

I wish you all a happy new year. I want to thank Jill Gostin for her leadership during these past two very challenging years. I also want to thank all the volunteers who have agreed to serve on our Executive Committee, and on the various committees that serve our members. I am lucky to have you on our team.

As you all know, the start of 2022 comes with the challenge of a spike in Covid infections across the country. In the midst of this spike, it's easy to forget that it will come to an end. In fact, the [data](#) from South Africa show that the number of cases decreases as fast they increased. This is consistent with the trend we see in the US with a two-month cycle for each surge. Moreover, several states already have seen the number of cases decrease. [Modeling](#) by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) shows the wave of infections may have crested – and hospitalizations and deaths are expected to follow. As a result, we plan to go forward with a face-to-face meeting at the end of March in Mobile, Alabama for [SoutheastCon 2022](#). I want to thank the SoutheastCon 2022 [team](#), led by Warren Nicholson, for their hard work to make the event a success. I am a member of the IEEE Conferences Committee, and around the world, conference organizers see an eagerness to get back to face-to-face meetings. I'm looking forward to SoutheastCon 2022, and I hope to see you there!

Stay warm, stay healthy, and as always, thanks for all you do for IEEE.

Respectfully submitted,
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IEEE R3 Director Elect