

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fourth issue of our 2023 SMCS eNewsletter. I can't believe it's already the end of the 2023! I hope everyone had a wonderful year and are making plans for an even better 2024, both personally and professionally. It was wonderful to see many of you in person in Honolulu in October at the SMC 2023 Conference. I was amazed at the number of SMCS researchers working on robotics and the highly inter-disciplinary field of human-robot interaction. As I was looking at robotics kits as a Christmas present for my 10-year-old child, it got me thinking about the important work of SMCS members, allowing for robots to make their way into our everyday lives. One year ago, in our December 2022 issue, we were showcasing the excellent work of one of our members in the ANA Avatar X PRIZE [1]. At the 2023 SMC BCI hackathon, one of the winning teams paired a brain sensing headset with the Pepper robot to provide real-time feedback on meditation [2]. And I was recently at a Japanese restaurant (in Canada) with my family and was surprised to be greeted by a robot cat server! In an article earlier this year in the Harvard Business Review [3], robots were said to be the upcoming face of customer service. Indeed, this reminded me of the several "concierge robots" I encountered over the years at hotels around the world. In our feature article, Dr. Wen Qi provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges in human-robot interaction research. Hopefully it can inspire you to explore this exciting interdisciplinary field.



Next, in our "Industry Corner" column, we interview Dr. Dimitar Filev, a known face to the SMCS and recent recipient of the SMC 2023 Joseph G. Wohl Outstanding Career Award. You will get a glimpse of Dr. Filev's aspiring career and leadership roles within the SMCS, as well as advice for successful academia-industry partnerships, and advice for students thinking about the move to industry. In this issue, we also inaugurate our new "Student Corner" column. The column will be run by our newest AE, Dr. Chun Sing Lai. Here, we showcase the newest SMC Student Chapter and the work of two SMCS student authors. We hope you enjoy these inaugural interviews and would love to hear your feedback about this new column, and suggestions for future interviewees.

For News items, we introduce the 2024 class of IEEE Fellows from SMCS, the co-chairs of the Brain-Machine Interface Workshop provide highlights of the 2023 Workshop held in Honolulu, we provide some highlights of the SMCS Wuhan Chapter, as well as some updates from the Intelligent Power and Energy Systems Technical Committee and study group on 'monitoring, safety, and control of energy storage systems for smart cities'. Calls for participation to the 2024 SMC International Conference on Human-Machine Systems (ICHMS) and the IEEE International Defence Excellence and Security Symposium (IDEaS) are also presented. ICHMS is on the lookout for reviewers, so if you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please let us know.

I hope you enjoy this December issue of the SMC Society eNewsletter. Our editorial team (A. Ávila, L. Dong, J. Dong, C. Lai, D. Paul, W. Qi, and H. Su) worked hard over the last few months to collect material we feel is relevant and of interest to you and your career. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please let us know.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful end of 2023 and a marvelous 2024 to come!

### References:

- [1] <https://www.ieeesmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/XPRIZE.pdf>
- [2] <https://www.br41n.io/IEEE-SMC-2023>
- [3] <https://hbr.org/2023/03/robots-are-changing-the-face-of-customer-service>



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