# Minutes of the 2021 IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPSS) Nuclear Medical and Imaging Sciences Council (NMISC) Mid-Year Tele-Conference Meeting

# Date: TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, 9:00AM EST

# Location: virtual

***Voting Members:*** *Executive*

Roger Fulton (NMISC Chair)

Andrew Goertzen (NMISC Vice Chair)

Jae Sung Lee (NMISC Past Chair, NMISC Awards-Fellows Sub-Committee Chair)

*NMISC Term ending 2021:*

Andrew Goertzen

Georges El Fakhri

Nicola Belcari

Taiga Yamaya

Chuck Melcher

*NMISC Term ending 2022:*

Marie-Claude Gregoire

Antonio Gonzalez Martinez

Craig Levin

Youngho Seo

*NMISC Term ending 2023*

*Dimitra Darambara*

*Andrea Gonzalez Montoro*

*Hamid Sabet*

*Emilie Roncali*

*Volkmar Schultz*

***Non Voting Members:***

Steve Meikle (MIC 2018, NPSS Vice President)

Adam Alessio (Adcom representative)

Robert Miyaoka (Adcom representative)

Merry Keyser (**Valentin T. Jordanov Award Committee Chair)**

Dimitris Visvikis (TRPMS Editor in Chief)

Nicolas Karakatsanis (NMISC Secretary)

GianFranco Della Batta (JOS Chair)

Alberto Del Guerra (JOS Past Chair)

Suleman Surti (JOS Vice Chair)

Ron Schrimpf (NPSS President)

