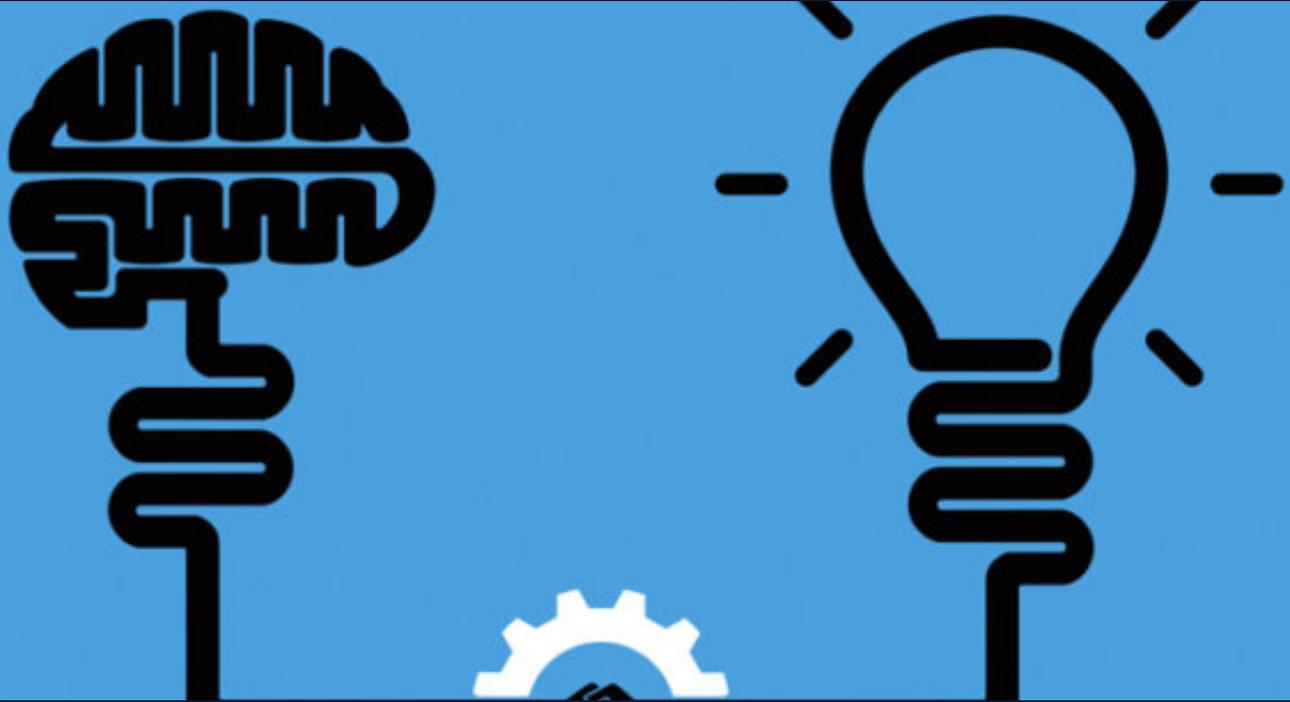


IEEE Region 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *IEEE R2 Topic of the Month - Awards*
- *IEEE Region 2 Innovation and Excellence*
- *Hot Topics of the Month IEEE-USA, IEEE, and Region 2*



Fostering Technological Innovation & Excellence

IEEE Region 2 has been prolific in offering and supporting events furthering our mission and vision. Just this Fall alone, the team has supported [EVOPro](#), [EVO 2.0](#), IEEE Day [events](#), [IEEEXtreme](#) 15.0, multiple conferences, and hundreds of local events for our students, professionals, and the technical communities writ large. Winter 2022 looks to be just as exciting with our

local **Pittsburgh WIE** affinity group hosting special events, such as the upcoming [Panel](#) on **Revolutionizing Healthcare with AI**, three additional conferences through the end of the year, and a full plate of technical, mentoring, student, and professional related [events](#). Additionally, innovative new awards are being launched weekly.

IEEE Susquehanna Section Capstone Award

Undergraduate seniors in Pennsylvania engineering and computer science schools must, prior to their graduation, participate in technical projects that demonstrate the skills they have learned. These are known as Capstone projects, which can be organized with a single contributor or a team. These projects can also be multidisciplinary in nature.

