

by Imre J. Rudas

# Our Future Is Grounded in the Past

To all of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMCS) members, my colleagues, and my friends, I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous new year! I am truly humbled, honored, and privileged to be elected as the president of SMCS for 2020–2021. I consider the SMCS my second family, one that supports a variety of scientific and educational areas. This interdisciplinary character constitutes a very productive synergetic environment and provides a foundation for worldwide leadership in our field of interest. I am pleased and ready to serve the SMCS in my capacity as president for these two years.

The future of our Society is grounded in the past. To have a successful new year, we need to acknowledge the successes and accomplishments of the previous year. I am deeply grateful to our past president, Eddie Tunstel, for his leadership, service, and outstanding contributions to the Society. I look forward to continuing his important and successful work toward fulfilling the mission and goals of the SMCS. Many thanks to the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors (BoG) and congratulations to the newly elected officers and BoG members. The Society's operation strongly relies on the work of our dedicated volunteers. I am in-



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spired by their commitment to the SMCS and sincerely grateful to them for serving our members, from students to professors.

Without being exhaustive, let me mention some achievements from the last year. Our membership development is steady, but we need more effort, especially in regions with relatively small membership. Our past president started a new program that outlines an outreach activity focused on stimulating interaction among current SMCS members and prospective members in Brazil as part of the Society's campaign to increase our activity and presence in IEEE Region 9.

Our transactions have achieved outstanding levels; in journal ranking, *IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics* was ranked first, while *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems* was ranked in fifth place. Our financial status is very healthy, and the long-term sustainable operation of the Society is ensured. Our technical areas are progressing in line with current IT and emerging fields, such as artificial intelligence, energy-awareness, and brain computing. We have a great number of technical committees, most of which are very active in their areas.

For this year, the BoG approved the operational plan. My main goal is to promote and support the accomplishment of this strategic and operational plan.

In general, during my term, I want to emphasize the interdisciplinary views of the Society, enhance the global character of the SMCS, and also endeavor to benefit more from international cooperation. I will make a concerted effort to link our scientific and technical accomplishments with our educational duties. I would like to contribute to the advancement of the fields of the SMCS, including fostering new opportunities

and the enhancement of new activities for the benefit of our members and our profession.

My concrete goals are to support new initiatives, provide continuous updates of our activities relating to new challenges, and increase the number of participants of our flag-

ship conference, the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, while maintaining its quality. I would also like to enhance leadership

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in technical activities (publications and conferences), Young Professionals, students, and Women in Engineering activities and support enhanced social media activities.

We must increase the SMCS membership with more emphasis on regions where the membership is relatively low. This year, we continue our outreach program in Mexico, and we plan to extend similar efforts in China. These activities and events provide opportunities for the SMCS leadership to promote

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worldwide operations and collaborations for SMCS. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

**SMC**

our Society and introduce prospective future activities in the given countries and regions. It is also an opportunity to explore synergies and possible future collaboration with local and regional sister Societies.

It is an honor and privilege to be part of fulfilling the objectives of the Society, sharing my experiences and promoting

**We want to hear from you!**



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