

# President's Message



Bin He

conferences, publications, and membership activities

**N**ew Year greetings! As we are entering into 2010, I would like to report our Society's activities in each portfolio. In September 2009, IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) Administrative Committee (AdCom) elected new members of the Executive Committee (ExCom). Zhi-Pei Liang was elected as president elect (2010), Nigel Lovell as vice president (VP) conferences (2010–2011), and Gudrun Zahlmann as VP members and Student Activities (2010–2011).

## Technical Activities

Present Elect: Zhi-Pei Liang (z-liang@illinois.edu).

In addition to strategic planning and bylaws and constitutions, the portfolio of president elect includes technical activities. Currently, the EMBS has 11 Technical Committees covering important technical areas of interest to EMBS:

- Biomedical Imaging and Image Processing
- BioNanotechnology
- BioRobotics
- Biomedical Signal Processing
- Cardiopulmonary Systems
- Computational Biology and Physiome
- Information Technology for Health
- Microtechnologies and BioMEMS
- Neuroengineering
- Therapeutic Systems and Technologies
- Wearable Biomedical Sensors and Systems.

Each committee consists of experts in the technical field, providing expertise resources and technical support for EMBS activities including conference, publication, and membership activities.

## Conferences

VP: Nigel Lowell (N.Lovell@unsw.edu.au).

The EMBS provides financial and/or technical sponsorship for a range of conference activities, including its flagship annual conference [IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Conference (EMBC)] and several special topics conferences (STCs). This year's EMBC will be held from 31 August to 4 September 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is the first time that EMBC is held in South America, and the organizing committee is working hard to ensure its success and impact. One of the STCs, the International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging, jointly sponsored by EMBS and the IEEE Signal Processing Society, will be held this year in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Another STC is the International Conference on Biomedical Robotics, jointly sponsored by IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, which will be held 26–29 September 2010 in Tokyo, Japan. The EMBS will also launch a new STC: the American Medical Association (AMA)/IEEE Conference on Medical Technology cosponsored by EMBS and the AMA will be held in late March in Washington, D.C., with the theme of Personalized Medicine.

## Publications

VP: Andrew Laine (AL418@columbia.edu).

The EMBS publishes several key journals in the field of biomedical engineering. *IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Magazine* is a unique platform for disseminating news, tutorials, and perspectives in biomedical engineering that keep EMBS members and the health technology community informed of relevant issues and advances in the field. The EMBS solely sponsors and manages the following transactions: *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, *IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine*, and *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*. EMBS-

cosponsored journals include: *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, *IEEE Transactions on NanoBioscience*, *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics*, and *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems*. In 2008, EMBS launched a new review journal, *IEEE Reviews in Biomedical Engineering*, which publishes comprehensive reviews on selected emerging topics in biomedical engineering.

## Members and Student Activities

VP: Gudrun Zahlmann (gudrun.zahlmann@roche.com).

Membership service is a major priority of our Society's activities. EMBS has multiple committees charged with the responsibility of overseeing members' activities, including Member and Chapter Activities Committee, Student Activities Committee, Education Committee, Ethics and Professional Responsibilities Committee, Chapter Development Committee, and Member Recognition Committee. In September 2009, AdCom passed motions to form a standing committee on Student Paper Competition to coordinate the student paper competition and an ad hoc committee on public relations and outreach. EMBS has a number of local Chapters and student Chapters/clubs worldwide. The Chapters connect our members' activities at the regional level with Society's activities. The Chapter Development Committee assists members to form new Chapters or conduct Chapter activities. The Member Recognition Committee develops nominations for Society's awards or IEEE Fellow awards to recognize our members.

## Finance

VP: Craig Hartley (cjhartley@ieee.org).

EMBS is in good financial shape despite the recent worldwide fiscal

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experience with the young trainees and new investigators.

Cristian A. Linte organized a vibrant panel discussion featuring academics (Harvard University), industry entrepreneurs (Amgen and Medtronic Inc.), and government figures (National Science Foundation) on how one should prepare for, apply for, and negotiate a first bioengineering job in academia, government, or private sector.

Finally, Kaustubh Patil, chair of the Twin Cities IEEE EMBS Chapter, hosted a session on "Early Career Development in Bioengineering," where trainees had an open discussion with a bioengineering postdoctoral fellow, a research scientist, and an assistant professor about the joys and pitfalls of various careers in bioengineering.

#### **EMBC 2010: Argentina Awaits You**

The 32nd Annual International Conference of the EMBS will be hosted by Favaloro University in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Student Activities Committee has already started working toward an exciting program for you, featuring the usual career-development sessions and networking events, and . . . you may also want to keep your eyes

open for a sport event at this year's meeting ☺.

We are always looking for enthusiastic trainees to join the Student Activities Committee and become an active participant in the planning and organizing of the student program. It's not too late, so send me an e-mail ([clinte@imaging.robarts.ca](mailto:clinte@imaging.robarts.ca)) and come along! Bring in a breath of fresh air and help us make the

**The Lunch with Leaders is another highlight event organized by the EMBS for its trainees.**

EMBC 2010 student activities another success. Remember that this is a great opportunity to meet our fellow colleagues from around the world while contributing to the future of bioengineering.

On behalf of all trainees, I would like to take a moment and express my sincere thanks to Dr. Bin He (EMBS president and EMBC 2009 conference chair), Dr. Jorge Monzon (vice president, Member and Student Activities), Dr. Christopher James (EMBC 2009 Student Activities chair), Dr. Lisa Lazarek (chair of the EMBS Student Activities), Dr. Matthias Reumann (EMBS GOLD representative), and Ms. Laura Wolf, Ms. Lynn Bowlby, and Ms. Jodi Janiszewski (EMBS Executive Office). The Student Activities Program would not have been possible without their dedication and support!

**Cristian A. Linte** is studying in the Laboratory for Image-Guided Surgery and Therapy in the Imaging Research Laboratories at Robarts Research Institute in London, Canada, toward a Ph.D. degree in biomedical engineering. He received his bachelor of applied science degree in mechanical, automotive, and materials engineering in 2004 and a master's degree in engineering science in biomedical engineering from the University of Western Ontario in 2006.

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crisis. The Finance Committee prepares and submits the annual budget for the Society using formulas and inputs from IEEE based on previous years and from motions passed by the AdCom. As an IEEE Society, we are required to submit a balanced budget, and our Finance Committee has done an excellent job in tough financial times.

In addition to the activities outlined earlier, EMBS also provides several prestigious awards to our members to

recognize their contributions to our Society and the field. These awards include the Career Achievements Awards, Technical Awards, Service Award, and Chapter Awards. The award nomination deadline is coming up soon. Please consider nominating one or more of your colleagues for these awards or IEEE Fellow recognition. For detailed information on the award nominations, please contact the EMBS Executive Office at [emb-exec@ieee.org](mailto:emb-exec@ieee.org), which is

managed by the Executive Director Laura Wolf.

I wish you a productive and exciting year. The ultimate mission of EMBS shall be to serve its members, the profession, and humanity, through disseminating knowledge and promoting technical excellence. If there is anything you think EMBS can do to better serve you, please contact one of the ExCom members mentioned earlier or myself at [binhe@umn.edu](mailto:binhe@umn.edu).