

Editorial

Dear Readers,

This is my first Editorial as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE SMC Society eNewsletter and the first issue for 2023! I would like to thank Dr. Dongrui Wu for his guidance and support over the last few months with the transition, as well as the SMC Society leadership and all its members for giving me this opportunity to serve the Society. I am looking forward to this new adventure and I invite you to join me in making the eNewsletter an awaited quarterly resource for you, your colleagues, and your students. We wish to showcase, for example, news from the Society, feature articles and interviews with our members from around the globe, shine a light on our Technical Committees (TCs), as well as showcase publications and theses from our student members.

I would not be able to achieve this ambitious goal alone. As such, in this issue, I'd like to introduce you to our excellent new team of volunteer associate editors: Dr. Anderson Ávila, Dr. Lin Dong, Ms. Jane Dong, Dr. Wen Qi, and Dr. Hang Su. They have helped put together this March issue and have shared many wonderful ideas of how we can take the eNewsletter to the next level. Look out for some innovations in the future issues, including Spotlight/interviews on our members and TCs, the creation of a new repository for student member theses, and highlights of Society-sponsored events and conferences! If you would like to volunteer and help us out, please do not hesitate to contact me.

March marks not only our first quarterly issue, but also the month of the International Women's Day. As stated in [1], "International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality." March also closely follows the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on 11 February, and implemented by UNESCO. As stated in [2], the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a day to "recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology [...] and is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls." As showcased in our feature article from Dr. Mariagrazia Dotoli, our Society VP for Membership and Student Activities, we still have a lot of work to do in these aspects, as there remains a significant gender imbalance in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. The article covers some statistics, describes the benefits of gender balance, covers policies for improving gender balance in engineering, including some activities being implemented by the SMC Society, and concludes with some success stories. I invite you after reading the article to reflect how we, as individuals and as an IEEE Society, can contribute to achieve this goal.

For News items, we welcome Prof. Qing-Long Han as the new Editor-in-Chief for the IEEE/CAA Journal of Automatica Sinica, as well as introduce the new SSE committee membership chaired by Dr. Haibin Zhu. Paper submission deadline for our flagship conference, SMC 2023, is fast approaching. Check out the list of approved tutorials, workshops, and special sessions, as well as the confirmed keynote speakers. It will be a wonderful event and I hope to greet many of you in person in Maui later this year.

We are also calling for contributions to two Special Issues of the IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics and one Special Issue of the IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems.

We also have some exciting news from the desk of Dr. Robert Kozma, Editor-In-Chief of IEEE TSMC-Systems with a call for Special Issues, as well as the announcement for an upcoming Special Issue.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that we are here to help serve you, SMC Society members. If you have any job openings at your university or company, openings for postdoctoral and graduate student fellowships, or undergraduate student internships that you would like to be widely advertised, please forward them to our team and we will be happy to advertise them here.

I hope you enjoy this March issue of the SMC Society eNewsletter. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please send them along. We want to serve you with content that is of interest and of relevance to you and your career, so suggestions will always be welcomed.

Thank you and hope to see you in person in Maui at SMC 2023!

[1] <https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

[2] <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/women-girls-science>



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