* 1. Introduction. Delivered by Roger Fulton
	2. NMISC Chair’s report. Delivered by Roger Fulton
* Reviewed technical committees and executive members
* In November 2020, the AdCom approved a motion from RISC/NMISC “that the Room Temperature Semiconductor Detectors Symposium (RTSD) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) be a fully sponsored conference of NPSS when it is held in conjunction with the IEEE NSS-MIC”.
	1. NMISC Subcommittees Reports:
* NMISC Awards Fellow Sub-Committee report, delivered by Jae Sung Lee, Chair of the subcommittee
	+ New award: Medical Imaging Technical Achievement Award
		- New award for mid-career achievement
		- Eligibility: 8-25 years after obtaining the highest degree
	+ Nomination deadline for the first recipient: July 15
		- Aim to get 4-6 nominations for each award each
		- Assemble committee (6 each) by end of July for result in mid-September
		- Aim to get diverse range of nominees
	+ Nominations and endorsements by award sub-committee members may not be made for the awards cycle in which they are seated.
	+ Committee members need to be replaced prior to submitting a nomination or endorsing, otherwise the nominee is ineligible.
* NMISC Secretary report, delivered by Nicolas Karakatsanis, the new NMISC secretary (2021-2022 term)
	+ Non-Routine Motions Voted on Since 2020 AGM (October 2020)
		- Larry Zeng elected as new JOS member (2-Year term: 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2022)
		- Dr Zeng agreed to serve as NMISC representative for a 2nd consecutive 2-year term taking into consideration the disruption of JOS activities in 2020 due to the pandemic situation
	+ Nine candidates were nominated for new NMISC members (1/2022 – 12/2024)
		- Only two of the candidates were female. Aim for a larger female representation among NMISC candidates
* NMISC Constitution and Bylaws Subcommittee report, delivered by NMISC secretary on behalf of Andrew Goertzen, Chair of the sub-committee
	+ Task: Review of NMISC Constitution and Bylaws every 5 years
	+ Other members: Nicola Belcari, Antonio J Gonzalez, Nicolas A Karakatsanis & Youngho Seo
	+ Revised NPSS Adcom Constitution and Bylaws at the end of 2020 will be taken into consideration
	+ Subcommittee’s work is temporally deferred until July 2021
* Conference Record Working Group report, delivered by NMISC secretary on behalf of Andrew Goertzen, Chair of the sub-committee
	+ Objective: work on shaping the long-term vision and future for the NSS/MIC conference record
	+ Subcommittee’s work is temporally deferred until July 2021
* Updates on the topic of NPSS Events Sustainability and Carbon Footprint, delivered by NMISC Secretary on behalf of NPSS Chair Steven Meikle
	+ Detailed report on this topic was provided at last year’s NMISC T-Con by Dr Steven Meikle
	+ IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) has been looking into this issue prior to Covid-19 (start of 2020), but since then they have been consumed by Covid-19 related issues
	+ No progress update on this topic during the first semester of 2021
	+ NPSS Chair Dr Steven Meikle will ensure the topic stays on the MCE agenda and will be happy to report back to NMISC when there is further progress
* New award: Edward J Hoffman Early Career Development Grant, delivered by NMISC Secretary
	+ award now implemented with first recipient (2021 awardee) being Dr Emilie Gaudin
	+ IMPORTANT NOTE by Steven Meikle, NPSS Chair
		- ensure many more deserving candidates are nominated each of the following years
* NPSS Fellow Evaluation Committee report, delivered by A. Del Guerra, Chair of the committee
	+ This year the number of nominees was a record low => only 8 !
	+ The NPS FEC worked well and very effectively
	+ All the various topics of research of NPS were represented in the committee
	+ Although this is not a rule (but it has happened in the past years), numerically we expect 3 elevated fellows per year (about 0.1 of the members of NPS)
	+ SUGGESTIONS
		- The manuals for the nomination are now very well done and the criteria to be elevated to Fellow status are very clear
		- There is a major need for more nominees
* Balanced Representation Sub-Committee report, delivered by J Dutta, Chair of the sub-committee
	+ Aim of the sub-committee: Identification of
		- challenges/barriers to achieving balanced representation among conference attendees and leadership
		- data sources for existing imbalance
		- new strategies to be recommended for adoption to promote balanced representation
	+ Challenges: Not enough opportunities to attract/engage early career professionals in conference related service
	+ Planned Actions:
		- Incorporate additional questions into the registration software for anonymous data collection
		- Discuss possible grant or internship to involve early career professionals in service roles
		- Assess ways to improve communication with young professionals
	+ NPSS Initiative (3-year duration, proposed total funds level: USD ~10k/year)
		- Milestone 1: Modify the conference registration software to include additional questions in the conference registration process that would provide us new anonymized data on the participants segmented by career stage, sex/gender, race, nationality, etc. to understand what disparities exist in participant representation.
		- Milestone 2: Create a grant/internship for young professionals to learn about the service component of conference delivery. The grant could support the annual recruitment of one or more young professional grantees/interns to NMISC. The intern positions will provide young professionals an opportunity to get involved with NMISC activities via supervised short-term projects.
		- Future Steps: Software implementation hurdles, Timeline & cost estimates
* NMISC/RISC Joint Oversight Sub-Committee report, delivered by G.F. Della Batta
	+ Updates on JOS members
		- November 2020: Dick Kouzes’s term extended by two years
		- February 2021: Larry Zeng’s term extended by two years after NMISC members approval
	+ 2025 NSS/MIC Site Selection
		- In September 2020, JOS had asked JES to start the evaluation of the proposals received from the three Chinese bidders for 2024, who had confirmed their availability for 2025.
		- In October 2020, JES decided to defer consideration of the options for 2025 until Yokohama would make a decision about its delivery mode.
		- In December 2020, JES informed JOS that the 2021 NSS/MIC committee asked to transition into a virtual format and to postpone the in-person meeting to 2025.
		- JES decided to approve both requests; a range of three years, from 2025 to 2027, was actually proposed for consideration to the 2021 NSS/MIC committee, and the choice was confirmed for 2025.
	+ JES + JOS discussion regarding 2026 NSS/MIC site selection should start soon
* Jordanov Travel Grant Award sub-committee, delivered by Merry Keyser, Chair of the Jordanov Travel Grant Award Sub-committee
	+ As NSS/MIC 2021 in Yokohama, Japan, has been a virtual conference event without travel, there have been no Jordanov awardees for 2021 (same as for Boston 2020)
	+ Jordanov Award cannot be used only for covering registration fees if no traveling is not issued as it will dilute the prestige of award which is given to about ~8 people every year out of ~200 applicants
* New subcommittee on future MIC topic emphasis, delivered by V. Sossi
	+ Task: to brainstorm on how MIC should evolve in light of
		- Recent advances in the field
		- Possible competing conferences, and
		- Need to maintain a strong identity
	+ Members: A. del Guerra, S. Cherry, G. El Fakhri, D. Visvikis and V. Sossi (Chair)
	+ Plan: to present a report at the upcoming 2021 NMISC AGM meeting (Nov 2021)
* Boston, USA, 2020 Virtual NSS/MIC & RTSD report, delivered by Dr G. El Fakhri (2020 MIC Chair)
	+ Attendance
		- 1347 registrations from 36 countries between September 11 and November 2nd (planned for 1100 participants)
		- NSS/MIC/RTSD received ~1100 submissions. 1060 decisions made. 1033 accepted (411 in MIC).
	+ Submissions by topic: NSS: 540, MIC: 422, RTSD: 95
	+ Conference record: in progress, Valerio Re Conference Editor
	+ Considerations for future Conferences
		- Steep learning curve
		- Value of virtual component, hybrid meetings
		- Value of parallel sessions, even in the virtual setting
		- Virtual camaraderie
	+ 2020 NSS/MIC Conference Record, (on behalf of Valerio Re)
		- Total submitted papers: 346 (NSS: 150, MIC: 181, RTSD: 15)
		- Paper checked for plagiarism (requiring ≤ 30% overlap), copyright notice, format (e.g., footnote with author affiliations, figure captions, title, font size and type, …)
		- Papers needing revisions: about 250
		- Revision of conference records is in progress (75% completed, aim to finish by 6/2021)
		- Comments & recommendations
			* Despite the pandemic, the community submitted a large set of papers with high scientific value
			* To speed up the publication of the Conference Record by IEEE, it would be very important to strongly encourage the authors to respect the rules established in the templates approved by IEEE.
* Yokohama, Japan, 2021 Virtual NSS/MIC report, delivered by I. Kanno, General Chair of 2021 NSS/MIC
	+ Plan to organize sessions of a total of 6 hours/day (plus 7 short courses, 5 workshops)
	+ Submitted Contributions: 1063
* Milano, Italy, 2022 Hybrid NSS/MIC report, delivered by C. Guazzoni, General Chair of 2022 NSS/MIC
	+ MiCo, Milano Convention Centre, November 5-12, 2022
	+ Currently planning for a hybrid conference model (first time in history of IEEE NSS/MIC events)
	+ Contract including Covid 19 clauses and dedicated cancellation policies under discussion
	+ Contacts started with RTSD SAC
	+ Short courses available online with in presence «meet-the-instructor» Q&A time
	+ Evaluating options for social events Covid 19 compliant…
	+ Full committee virtual meetings in 2021 and in-person committee meeting in 2022
* Vancouver, