

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of our 2025 SMCS eNewsletter. I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and that 2025 is off to a great start! For those that follow the lunar calendar, this is the Year of the Wood Snake, a year of creativity, ideal to embrace change and seek personal growth.

In this Issue, Prof. Wenjie Li and Prof. Lei Chen present their Feature Article titled *LLMs Promote Commercial Aerospace Technology Towards Innovation Intelligence* where they describe the use of large language models in the commercial aerospace fields. Next, in the “Academic Corner” column, Associate Editor Hang Su interviews Dr. Laura Giarrè, Dr. David Kaber, and Dr. Francesco Flammini, three very active SMC members who have held numerous positions within the Society. In the “Student Corner” column, Associate Editors Chun Sing Lai and Anderson Avila interview three student authors and a very active SMC young professional. In the “Industry Corner” column, Associate Editor Debdeep Paul interviews Dr. Leila Takayama, who is leading the human-robot interaction team at Robust.AI. In this interview, Dr. Takayama gives us a view of the emerging trends in human-robot interaction (HRI), along with great advice for young researchers wishing to enter the field. We hope you enjoy these interviews!

For News items, we welcome a new SMCS Chapter in Madras, India, we provide reports on several Distinguished Lectures, present Calls from the SMCS Membership and Student Activities Committee for EDI proposals, new students members, Chapter start-up and Initiative grants, and travel grants for SMC 2025, as well as a Call for TEAMS project proposals from the SMCS VP of Finance. We also share news of a special issue published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society on swarming, that may be of interest to many of our readers. Moreover, in February 2025, an AI SMCS Executive Workshop was held in Santa Monica, CA to review the state-of-art in the rapidly developing artificial intelligence (AI) field and to discuss the critical avenues for SMCS involvement. In this issue, we present two reports from participants of this Workshop, summarizing the event, as well as highlighting some recommendations. Finally, we present several Call for Papers and Call for Participation to our society’s leading conferences and summer schools, as well as a Special Issue announcement for the SMC Magazine.

I hope you enjoy this March issue of the SMCS eNewsletter. If you have any suggestions for improvements or material you’d like to see shared with the SMC membership, please let us know. I look forward to sharing your accomplishments and exciting news to the SMC membership this year.



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