

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the September issue of our 2026 SMCS quarterly eNewsletter. We have a full issue for you with lots of updates from our members! Hope everyone is getting ready to attend SMC 2026 in Bellevue in a couple of weeks! I am looking forward to seeing many of our readers there!

In this Issue, we showcase two Feature Articles. The first is written by Prof. Ferat Sahin, VP HMS, and is titled “Will Robots Replace Humans?”. The second is written by Prof. Francesco Flammini and is titled “Trustworthy Autonomous Wheelchairs in Practice,” where he highlights research outcomes from the REXASI-PRO project. Two great reads looking at how robotics and physical AI, along with human-robot interactions and collaborations will impact society in a positive way.

Next, in the “Academic Corner” column, our Associate Editor Hang Su interviews two very active SMC members, Dr. Giacinto Barresi from UWE, Bristol, and Dr. Marta Lorenzini, from the IIT, Italy. In the “Industry Corner” column, Associate Editor Debdeep Paul interviews Francesco Ferro from PAL Robotics. We hope you enjoy these interviews!

In the “Student Corner” column, Associate Editor Anderson Avila interviews Ms. Aishwarya Fursule from Wichita State University, USA. Student Associate Editor Oluwatosin Kolade shares his brand new Back-to-School Student Bingo, the “This Month in History” column, and his take on the 2026 IEEE Summer School on Telerobotics and Cyborg Technologies. If you are a student interested in joining us in creating content that is relevant for our student members, please reach out!

For News items, we welcome several new SMCS Chapters and Student Chapters; we provide reports on several Distinguished Lectures, on recent recognitions received by our members, several Calls and Announcements that are of interest to SMCS members, as well as several reports about SMCS-sponsored conferences, summer schools, and events. Finally, we present several Call for Papers and Call for Participation to our society’s leading conferences, workshops, and hackathons, as well as two Special Issue announcements for the IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics.

I hope you enjoy this September 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.



Prof. Tiago H. Falk, FIEEE
INRS-EMT, University of Québec, Canada
INRS-UQO Research Centre on Cybersecurity and Digital Trust
tiago.falk@inrs.ca