You will not want to miss the opening plenary session for the 2018 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) International Microwave Symposium (IMS2018) in Philadelphia. Held on Monday, 11 June 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the opening ceremony marks the official launch of IMS2018. The opening session keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Klasko, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, Philadelphia, will highlight this year’s biomedicine focus.

IMS2018 General Chair Sridhar Kanamaluru and Technical Program Committee Co-chairs Soheil Tofighi and Allen Katz will provide brief overviews of the week ahead, highlighting some of the key events and sessions. In addition, IEEE and MTT-S awards will be presented, and a new class of IEEE Fellows affiliated with the MTT-S will be recognized.

Dr. Klasko’s address, “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Healthcare Galaxy: The Actions That Changed the Healthcare Landscape in America From 2017–2027,” will focus on how the health-care system is evolving across the world. He will review 12 disruptors leading to the demise of the traditional health-care system and show how each provides an opportunity to take the trends and incremental steps we see today and create the transformations and disruptions envisioned for the future. His optimism should provide an antidote to current fears surrounding these monumental changes.

The IMS2018 closing ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, 14 June 2018, at 4:00 p.m., also in the Grand Ballroom. Here, a thought-provoking and forward-looking talk, “Extreme Platforms for Extreme Functionality,” will be presented by Prof. Nader Engheta of the University.
of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. According to Prof. Engheta, ‘Platforms with unprecedented ‘extreme’ electromagnetic features can now be constructed, providing ample opportunities for manipulating, tailoring, and sculpting waves and fields at various length scales. In electronics, controlling and tailoring the flow of charged carriers has led to the design of many functional devices. In microwaves and photonics, by analogy, we control electromagnetic and optical waves using materials. Materials are means to shape waves, and, as such, they can endow electromagnetic waves and photons with desired functionalities.’

Also at this session, Dr. Kanamaluru will officially hand over the IMS torch to Larry Kushner, IMS2019 general chair, who will share some symposium highlights and extend the official invitation to join him in Boston, Massachusetts, next June.

In addition, this session will serve as the plenary for a newly colocated MTT-S-sponsored conference, the IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Biomedical Conference (IMBioC). The keynote speaker for IMBioC 2018 is Dr. Nicholas J. Ruggiero of the Jefferson Heart Institute Vascular Laboratory, Philadelphia, whose presentation, “Renal Denervation for Uncontrolled Hypertension: Complexity After Symplicity,” will focus on the mechanism of action of renal denervation and early data for Medtronic’s Symplicity HTN-3 trial. According to Dr. Ruggerio, “Renal denervation for uncontrolled hypertension in many early trials was demonstrated to be extremely successful. The large, randomized, pivotal U.S. trial, Symplicity HTN-3, unfortunately showed no benefit in comparison to optimal medical therapy. Fortunately, those who believe in the procedure are pressing forward, and multiple new trials that are currently enrolling will ultimately determine the future of renal denervation.” Dr. Ruggerio will also provide insights for new studies and data, as well as alternatives for RF ablation.

The closing session will also feature a short wrap-up and thank you from Dr. Kanamaluru before a joint reception for IMS2018 and IMBioC 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m.

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Plenary Session
Keynote Speaker

Stephen Klasko

Stephen Klasko is president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, one of the fastest-growing academic health centers in the nation. An advocate for transformational change in health care, he is coauthor of the 2016 book We Can Fix Healthcare in America: The Future is Now and editor-in-chief of the journal Healthcare Transformation.

At Jefferson, he leads an academic medical center that has grown over the last two years to include more than 2 million patient visits. He is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and the founder of Spirit of Women, a grass roots women’s health empowerment organization that is now used at over 150 hospitals and health systems.

After receiving his M.D. degree and completing his obstetrics and gynecology residency, Dr. Klasko earned an M.B.A. degree at the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently received a US$1.5 million grant to investigate the selection and educational biases that affect physicians’ ability to negotiate and handle change, which resulted in his earlier book, The Phantom Stethoscope: A Field Manual for an Optimistic Future in Medicine (1999).

Closing Session
Keynote Speaker

Nader Engheta

Nader Engheta is the H. Nedwill Ramsey Professor at the University of Pennsylvanian, Philadelphia, with affiliations in the Departments of Electrical and Systems Engineering, Physics and Astronomy, Materials Science and Engineering, and Bioengineering. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Tehran, Iran, and his M.S and Ph.D. degrees from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. His current research activities span a broad range of areas including nanophotonics, metamaterials, microwaves, graphene optics, imaging and sensing inspired by the eyes of animal species, microwave and optical antennas, and the physics and engineering of fields and waves. Dr. Engheta received honorary doctoral degrees from Aalto University, Finland, and the University of Stuttgart, Germany, both in 2016.