

Report on IEEE SMC Distinguished Lecture by Professor Saeid Nahavandi

We had the honour of inviting Professor Saeid Nahavandi to deliver a Distinguished Lecture, in Royal Holloway, University of London, on 23 July 2024. Distinguished Professor Saeid Nahavandi is currently Swinburne University of Technology's inaugural Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Chief of Defence Innovation. Professor Nahavandi is a Fellow of IEEE (FIEEE), Engineers Australia (FIEAust), the Institution of Engineering and Technology (FIET) and the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE).

The Distinguished Lecture was chaired by Dr Li Zhang, Reader in Computer Science, in Royal Holloway. There are a total of 40-50 attendees with 20+ colleagues as IEEE members. The participants were from a variety of schools and departments in Royal Holloway, including Departments of Electronic Engineering, Computer Science, Biological Sciences, Psychology, Economics, Politics, Law, Business and Management, Mathematics and Information Security.



Professor Saeid Nahavandi passionately shared their team's work and insightful perspectives. He has also demonstrated a wealth of professional knowledge, and explained their ground-breaking research with various demos of live robotic systems.

The lecture was exceptional, highly appreciated and well received by our scientific community in Royal Holloway. The talk covered topics from haptically-enabled systems for medical surgery, autonomous driving, firefighting training simulation, tele-healthcare robotic systems, and a variety of other robotics applications.

The presented research work and related videos have invoked various discussions from the audience with respect to AI in healthcare, medicine, manufacturing, education, rehabilitation, defence, and remote sensing.





Besides answering questions raised by colleagues and students, Professor Saeid Nahavandi also gave valuable insightful suggestions on future research directions for haptically-enabled systems and AI domains generally. The lecture was a tremendous success. It not only strengthened the communication between Professor Saeid Nahavandi's team and the team from Royal Holloway, but also inspired young-generation researchers to further explore haptically-enabled systems for immersive simulation.