



# Minutes of the Biomedical Circuits and Systems (BioCAS) technical committee annual meeting, May 20th 2008

(version 1.02)

Compiled by P. Häffiger

## 1 Attendees

Alexander Fish	fish@atips.ca	
Amine Bermak	eebermak@ust.hk	nominated by Eugenio
Anas Hamoui	anas.hamoui@mcgill.ca	nominated by Wael
Andrew Mason	mason@msu.edu	
Bah Hwee Gwee	ebhgwee@ntu.edu.sg	
Ching-Hsing (Robin) Luo	robin@ee.ncku.edu.tw	
Chua-Chin Wang	ccwang@ee.nsysu.edu.tw	
E. M. Drakakis	e.drakakis@ic.ac.uk	
Eugenio Culuriciello	eugenio.culluriciello@yale.edu	
Giacomo Indiveri	giacomo@ethz.ch	
H. K. Kwan	kwan1@uwindsor.ca	nominated by Yong
Jennifer Blain Christen	blain@jhu.edu	
Jie Chen	jc65@ualberta.ca	
Joseph S. Chang	ejschang@ntu.edu.sg	
Julius Georgiou	julio@ucy.ac.cy	
Khaled Nabil Salama	khaled@ecse.rpi.edu	
Maysam Ghovanloo	mghovan@ece.gatech.edu	
Milutin Stanacevic	milutin@ece.sunysb.edu	
Mohamad Sawan	m.sawan@polymtl.ca	
Orly Yadid-Pecht	oyp@ee.bgu.ac.il	
Pamela Abshire	pabshire@umd.edu	
Pantelis Georgiou	pg200@imperial.ac.uk	nominated by Timothy
Pau-Choo (Julia) Chung	pcchung@ee.ncku.edu.tw	
Pedram Mohseni	pedram.mohseni@case.edu	
Philipp Häffiger	haeffiger@ifi.uio.no	
Ralph Etienne-Cummings	retienne@jhu.edu	
Reid Harrison	harrison@ece.utah.edu	
Robert Rieger	rrieger@mail.nsysu.edu.tw	
Sameer Sonkusale	sameer@ece.tufts.edu	nominated by Ralph
Timothy G. Constandinou	t.constandinou@imperial.ac.uk	
Tor S. Lande	bassen@ifi.uio.no	
Ul Va Koc	u.koc@ieee.org	nominated by Jie
Viktor Gruev	vgruev@seas.upenn.edu	nominated by Philipp
Viktor Owall	viktor.owall@eit.lth.se	
Wael Badawy	badawy@ucalgary.ca	
Wouter Serdijn	w.a.serdijn@tudelft.nl	
Yehia Massoud	massoud@rice.edu	
Yong Lian	eleliany@nus.edu.sg	

## 2 Opening

Yong Lian suffered from a severe cold and sore throat and asked Weal Badawy to chair the meeting. Weal opened the meeting.

## 3 Members introduction

The officers and members introduced themselves.

## 4 Agenda

The agenda was approved

## 5 Minutes 2007

Weal pointed out a misspelling of his name in the minutes of the 2007 TC meeting. With that amendment the minutes were approved.

## 6 TC Report

The TC report of the year 2007/2008 was approved.

## 7 Report on the TC-chairs' meeting

Yong Lian reported on the meeting of the TC-chairs

- He had been asked to pass the names of the ISCAS 2009 BioCAS track chairs and the titles of the subtracks to the 2009 program chairs. He invited the members to make suggestions to alter the subtrack organization, now or later by e-mail.
- Suggestions for 'Expert Now Modules' are invited: 60-90 minutes teaching modules on prominent topics provided by the IEEE.
- Call for nominations for the distinguished lecturer program (DLP). Nominations will be made through the TCs and the deadline will be october 1st.
- Cleaning up TC member lists: The TCs are asked to employ mechanisms to cleanse inactive members from their member lists. The BioCAS TC suspends members that have been inactive for three or more years. Activity is defined as submitting reviews for ISCAS, contributing to the TC report, or attending the TC-meeting.
- Recruitment of new TC members will change from next year on: Nominations including a CV of the candidate have to be submitted to the TC chair before ISCAS.
- The MultiConf initiative: as an additional highlight of the CASS activities there will be MultiConf, a meeting with several concurrent conferences on topics with potential for synergies. One activity at MultiConf will be one or several contests where a specific task is announced ahead of the conference. The best solutions will be awarded. The TCs are asked to contribute ideas for such contests.
- Remark from Wouter: Any good ideas for CASS activities are welcome and there is money available to support initiatives. One example of such an activity is 'Women in CAS' (WiCAS).

