Editorial

Dear readers: Welcome to the last issue of 2024 of the SMCS eNewsletter! We have a packed issue for you, with many interviews, conference highlights, and spotlight on our members, including the list of the newest members elevated to IEEE Fellow (Class of 2025).

First off, it was great to see many of you in Malaysia in October for the Annual 2024 Conference of the SMCS, and again in November for the 1st Telepresence Conference in Pasadena, California. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Holiday Season. May 2025 be filled with prosperity, both personally and professionally!

In this Issue, Dr. Haibin Zhu (VP SSE) presents a Featured Article titled "E-CARGO/RBC: Enabling Interdisciplinary Innovations in the Era of AI". In this article, Dr. Zhu highlights the role of E-CARGO/RBC (Environments - Classes, Agents, Roles, Groups, and Objects / Role-Based Collaboration) as a powerful modeling methodology designed to address complex problems systematically, guiding and managing AI tools effectively, while moving beyond reliance on basic programming skills. He showcases various applications of great importance to SMCS, providing some suggestions for early career researchers. A must read!

In the "Academic Corner" column, Associate Editor Hang Su interviews two early career SMCS researchers – Dr. Sarah Power (Memorial University, Canada) and Dr. Domenico Lofù (Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy). In these interviews, they share their backgrounds, research areas and vision for the future, including advice for young researchers wishing to enter their fields. Next, in the "Student Corner" column, Associate Editor Chun Sing Lai interviews two SMCS student authors and showcases their recent works published in SMCS Transactions. Lastly, in the "Industry Corner" column, Associate Editor Debdeep Paul interviews Dr. Ivan Tashev, a Partner Software Architect at Microsoft Research, where he currently leads the Audio and Acoustics Group and coordinates their Brain-Computer Interfaces project. In this interview, Dr. Tashev gives us a view of the emerging trends in human-machine interfaces (HMIs), along with some advice for young researchers wishing to enter the HMI field. We hope you enjoy these interviews!

For News items, we welcome two new SMCS Student Chapters: Tunisia and India. We also introduce the SMCS members who are part of the newest class of (2025) IEEE Fellows – congratulations to all! We provide reports on several Distinguished Lectures, as well as present a Call for Hosting Distinguished Lecturers. We showcase SMCS members who were recently in the spotlight, and highlight the November IEEE TAB meeting, the SMC 2024 Brain-Machine Interface Workshop, the SMC Chapters Get Together at SMC 2024, the 2024 Telepresence Conference and Competition, and the IEEE Yearly Engineering and Students Summit. Lastly, we present updates from the TC on Social Computing and Social Intelligence and announce the establishment of the new TC on Embodied AI Systems. Finally, we present a Call for Special Sessions, Tutorials and Workshops for SMC 2025, to be held in Vienna, Austria, and two Calls for Special Issue papers, one for the SMCS Transactions on Human-Machine Systems and another for the SMCS Transactions on Cybernetics.

I hope you enjoy this December issue of the SMCS eNewsletter. Our editorial team (A. Ávila, L. Dong, J. Dong, C. Lai, D. Paul, W. Qi, and H. Su) worked hard over the last few months to collect material we feel is relevant and of interest to you, including many job openings and student scholarships for you to share with your students and colleagues. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please let us know.

And don't forget that the SMCS election of Members-at-Large to the Board of Governors is now open and runs until December 31, 2024 at 4pm Eastern Time. Please cast your vote to help our Society prosper! You can vote by logging on to the IEEE Portal using your IEEE credentials: **https://eballot.app/ieee**

Enjoy the eNewsletter and see you in 2025!

Prof. Tiago H. Falk
INRS-EMT, University of Québec, Canada
INRS-UQO Joint Research Unit in Cybersecurity
tiago.falk@inrs.ca