

## IEEE CIS VP for Finances Vision Statement

I feel honored to serve as Vice President for Finances of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) for 2019–2020. Having served as IEEE CIS President in 2016–2017, I have first-hand knowledge on how IEEE and CIS work. However, since this is my first term as VP for Finances, I have a lot to learn, including picking up a new lingo (e.g. ‘general ledger’). The IEEE runs a series of webinars and a workshop for training new Treasurers, so I feel like I’m taking Finances 101. The magic bullet is that I count on the invaluable help of my predecessor, Dr. Enrique Ruspini. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Enrique for his great work and long-term service to our Society as the former IEEE CIS VP for Finances. CIS finances are in good shape thanks to the hard work of Enrique, our staff, and many volunteers.

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) of our Society is composed of eight officers: the President, the Immediate Past President or the President-elect, a VP for Conferences, a VP for Education, a VP for Finances, a VP for Members Activities, a VP for Publications, and a VP for Technical Activities. In addition, the Administrative Committee (ADCOM) is composed of 15 members-at-large, who are elected by CIS members, plus the 8 Society officers. As VP for Finances, I am a member of both the EXCOM and the ADCOM. [To learn more about how CIS works, please visit the follow-

ing link in our website <https://cis.ieee.org/about/how-cis-works>]. The particular responsibilities of the VP for Finances are: overseeing all financial matters of the Society, including coordinating the preparation of the annual budget of the Society and its submission to the ADCOM and to the IEEE, coordinating and supervising the review of the financial impact of proposals on the society budget, and monitoring expenditures and revenues to verify that they are in accordance with the approved budget, among other duties. The Society has several publications, conferences, and members’ services, which are part of our operational budget.

In the remainder of this article, I will refer to my vision for the near future regarding new initiatives. In my view it is of utmost importance for our Society to complete a strategic plan for the next 3–5 years, and assign resources to it. The current wave of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is both an opportunity and a challenge for CIS. AI is capturing the attention of the media, but Computational Intelligence (CI) is usually not well recognized. Moreover, both CI and AI have evolved over time, with a certain degree of convergence, and will continue to do so. We should position ourselves within IEEE, and beyond, as the champions in our field. We need to be open-minded, nimble, and flexible in order to adapt to the changes that have occurred in the field during the last decade, as well as those coming in the near future.

In October 2018, I conducted a survey on CI and AI among IEEE CIS ADCOM members, Editors-in-Chief,

and Standing Committee Chairs. All the respondents to the survey think that there is an overlap between CI and AI; in fact, more than 85% affirmed that there is a strong overlap. In addition, 88% think that it is important for our Society to establish a marketing strategy to make clear the relationship between CI and AI. 76% of the respondents also think that  $CI > NN + FS + EC$ , i.e. Computational Intelligence is more than the sum of its three main components: Neural Networks (NN), Fuzzy Systems (FS) and Evolutionary Computation (EC). Up to 84% think that our Society should establish long term goals. Some of the responses received are the following: “Remember Jack Welch’s book: “Control your Destiny or Someone Else Will””; “We are the flagship organization devoted to CI and should take the leadership role. Who else is going to do this?”. “The key is how to brand CI with respect to AI. I think this is the key, and also the big opportunity for our Society.”

Here are some strategies that have been discussed within CIS:

- 1) Develop a marketing strategy to brand CI
- 2) Make concepts and utility of CI understandable as well as accessible to people outside the field
- 3) Develop a plan to attract new communities outside CIS
- 4) Design a strategy to increase and retain CIS membership
- 5) Attract new people from industry, leading researchers and practitioners
- 6) Develop clearer pathways to volunteer leadership

7) Create new products and services, e.g., new publications, conferences & events, technical challenges, and educational programs

Our Society is always seeking volunteers to invent and develop new events and activities. Your participation in IEEE CIS is very much welcome. There are many ways to become a volunteer: There are 12 technical committees, 13 standing committees, and several sub-

committees in education, membership, conferences, and publications, on which more than 500 volunteers serve. In addition, there are many ways to be involved with publications and conferences, such as becoming a reviewer, or an associate editor, or organizing a special issue, a special session or a conference. I encourage you to visit our website, which has been recently renovated. Have a look, for example, at the links ‘What is com-

putational intelligence’ (<https://cis.ieee.org/about/what-is-ci>), ‘How to get involved’ (<https://cis.ieee.org/getting-involved/how-to-get-involved>), and the IEEE CIS video library (<https://cis.ieee.org/professional-development/video-library>). I am looking forward to working with you in our Society for the next two years and hope to have the chance to meet each of you personally at our flagship conferences.

---

Gary Fogel  
*Natural Selection, Inc., USA*

## IEEE CIS VP-Conferences Activities Vision Statement

Once again it is a pleasure to be serving as IEEE CIS VP Conferences for 2019. This is an unusual one-year term as the previous VP Conferences Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier is now President-Elect. My role in 2019 is to fill the remaining year that was left on her term as VP Conferences. I wish all the best to Bernadette as I know she will do well as our future society President!

The IEEE CIS sponsors many conferences to help in our mission of promoting computational intelligence research and applications. Conferences are a great place to interact with peers and learn about latest advances in the field. Our conferences run from very large events like the IEEE 2020 World Congress on Computational Intelligence (IEEE WCCI 2020) which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland on July 19–24, 2020 to smaller specialized symposia. While our WCCI is held only in even years, IEEE CIS offers many symposia and conferences each year, and the symposia are often grouped together

annually as our IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence (SSCI). At the SSCI, the cost of one admission allows the registrant to attend any symposia so it is a great way to be exposed to new areas of research that may be quite different than your own. The IEEE SSCI 2019 will be held at Xiamen, China on December 6–9, 2019.

As an organization, IEEE defines different levels of society involvement or “sponsorship” in conferences. The highest level of society sponsorship places IEEE CIS as the full and sole sponsor with 100% technical and financial responsibility for the event. Such conferences make use of “IEEE” in the title and logo, and require a process of proposal to the IEEE CIS Conferences Committee (ConfCom), and approval by both ConfCom and the IEEE CIS Administrative Committee. The next level offers a “co-sponsorship” approach which allows IEEE CIS to partner with other IEEE organizational units or other not-for-profit organizations to sponsor an event. The third approach is “technical co-sponsorship” where the IEEE CIS plays a direct role in the organization of the technical program while

having no financial involvement in the conference. In this situation, the conference may not use the IEEE name in the conference title. Our many sponsored events are listed on the society website at <https://cis.ieee.org/conferences/conference-calendar>

For example, we have the IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (IEEE CEC 2019) coming up on June 10–13, 2019 in Wellington, New Zealand, the IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE 2019) on June 23–26, 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, and we have a co-sponsorship with the International Neural Networks Society for the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2019) which will be held July 14–19 in Budapest, Hungary. We also have smaller conferences on specific application areas such as the IEEE Conference on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics (IEEE CIBCB 2019) in Sienna, Italy July 9–11, 2019, IEEE Conference on Games (IEEE CoG 2019) in London, United Kingdom August 20–23, 2019, and IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning and Epigenetic Robotics