- The CASS discusses measures to enhance the quality of research and the guaranteed reproducibility of published results. A discussion ensued. What is meant by reproducibility and how to ensure it? Web-blogs and public databases were mentioned. Some concerns were raised with respect to collaborations with industry and their need for confidentiality. How to ensure the quality of review? Are low acceptance rates an indicator for quality, or if a conference has more attendees than papers? The latter is possibly no clear indicator since there can be quite many authors per paper. Some of our sister-conferences do have very low acceptance rates and the acceptance rate of ISCAS itself is steadily decreasing (about 45% in 2008). It has been remarked that the acceptance rate of ISSCC is actually quite high but there is considerable pre-selection of papers because of the reputation of the conference that ensures quality.

## **8 New members**

The question was raised if a member needs to have a PhD. This was after a brief discussion considered not to be a prerequisite since experienced people from industry are well qualified without a PhD.

The new members (see the members with nominations in the Attendees' list) were voted in.

## **9 Upcoming BioCAS conference 2008 in Baltimore**

Ralph reported on the upcoming conference in Baltimore, November 20-22nd 2008. The aim is to grow by 25-30% with about 125 attendees. Tutorials will be organized by Khaled Salama and Eugenio Cullurciello. The poster presentations shall be interactive and will be raised in esteem, possibly with flash presentations and/or demos. It will be made clear that they are 1st class contributions in line with oral presentations. The conference will be single track with the exception of the tutorials. Deadline for papers is July 7th. There is a 50% discount for students. Possibly undergraduate students can apply for CASS-grants in addition.

## **10 Past BioCAS conference 2007 in Montréal**

Mohamad briefly reported on the successful 2007 conference. It had been well attended. 3 very prominent keynotes could be enlisted.

## **11 ISCAS**

For the upcoming ISCAS Yong asked for suggestions on the subtrack structure by e-mail. Also prospective organizers of special sessions and tutorials should get in touch with him.

## **12 Transactions on BioCAS**

Bassen reported on successful 4 issues this year, with approximately 30% acceptance rate, and invited special issues from 4 conferences. The journal has recently applied to be indexed in the Medline database. The decision is still pending. For a special issue of the best papers from ISCAS 2008 guest editors were requested. Andrew, Eugenio, Robert, and Wael offered their services. Jie suggested to involve other TCs as well for this special issue. Ralph mentioned closer ties of the journal and also the TC to IEEE EMBS.

## **13 Biotechnology Council and IEEE Biometric Council**

Yong as a representative of IEEE CASS in those two councils reported:

- The Biotechnology Council held a workshop in September. It is somewhat short of financial means.
- The IEEE Biometric Council is just being established. An online journal is also in its starting phase and the officers are being elected.

## **14 BioCAS conference steering committee**

A formal steering committee of the BioCAS conference is in the process of being established. The TC's past chairs have met and were discussing the composition. They want to invite IEEE EMBS. They want to include two representatives from the BioCAS TC. Applicants should send e-mail to Yong. Other TC-chairs will be approached. Anan suggested to involve the IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society, possibly as a sponsor.

## **15 BioCAS conference 2009 in Beijing**

Amine gave some information on the 2009 conference, November 25-27th 2009 in Beijing. It will be held in the Park Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the Science Park, providing an excellent infrastructure. The deadline for paper submission will be June 26th, notification of acceptance August 28th. The organizers consider to have a connected 1 day workshop in Hong Kong, which is 2.5 hour flight away with very frequent connections.

Yong suggested to apply for funding from the society for a student workshop at the conference.

## **16 BioCAS conference 2010**

Bassen briefly informed on ideas for the 2010 BioCAS conference. A likely candidate for the location would be the University of Cypress, with Julio Georgiou as main organizer.

## **17 Other business**

- Andrew asked the TC to request bigger lecture rooms for the BioCAS track at ISCAS 2009, since all the lectures were very popular and often there were not sufficient seats for all attendees. The same holds true for the TC meeting.
- Philipp informed about the decision to change the demo session status in 2009 from a four times special session into a regular ISCAS track.

## **18 Meeting adjourned**