

President's Message



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we can make it better!

It is my great pleasure to write to you as the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) president while we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the IEEE. The IEEE has had significant and lasting impact on engineering and related fields and has become one of the most influential professional societies in the world. Being a member society of the IEEE, the EMBS has played a significant and leadership role in the field of biomedical engineering. As the IEEE symbolizes technical excellence and societal impact, we should make every effort to maintain and enhance the quality and impact of what we are doing and what we plan to do.

An important activity of professional societies is to organize conferences for disseminating new knowledge and providing a platform for networking and exchanging ideas. The EMBS holds leading conferences in the field of biomedical engineering, including our Annual International Conference, the International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (cosponsored with IEEE Signal Processing Society), and the International Conference on Neural Engineering. In addition, the EMBS cosponsors or technically cosponsors a number of other conferences, covering a broad spectrum of research areas in biomedical engineering. Our conferences are well attended and student friendly. The proceedings of our annual international conferences are indexed in PubMed and MEDLINE and included in *IEEE Xplore* for wide dissemination. To further improve the quality of our annual conferences, the EMBS has established a Conference Editorial Board (CEB). From 2009, all the papers (including unsolicited and invited papers) submitted to our annual international conferences will be peer-reviewed by the CEB. Plans are under way to increase the number of review talks and tutorial sessions to provide a better coverage of state of the art in the field. Our 2009 Annual Conference

will be held in Minneapolis, the world's capital of the medical device industry. Dr. Andrew Fire, 2006 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, will deliver the Keynote Lecture in EMBC'09 in addition to a large number of expert speakers. I look forward to welcoming you to EMBC'09 in Minneapolis this September.

In addition to the conferences, the EMBS has a strong portfolio of archival publications. *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*, *IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine*, *IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Magazine*, and the newly created *IEEE Reviews in Biomedical Engineering* are solely sponsored by the EMBS. *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, *IEEE Transactions on NanoBioscience*, *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems*, and *IEEE Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics* are cosponsored with other IEEE societies or the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). These journals represent a rich portfolio of technical publications spanning the wide spectrum of topics in the field of biomedical engineering serving our members and our profession. The IEEE EMBS transactions are known for quality review and publish technical papers of the highest quality. Plans are under way to further enhance the impact of our publications by further improving both the technical quality and scientific significance of the papers to be published. It is my pleasure to welcome Mike Neuman as our new editor-in-chief of *IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Magazine*. Mike is a long-time EMBS member and volunteer and will succeed the outgoing Editor-in-Chief John Enderle. We are grateful to John for his service and looking forward to Mike's leading the magazine. I would also like to encourage you to read the first issue of *IEEE Reviews in Biomedical Engineering*, edited by Jose Principe and his team. This is the newest EMBS publication, which

was created to address the need of reviewing important trends and significant developments in biomedical engineering.

Recognizing excellence is also an important role of professional societies. The EMBS has had a track record of recognizing excellence in biomedical engineering. Society awards include the Career Achievement Award, the Service Award, the Early Career Achievement Award, and the recently introduced Career Achievement Award for Professional Practice in Biomedical Engineering. In addition, the EMBS runs an annual student paper competition in the EMBS annual international conferences and has chapter awards for chapter developments. From 2009, the EMBS will launch new EMBS Technical Awards to recognize individuals for outstanding technical contributions to a specific area in biomedical engineering, such as biomedical imaging and neural engineering. Plans are also under way to further develop our award programs to recognize the significant contributions of our members. Please consider nominating your colleagues for the EMBS Society Awards or Technical Awards. Contact the EMBS Executive Office at emb-exec@ieee.org for nomination forms. The IEEE Fellow nomination deadline is also approaching, and I encourage you to consider nominating a colleague for recognition as IEEE Fellow. Fellow nominations can be submitted online via the IEEE Web site.

Serving our members and the profession should be a primary goal of the EMBS. Among the various activities we do, recognizing and enhancing the technical excellence and the impact of our field are important services to our members. The state of the EMBS is very good. By working together, we can make it better. It is my honor and pleasure to serve you as the EMBS president for the coming two years. I welcome your comments and suggestions at binhe@umn.edu on how we can improve, what we have been doing, and what we can initiate to serve the EMBS, serve our profession, and serve you better.

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