In 2021, the Susquehanna Section in Region 2 implemented a highly successful project known as the Capstone Award. The purpose of this award was to increase the visibility of the Section to students and faculty of area schools, which offer BS degrees in EE, ET and computer science. It was also meant to encourage recruitment of IEEE students and the formation/operation of local IEEE student branches.

Award components include:

- Cash Awards
- Certificates of Achievements
- Winning School Plaque

An ad hoc committee was established in late 2020, consisting of a faculty representative from all area schools, along with the Section's Chair (Carlos Torres), Past Chair (Bob Lesniewski) and Student Activities Chair (Dr. Kala Meah). All six eligible schools participated on the ad hoc committee.

Five universities competed in 2021. The best Capstone project entitled "**Automated Hydroponic System**" was awarded to the team from Elizabethtown College. The team members were Alejandro Chicas, Andrew Fisher, Donato Grimaldi, Alexander Koontz and Clark Williamson. Dr. Tomas Estrada was the team's faculty advisor.

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2rvc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2



Saj Durrani Technology Achievement Award

This distinguished IEEE award is to be presented annually by the joint Washington D.C., (WASH) and Northern Virginia (NoVA) Sections. The award is to recognize an IEEE member who has made notable contributions to the profession in the area of communications. These may include, but not be limited to: global and/or satellite, fiber optic, copper, or microwave communications. The award further recognizes the IEEE member for mentoring and advising others, for promoting diversity, and, for pursuing peaceful scientific initiatives for the benefit of humanity.

The award is given in memory of Dr. Saj Durrani, an IEEE fellow, Section leader and longstanding IEEE volunteer who exhibited the qualities of outstanding leadership in the field of global and satellite communications while promoting diversity and peaceful scientific pursuits among his colleagues. His oral history interview is captured [here](#).

The recipient must be a member of IEEE, Washington DC or Northern Virginia Section, in good standing, at time of nomination. Deadline for submissions is February 15th. All Saj Durrani Technology Achievement Award recipients will be listed on the awardees page of the WASH and NoVA websites.

Pittsburgh Technology Council's Tech 50



It's pretty amazing that the Tech Council has been celebrating the accomplishments of our tech companies large and small for a quarter of a century," said Tech Council President and CEO Audrey Russo. "Having the event in person after Covid forced a virtual Tech 50 last year, made it even more special. To see the excitement and feel the energy of the winners and finalists is simply amazing.". Winners and further information can be found [here](#).

For additional information on IEEE Region 2 Industry events contact Joe Cioletti at jcioletti@ieee.org.

IEEE R2 Robot Challenge 2021-2022

The **Pittsburgh Technology Council** celebrated the 25th annual Tech 50 Awards on Nov. 10, 2021 to honor the fastest growing and most innovative technology companies, service providers and CEOs in the Pittsburgh region.

This is the Tech Council's annual opportunity for members to connect with the region's top companies in the following categories:

- AI/ML/Robotics
- Consumer
- Life Sciences
- Manufacturing
- Medtech/Health IT
- Non-Profit/Education/Community
- Solutions Provider - Innovative Tech
- Solutions Provider - Services
- Start-up Company
- CEO of the Year!

Sponsored by the **Baltimore Museum of Industry** (BMI) as one of their Maryland Engineering Challenges; and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), who developed the concept, the **Robot Challenge Event** will be held over two days in 2022: On Saturday, April 23, there will be a Virtual Event on Zoom, whereas on Sunday, April 24, 2022, the Event will be held in person, at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Detailed information can be found [here](#). Contact: **Mr. Neville Jacobs**



Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2rvc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2

IEEE-USA 2022 President Elect

U.S. IEEE members have selected Ed F. Palacio, to serve as IEEE-USA president-elect in 2022. Congratulations to Palacio and appreciation to Keith A. Moore, PE, both candidates have devoted considerable time and energy to helping U.S. IEEE members. Palacio will begin his term on 1 January 2023, succeeding 2022 IEEE-USA President Deborah M. Cooper.



