Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the December issue of our 2025 SMCS eNewsletter. It was great seeing many of you at SMC 2025 in Vienna last October! I can't believe the end of 2025 is already upon us. This year has seen tremendous growth for our Society. As shared recently by our VP Membership & Student Activities, we surpassed 8,000 members this year, with roughly 30% of our student members being female. The annual SMC conference is showing continued growth and our transactions are thriving. This is all thanks to the great efforts of our Society leadership and you, our members. Thank you for your commitment and continued support. And as Hal Borland once said: "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us." I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Holiday Season. May 2026 be filled with continued growth and prosperity, both personally and professionally!

In this Issue, Associate Editor Wen Qi has overseen the Feature Article titled "Humanoid Robotics: From Engineering to Daily Partners." In this article, Samer AlFayad and co-authors describe the current state of humanoid robots and propose a paradigm shift towards embodied, perceptive, and human-centered system design to allow humanoids to truly earn trust, adapt to human needs, and function as dependable partners in daily life. Next, in the "Academic Corner" column, Associate Editor Hang Su interviews Dr. Huadong Mo and Prof. Shichun Yang. In the "Student Corner" column, Associate Editors Anderson Avila and Chun Sing Lai interview Angelo Catalano from Polytechnic of Bari (Italy). In the "Industry Corner" column, Associate Editor Debdeep Paul interviews Dr. Celal Savur from Intel Labs. In this interview, Dr. Savur provides insights on current challenges and opportunities in deploying intelligent systems, along with great advice for young researchers wishing to enter emerging fields of agentic AI. We hope you enjoy these interviews!

For News items, we have lots to share! First, we welcome two new SMCS Chapters and several new Student Branch Chapters; provide reports on several Distinguished Lectures; we congratulate the Class of 2026 Fellows and our outgoing president has a message to share with the SMCS membership; we announce the Establishment of the IEEE SMC AI and Education Ad Hoc Committee; and provide two SMCS member perspectives: one from Dr. Kozma on his six years as EiC of the IEEE SMC Transactions: Systems and one from Mr. Iyed Mdimegh on his experience participating in his first SMC conference and BCI hackathon in Vienna. We then proceed with a number of highlights from 2025, including an SMC EDI Initiative Project in Nigeria, the Telepresence and the Collaborative Human-AI Sysmbiosis Workshops, both held at SMC 2025, and several events hosted by the SMCS Membership and Student Activities Committee, also at SMC 2025. We conclude the news section with a spotlight on our esteemed member and BoG member-at-large, Professor Janusz Kacprzyk, who received several prestigious awards in 2025.

And looking forward to the new year, we also present (1) a number of Call for Papers for excellent events taking place next year, including CAI 2026, SMC 2026, ICHMS 2026, BMI 2026, MLMC 2026, and C4AI4C 2026; (2) a call for chapters for an edited handbook on hybrid intelligence, and (3) Call for Papers for Special Issues from the IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems and the IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems.

I hope you enjoy this December 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.

Lastly, we are also always on the lookout for new volunteers, especially student members, to help us prepare new and engaging material for the newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out!

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