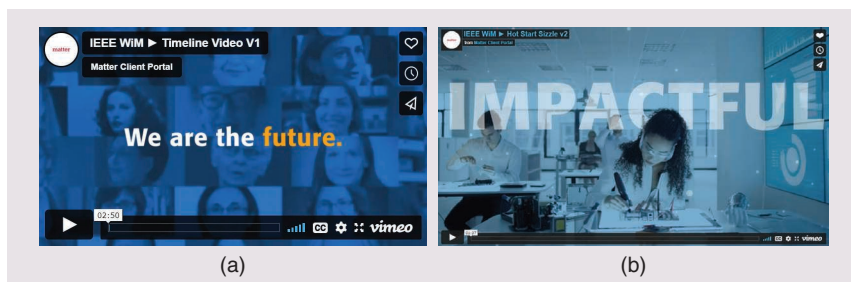
In addition to the website's digital content, we've recently completed the creation of two promotional videos inspired by Prof. Rhonda Franklin of the University of Minnesota, chair of the WIM IMS2021 virtual event. The first video is essentially the "History of Women in Tech/MTT-S" [Figure 4(a)], and the second is more inspirational and aspirational and referred to as "WIM Sizzle" [Figure 4(b)].

### Conclusion

Reflecting back on 2022 and now looking forward into 2023, I'm very excited by the hard work, enthusiasm, energy, and ideas that the WIM community at large works toward in support of the goals of the WIM subcommittee. To grow and support our MTT-S women engineers, the WIM committee will continue to make it our number one priority to ensure that we have a WIM event at all MTT-S-sponsored conferences, a column in every *IEEE Microwave Magazine* issue, and a whole lot of fun along the way. Stay up to date on our latest articles, blogs, videos, and all future events by regularly visiting [mtt.org/wim](http://mtt.org/wim). Finally, if you've not yet connected with a WIM member, reach out today and help us continue to grow our community of women within the MTT-S.



**Figure 3.** Select WIM activists spearheading print, event, and digital content to women engineers.



**Figure 4.** (a) History of Women in Tech/MTT-S and (b) Sizzle videos now available.

