

## IEEE Computational Intelligence Society President's Welcome

I am very pleased to welcome all participants of the 2005 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN). Again as in other odd years, this traditional event in 2005 has been organized and sponsored by the International Neural Network Society (INNS), and organized with technical co-sponsorship of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (IEEE CIS).

This address offers me a special opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of the Organizing and Technical Committees and the IJCNN's General Chair, Dr. Danil Prokhorov, who have all worked hard to put together an exciting technical program. The technical sessions will highlight plenary lectures by leading researchers, and will feature regular and special oral sessions. In addition, poster sessions will provide plenty of opportunities for face-to-face interaction between the authors and small groups of participants.

I believe that a conference such as IJCNN offers a unique opportunity for all of us to become one community of professional colleagues regardless of the native language we speak, and regardless of the academic or professional rank we are holding. At IJCNN, aspiring PhD students can rub shoulders with distinguished neural networks pioneers, and junior researchers can freely interact with senior plenary speakers. IJCNN allows us to truly share our research ideas, and meet partners in our present or future research efforts. It is the democracy of research efforts and information exchange that is at work here.

As many of you know, IEEE CIS has a tradition of supporting student travel to its premier conferences such as IJCNN, FUZZ-IEEE, CEC but also to smaller conferences. Similar to previous years, numerous travel grants have been awarded to students from the USA, Canada, and Regions 8-10. To this aim, IEEE CIS has established a special website where all participants can apply for travel subsidies awarded by the IEEE CIS Education Committee. These new participants have my special welcome to Montreal's IJCNN.

CIS is one of thirty-eight IEEE Societies. Its focus is the theory, design, application, and development of biologically and linguistically motivated computational paradigms emphasizing neural networks, connectionist systems, genetic algorithms, evolutionary programming, fuzzy systems, and hybrid intelligent systems. Created in 2002, the Society is actively seeking new members to join its current membership ranks of over 5,700 and expand its international and North-American presence. To join the IEEE CIS and become an active member of our community, please visit [www.ieee.org/join](http://www.ieee.org/join).

Activities in all technical areas are coordinated by one of the Society's eight Technical Committees: Computational Intelligence, Fuzzy Systems, Evolutionary Computation, Emergent Technologies, Bioinformatics and Bioengineering, Intelligent Systems Applications, and Autonomous Mental Development. The Committees serve as forums for the exchange of technical information, the dissemination of ideas and the initiation of new topical trends. It is at this level of involvement where ideas and topics are incubated for special sessions of conferences, new workshops and seminars, and special issues of our journals, and also it is where new conferences are being planned.

IEEE CIS offers its members an amazing range of technical involvement. It publishes three highly-regarded IEEE Transactions as well as the CIS Newsletter (that is destined to emerge as the CIS Magazine in 2006), organizes three major conferences and specialized symposia and workshops. The CIS also supports educational opportunities through its multimedia tutorial program, and summer research programs. Other activities include the Distinguished Lecturers Program available to our Chapters, Technical Field Awards, Best Paper Awards, Pioneer Awards, Meritorious Service Award, and new awards such as Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award, and Best Chapter Award. The Society's other efforts extend special opportunities for women in computational intelligence. All of our members are invited to take full advantage of these exciting chances for their professional growth.

New activities can also be initiated within the local territorial entities of our Society called Chapters. To become involved in a Chapter, a member needs to contact the appropriate regional Chapter Chair. If no Chapter has been established in your area, you may create it by collecting twelve signatures of current CIS members and contacting Dr. David Fogel, VP-Membership Activities, at [dfogel@natural-selection.com](mailto:dfogel@natural-selection.com).

Our members are not only encouraged to get involved in Technical Committees or Chapters. The Society also needs more volunteers to run its daily business. We need people for the Standing Committees, such as Education, Multimedia Tutorials, Standards and other committees. In addition, the Society members cast their votes when electing its governing body called Administrative Committee (ADCOM).

As you have read, the Society offers all its members opportunities to get involved, stay active and participate at the technical level or in its self-governance. We need your support, time and talent, and I am eagerly awaiting your participation in the Society, your contribution to the field, and the further advancement of the society as a whole. For more information, please check our website at [www.ieee-cis.org](http://www.ieee-cis.org).

One of the special conference activities, the Joint IEEE-INNS Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony, that will be held on Wednesday, August 3, will be co-hosted by the President of the INNS, Dr. Donald Wunsch, and me. I hope to see you all there. I also wish you a pleasant stay in Montreal. Have a great conference!

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