REGION 2 BUILDS GREAT LEADERS

It is a historic moment to celebrate, as two IEEE President-elects are coming from R2 back-to-back. Last year, Ray Liu was elected the IEEE President-elect 2021, while this year, Mr. Saifur Rahman was elected President-elect 2022. Congrats Region2 and winners!

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2rvc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2



IEEE
Advancing Technology
for Humanity

Panel Discussion:
Revolutionizing Healthcare with AI



"Developing AI technology to support real-time decision making for healthcare providers."

Arielle Fisher, PhD
Director of Product, Genospace



"The smartest AI in the world will still give wrong answers if it isn't asked the right questions."

Michael Ding, PhD
Data Scientist, LifeMine Therapeutics



"I am passionate about encouraging Women Tech Entrepreneurs"

Gaurav Trivedi, PhD
Advanced Innovation, Philips Healthcare

Saturday, Dec 11th, 2021
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Virtual event: open and free to all!
Scan here to register on VTools!



IEEE Region 2: Pittsburgh Section, Women in Engineering Affinity Group
Tweet at us: @IEEEWIE @IEEEorg #ieeeph

IEEE WIE PITTSBURGH EVENT

Are you considering a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare? This event will be a panel discussion with three successful AI scientists who graduated from the Pittsburgh region. AI itself has great potential for the benefit of humanity. While AI is not a panacea for healthcare problems, utilizing patient and consumer data could lead to a precision model approach, which can help with the diagnosis and prognosis of the disease. We will discuss current innovations that our speakers are a part of as well as discussing the strengths and limitations of AI in healthcare. We will also discuss the future potential of AI and the knowledge gap between academia and industry. Further, we will discuss how Tech companies are promoting diversity and inclusion to improve AI as a field.

Event to be held on 12 DEC 2021. Registration [here](#).

IEEE - USA Special Resources

Critical Thinking for Engineers

Creativity is often considered the core of engineering because it is from creativity that we devise unique solutions to society's challenges. LinkedIn's Learning study ranked creativity #1 in its poll of critical job skills. Some engineers may feel, however, that they are not the "creative types." As we'll learn in this webinar there are many ways to enhance one's innate creativity. Creativity is indeed within us all and simply needs activation to overcome a long held belief that we are otherwise. In this webinar, Sridhar Ramanathan takes a deeper look at creativity and how we might enhance this capability that is so critical to engineering. He will provide practical tips in areas such as cognitive flexibility, curiosity, visualization, imagination, and more. [Register today!](#)

IEEE-USA UPDATES



IEEE-USA Government Relations Director Russ Harrison discusses what Congress is doing for, and to our profession during the COVID-19 crisis. No registration required.

GOOD RESEARCH PRACTICES IN ACADEMICS: A PERSPECTIVE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Quality research is a necessity to prepare ourselves for the surprises hidden in the future. It goes without saying that a focused, superior quality research culture is the need of the hour. In particular, the scope for improving and channelizing academic research in developing countries should be analyzed. By Dr. Abhishek Mahesh Appaji; Dr. Ramya Hariharan



IEEE-USA EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – 2021 EDITION

The 2021 IEEE-USA Employment Survey was conducted to gain a better understanding of the problem of unemployment among U.S. IEEE members.



Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2rvc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2

Central Area

The Central Area covers the following IEEE R2 Sections:

- Central Pennsylvania
- Erie
- Johnstown
- Pittsburgh
- West Virginia
- Susquehanna



Chair: James A. Beck

East Area

The East Area covers the following IEEE R2 Sections

- Philadelphia
- Southern New Jersey
- Lehigh Valley
- Delaware Bay



Chair : Joseph Burns



South Area

The South Area covers the following IEEE R2 Sections

- Baltimore
- Northern Virginia
- Washington D.C.

Chair: Don Herres



West Area

The West Area covers the following IEEE R2 Sections

- Akron
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Dayton
- Lima
- Youngstown

Chair: Chang Liu



Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2vc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2

JOIN AN AFFINITY GROUP

JOIN A COMMUNITY



Collaborate, Engage, and Follow Us in 2021!



SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS & ENTREPRENEURS

ATTEND AN R2 EVNET



Newsletter Editor: Dr. Rhonda Farrell, ieeer2rvc@gmail.com, www.ieee.org/r2