# Biomedical and Life Science Circuits and Systems (BioCAS) Technical Committee Minutes

Date: May 25th, 2016
Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Venue: Salon 5 – Sheraton Hotel, Montreal, Canada.
Compiled by: Kea-Tiong (Samuel) Tang, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

## Attendees

1. Shuenn-Yuh Lee — ieesyl@mail.ncku.edu.tw
2. Angel Rodriguez-Vasquez — angel@imse-cnm.csic.es
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6. Shantanu Chakrabartty — shantanu@egr.msu.edu
7. Amine Bermak — eebermak@ust.hk
8. Julius Georgiou — Julio@ucy.ac.cy
9. Kea-Tiong (Samuel) Tang — kttang@mx.nthu.edu.tw
10. Guoxing Wang — guoxing@sjtu.edu.ch
11. Mohamad Sawan — mohamad.sawan@polymtl.ca
12. Wouter A. Serdijn — w.a.serdijn@tudelft.nl
13. Sandro Carrara — sandro.carrara@epfl.ch
14. Pamela Abshire — pabshire@umd.edu
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20. Christoph Posch — Christoph.posch@insem.fa
21. Maysam Ghovanloo — mgh@gatech.edu
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| 47. | Milutin Stanacevic | Milutin.stanacevic@stonybrook.edu |

## 1. Opening
Sameer Sonkusale welcomed the TC members and opened the meeting.

## 2. Introduction and Approval of the meeting agenda.
Sameer Sonkusale introduced the agenda and the TC unanimously approved the proposed agenda.

## 3. Minutes
The 2015 TC meeting minutes was approved unanimously.

## 4. Election of new officers
(1) Chair: Julius Georgiou proceeds to this position from Chair-elect for a term of 2 years.
(2) Chair-elect: Sameer Sonkusale nominated the current TC secretary Kea-Tiong (Samuel) Tang as the chair-elect. The TC members agreed unanimously.
(3) Secretary: Tim Constandinou nominated the Jennifer Blain-Christen as the secretary. The TC members agreed unanimously.

## 5. Election of new members.
There were 8 nominations submitted prior to the TC meeting, and there were 5 late nominations that needed to be circulated then voted by email among the TC members. The 8 nominations were:

(1) Jun Ohta (nominated by Sandro Carrara)
(2) Dai Jiang (nominated by Andreas Demosthenous)
(3) Deepu John (nominated by Yong Lian)
(4) Kiichi Niitsu (nominated by Tim Constandinou)
(5) Virgilio Valente (nominated by Eduard Alarcon)
(6) Hao Yu (nominated by Zhihua Wang)
(7) Hanjun Jiang (nominated by Zhihua Wang)
(8) Ross Walker (nominated by Maysam Ghovanloo)

While the candidates were waiting outside, there were some discussions on acquiring the new members. Several issues have been brought up.

(1) The TC would like to welcome members with a number of years of experience after postdoc or industry.
(2) The new members should be active! They can organize a workshop together, for example.
(3) We may consider to have "associate members" before they really join us as members, so that we can look at their participation.
(4) We want to find home for the people who wants to join this TC.

After the discussion, all 8 candidates were approved unanimously. They came back in to continue joining the TC meeting. The other 5 candidates will be circulated to vote through emails. The 5 candidates are:

(1) Timir Datta (nominated by Pamela Abshire)
(2) Nicole McFarlane (nominated by Pamela Abshire)
(3) Melpomoni Kalofonou (nominated by Tim Constandinou)
(4) Mohamed Atef (nominated by Guoxing Wang)
(5) Chris Lee (nominated by Pamela Abshire).

## 6. TC Activities Report

- *BioCAS track of ISCAS 2016*
  - Submissions: 123 (19% increase from 2015)
    (2015: 103, 2014: 120, 2013: 122, 2012: 163, 2011: 74, 2010: 85)
  - Submission ranks 3$^{rd}$ among TC
  - Accepted papers: 60 (~ 48%)
  - 7 lecture sessions, and 3 poster sessions.
  - TC members also organized 3 special sessions and 1 CAS-FEST.
  - 32 RCMs, a total of 489 reviewers were assigned, with an average of 4 reviewers per paper. The average review per paper received was 3.7
  - 20 members from the TC volunteered to serve as session chairs for the 7 lecture and 3 special sessions.
  - Mohamad Sawan and Guoxing Wang have arranged guest editors for the TBioCAS special issue.
- *BioCAS track of ISCAS 2016, best paper award*
  - Top 17 papers receiving highest scores were reviewed for best paper award.
  - Award subcommittee: Samuel Tang, Julius Georgiou, Sameer Sonkusale, Jennifer Blain-Christen, Maysam Ghovanloo
  - This year the winner is:
    - "Battery-less Modular Responsive Neurostimulator for Prediction and Abortion of Epileptic Seizures", by Hossein Kassiri, Nima Soltani, M. Tariqus Salam, Jose Luis Perez Velazquez, Roman Genov.
- *BioCAS 2015*
  - Maysam Ghovanloo reported on BioCAS 2015 held in Atlanta, GA.
    - A total of 328 papers were submitted to BioCAS'15, a 22% increase compared to BioCAS'14, which was already a record year. Geographical representation of these submissions to the IEEE BioCAS 2015 have been depicted in the following image.
    - Out of these, 143 papers were accepted by the technical program committee for presentation at the conference, which plus the 20 invited papers, dropped the acceptance rate to below 50% in the history of the IEEE BioCAS.
    - Moreover, 310 people registered for the conference, a record for the IEEE BioCAS, and more than 300 actually attended this full three-day single-track conference, which also included all the tutorial.
- *BioCAS 2016*
  - Yong Lian reported on BioCAS 2016 to be held next year

- Location: Shanghai, China.
- Date: Oct. 17~19, 2016.
- There will be a two-day workshop BrainCAS immediately after BioCAS (you need to register your poster: just upload your file).
- *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems (TBioCAS)*
  - Editor in Chief: Mohamad Sawan
  - Deputy Editor-in-chief : Guoxing Wang
  - Sponsorship: IEEE Circuits and Systems Society and IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
  - **Year in existence: 10**
  - Time to review: 41 days to first decision and 56 days to final decision
  - Submissions Rose another 9% to currently 300 submissions annually. The page budget was increased to 1,200 pages (30% increase) with plan to go to 1500 pages by 2017
  - The impact factor stabilized at 2.9

**ISCAS 2017**
- Pamela Abshire talked about ISCAS 2017. There will be changes to technical program
  - Track structure updated in coordination with TCs
  - Introduction of themes
  - Primary and Secondary subtrack selection
  - Instructions to reviewers, RCMs, Subject Chairs
  - Timeline shortened
- Needs 3 subject chairs for ISCAS 2017 appointed by TC
  - Julius, Samuel, Jennifer were appointed.
  - Samuel will send this information to Pamela.

7. **IEEE Brain Initiative**
   - Roman Genov briefly introduced the IEEE Brain Initiative. Slides will be later distributed by email.
8. **DL nomination and approved (congratulations)**
   - We submitted three nominees through TC-wide internet based vote. Two out of three nominees were selected:
     - Julius Georgiou
     - Jie Chen
9. **New IEEE Fellows (congratulations)**
   - Jie Chen
   - Sandro Carrara

10. **Awards (congratulations)**
    - IEEE-wide Donald Fink Award (Gruev)
    - IEEE CAS Meritorious Service Award (Wouter)

11. **Meeting Adjourned**