

Minutes from BioCAS TC meeting 2004

Date : 12:45pm – 2:15pm, May 25, 2004
Venue : Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, Vancouver, Canada
Present: Tor Sveere Lander (Chairman), Mohamad Sawan (Vice Chairman), Yong Lian (Secretary), Andreas G. Andreou (Past Vice Chairman), Andrew Mason, Angel Rodriguez-Vazquez, David Bàlya, Maciej Ogorzalek, Mona Zaghoul, Orly Yadid-Pecht, Paolo Arena, Peter Wu, Philipp Häfliger, Ralph Etienne-Cummings, Robert W. Newcomb, Wael Badawy, Wouter Serdijn
Absent with apologies: Chris Toumazou (Past Chairman), Andre van Schaik, Angela Hodge Miller, Esther Rodriguez, Gert Cauwenberghs, Glenn Vandevoorde, George S. Moschytz, Julio Georgiou, Mohammad Yaqub Afridi.

The annual BioCAS TC meeting was well attended with twice as many people as expected. The following matters were discussed:

1. Presentation of last year's minutes by the current Chair.
The minutes was discussed and approved without any amendments.
2. Annual report for 2003/2004 was approved.
3. Activities 2003/2004.
 - In ISCAS04, 28 papers submitted to the BioCAS track with 18 accepted, 10 as lecture presentations and 8 as posters. All sessions were well attended. It is important to increase number of papers for ISCAS and make BioCAS the worldwide home for biomedical circuits and systems. Drs. Philipp Häfliger and Ralph Etienne-Cummings organized two invited sessions on Spiking Neural Networks in collaboration with Neural Network TC.
 - W. Badawy reported from ICMENS 2003 as very successful. There are 81 peer reviewed papers out of 120 submitted, 231 onsite attendees in addition to 14 volunteers. 5 plenary speaker including Dr. H. Akinaga, Nanotechnology Research Institute, National Institute of AIST; Dr. Yoseph Bar-Cohen, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA; Dr. Henry Baltes, Physical Electronics Laboratory, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; Dr. Mark Johnson, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Charles A. Schmuttenmaer, Department of Chemistry Receiving, Yale University.
4. The First International Workshop on Biomedical Circuits and Systems is scheduled for December 1-3 in Singapore. Yong Lian presented a progress report covered following points.
 - The organizing committee was formed in Dec. 2003 and conference account was approved by HQ in March 2004. The workshop received generous support from CASS of \$3000 for an invited speaker.
 - The first and second Call for Papers were released in March and May, respectively. The workshop website is running since March 2004 and received about 1200 hits in two months.
 - Three keynote speakers were confirmed so far. They are Dr. Chris Toumazou, Director of Imperial Institute of Biomedical Engineering; Dr. Chris van den Honert, Cochlear Inc; Dr. Jackie Ying, Director of Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology.
 - Two confirmed tutorials given by Prof. Low Wong Kein, Singapore General Hospital and Dr. Christian Paulus, Infineon Technology AG (Sponsored by Infineon).

- Four confirmed invited sessions, i.e. Innovative nano-bioelectronics sensors for assessing human physiological and biochemical information by Prof. Yuh-Shyong Yang; Biomedical image processing by Prof. Ashraf Kassim; Hearing Aid by Prof. Joseph Chang; and Brain computer interface by Dr. CT Guan. More invited session proposals are needed.
- Contributions from TC members are highly appreciated in the areas of publicizing the event, organizing tutorials and invited sessions, reviewing papers.

The effort was approved and TC members encouraged to promote the workshop and to submit papers. Dr. Sawan will organize an invited session on Functional electrical stimulators and related sensing techniques and Dr. Badawy will propose some activities for the workshop.

5. Sponsorships.

We decided to sponsor the conference: “The 2005 International Conference on MEMS, NANO, and Smart Systems”, July 24 - July 29, 2005 , Banff, Alberta – Canada. Dr. Sawan mentioned that it is possible to involve BioCAS TC at the Annual Conference of the International Functional Electrical Stimulation Society. Dr. Yadid-Pecht mentioned that it is possible to organize a special session in ESSCIRC 2005.

6. TCAS I special issue.

In order to promote BioCAS activities we are trying to get a special issue of one of our journals. Due to more than 9 months backlog of papers, this turns out to be hard to achieve. Although after some lobbying the current editor has indicated that we may get a TCAS I special issue as the only TC of CAS. Our plans are to combine extended versions of papers from our workshop with general papers submitted to the journal.

7. CAS Magazine.

Based on discussions and proposal from Maciej Ogorzalek. Joseph Chang and Robert Newcomb will promote BioCAS though an article in the CAS Magazine on “BioCAS Open Questions” (or similar). The proposal was approved on the CAS Magazine editorial meeting. Please get in touch with Joseph and Robert with whatever contributions you may have.

8. ISCAS 2005.

TC members should try to organize attractive tutorials and special sessions for next years ISCAS. Collaboration with other TCs is encouraged.

9. Relation to “Life Science Systems and Applications” TC.

The newly approved TC was discussed and some concerns came forward about overlap with BioCAS. A better coordination would have been preferred, but the TC was approved without consulting the BioCAS TC officers.

10. New TC members.

The following 12 new members were nominated at the TC meeting, they are, Timothy G Constandinou, Guoxing Wang, Marc Cohen, Pamela Abshire, Shantanu Chakrabarty, Nitish V. Thakor, Roman Genov, Gwee Bah Hwee, Joseph Chang, Mohan Sivaprakasam, Graham Jullien, and Erik Bruun. All of them were accepted as TC members.

11. Elections.

According to our bylaws TC officers are elected for two years. No new elections were necessary this year. Next year a new secretary will be elected. The current officers are:

- TC Chair: Tor Sverre Lande
- TC Vice Chair: Mohammad Sawan
- TC Secretary: Yong Lian

The TC meeting ended at 2:15pm.