

Minutes of IEEE Circuits and Systems Society Biomedical Circuits and Systems Technical Committee annual Meeting 2005

Date : 1:15pm – 2:15pm, May 25, 2005
Venue : Portopia Hotel, Kobe, Japan
Present: Tor Sverre Lande (Chairman), Mohamad Sawan (Vice Chairman), Yong Lian (Secretary), Andre van Schaik, David Ballya, Esther Rodriguez, Gwee Bah Hwee, Joseph S Chang, Maciej Ogorzalek, Paolo Arena, Peter Wu, Robert W. Newcomb, Wael Badawy, Wouter Serdijn
Guest: Georges Gielen (IEEE CASS President), Tamas Roska, Salvatore Baglio, Karim Oweiss, Diego Barrettino, Victor Owall, Patrick Degenaar.

Absent with apologies: Chris Toumazou (Past Chairman), Andreas G. Andreou (Past Vice Chairman), Glenn Vandevoorde.

The annual BioCAS TC meeting was well attended with President of the Society, Georges Gielen, presented in the meeting. The following matters were discussed:

1. Opening and introduction
The meeting was opened by Chair, Dr. Tor Sverre Lande, at 1:15pm with a welcome speech and followed by an introduction of officers. Each member and guest gave a brief self-introduction.
2. The 2005 BioCAS TC meeting agenda was approved after including three additional items, i.e. review of BioCAS workshop, Biotech Council, and BioCAS Special Issue.
3. The 2004 BioCAS TC Minutes was approved unanimously.
4. The 2005 BioCAS TC Annual Report was approved after the discussion of the following activities.
 - TC Chair reported that the number of paper submitted to BioCAS track is doubled for ISCAS05 compared to ISCAS04. All BioCAS sessions in ISCAS04 and ISCAS05 were well attended with fruitful discussions.
 - The question on whether there is a need to merge BioCAS TC with Life Science TC was raised by the TC Chair. There is no decision on the matter.
 - Dr. Gwee raised the question on acceptance rate of papers in the ISCAS05 BioCAS track. The Chair informed the meeting that the acceptance rate for BioCAS track is 58 – 60% which is lower than the rate for overall papers. The meeting concluded after some discussion that paper quality is more important than the quantity of papers.
 - Dr. Lian reported that BioCAS04 held in December 2004 in Singapore is a great success. There were 112 submissions from 24 countries for regular sessions and 6 proposals for invited sessions. The meeting starts with two distinguished keynote speakers, Prof. Chris Toumazou, Director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College London, and Prof. Jackie Y. Ying, Executive Director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in Singapore.

Three tutorials and twenty two oral presentation sessions were conducted during three days.

- Dr. Lande reported the status of IEEE TCAS-I Special Issue on Biomedical Circuits and Systems. The responses to the Special Issue were very good with submissions close to 70. The selection of papers was almost completed and decisions were expected within two weeks.
- The topic of encouraging participation in BioCAS activities were discussed to some extent. Dr. Chang suggested to invite non-engineers and medics to attend the workshop. Dr. Badawy shared with members that such a practice works well between engineers and medics in conferences organized by him. Dr. Sawan has the same experience with the International Functional Electrical Stimulation Society Annual Conference where many medics than engineers participate to discuss system level issue.
- The reporting of TC member activities was discussed. Dr. Serdijn suggested that early notification for collection of activities, e.g. at least 1 month in advance. Dr. Lian emphasized that each member is required to submit a report or a nil answer when the Chair calls for the annual report submission.

5. Planning for upcoming events and activities.

- The Chair gave a brief introduction of BioCas06. The BioCAS06 will change from the IEEE International Workshop on Biomedical Circuits and Systems to the IEEE International Conference on Biomedical Circuits and Systems. It will be held in London, UK, in 2006. The possible dates are late August or the end of November to early December 2006. BioCAS06 will introduce a new concept of integrated short course program which will run concurrently with technical sessions. These short courses will provide an in-depth review of critical and emerging technologies, and provide opportunities for gaining knowledge and insights into previously unfamiliar areas for CAS members. TC members are encouraged to propose short course topics and possible instructors.
- Dr. Sawan and Dr. Badawy expressed their interests to hold next BioCAS in Canada.
- BioCAS tracks for ISCAS06 were discussed. TC members are encouraged to organize invited/special sessions and to work with other TCs to form joint sessions. Prof. Chang mentioned that he will organize a special session on auditory. Prof. Serdijn suggested to find suitable subtrack topics for authors.
- Dr. Lande informed the meeting that he is involved in BioTech Council.
- Dr. Lande informed the meeting that a proposal for the new Transactions on BioCAS was presented in the BoG meeting.
- A Web-based system to list recommended papers in the area of BioCAS was discussed. Will seek inputs from all TC members.
- Dr. Badawy requested for technical sponsorship for the International Conference on MEMS, NANO, and Smart Systems. The request was approved.

6. Introduction and Approval of New TC Members.

- The following 5 new members were nominated at the TC meeting, they are, Salvatore Baglio, Karim Oweiss, Diego Barrettino, Victor Owall, and Patrick Degenaar. All of them were accepted as TC members.

7. Election.

- According to our bylaws TC officers are elected for two years. A new Secretary should be elected this year. Dr. Wael Badawy was nominated by Dr. Tor Sverre Lande for the secretary post. It was approved unanimously.
- Dr. Tor Sverre Lande succeeded Dr. Chris Toumazou as the Past Chair, Dr. Mohamad Sawan succeeded Dr. Tor Sverre Lande as the Chair, and Dr. Yong Lian succeeded Dr. Mohamad Sawan as the Vice Chair.

8. Any Other Matters

- There is no other matter.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.