

**Distinguished Lecturer Visit by Prof. Maria Pia Fanti at IEEE SMCS ACT Chapter, 22-24, February 2026 and IEEE SMCS NSW Chapter, Australia, 25-27, February 2026**

Prof. Maria Pia Fanti visited the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, on February 23rd, 2026, where she delivered an IEEE Distinguished Lecture titled "Artificial Intelligence Approaches for Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility" to the SMCS ACT Chapter in Canberra, Australia, organized by Associate Professor Huadong Mo and Professor Daoyi Dong.

The IEEE SMC Society's ACT Chapter was established in 2018, led by the Chapter Founding Chair, Prof Daoyi Dong, and received a Best SMCS Chapter Award in 2021. The successful activities continue, and Prof Huadong Mo is now serving as ACT Chapter Chair. The ACT Chapter activities cover UNSW, ANU and other academic and government organizations in ACT. Chapter meetings happen at least once per year, and the DLP visit by Prof Fanti provided an excellent opportunity to have the Chapter members together.

The distinguished lecture by Prof. Maria Pia Fanti, held at Birch Building Room 202, ANU, attracted over 15 participants. Prof. Fanti, an IEEE Fellow and Full Professor of system and control engineering and Chair of the Laboratory of Automation and Control at the Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy, delivered a talk on AI for Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility. She highlighted how AI approaches especially deep reinforcement learning can be applied for a full integration of CCAVs in the real traffic for transportation of both passengers and goods.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, Prof. Fanti visited the University of Technology Sydney and delivered an IEEE Distinguished Lecture (at Room CB11.12.113, UTS) to the SMCS New South Wales (NSW) Chapter in Sydney, Australia, organized by Associate Prof. Tongliang Liu, Dr. Xianzhi Wang and Prof. Daoyi Dong. The IEEE SMC Society's New South Wales Chapter was recently established in 2025, led by the Chapter Founding Chair/Vice Chair, Prof Daoyi Dong and Professor Tongliang Liu, and currently Chaired by Professor Tongliang Liu.

Prof. Fanti's lecture stimulated meaningful discussions, providing participants with deep insights into the future of AI and its potential applications to mobility. The success of these events reflects the ACT and NSW Chapters' commitment to promoting knowledge exchange, with appreciation extended to the SMC Society and the DLP Program, coordinated by Prof.ssa Mariagrazia Dotoli.



Figure 1: Prof. Maria Pia Fanti presents the IEEE SMS Distinguished Lecture on February 23rd, 2026, at Australian National University, Canberra.



Figure 2: Part of on-site attendees at ANU after the IEEE SMC Society Distinguished Lecture.



Figure 3: Prof. Maria Pia Fanti introduces the IEEE SMC Society and its Distinguished Lecture Program before her Distinguished Lecture on February 25th, 2026, at University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia.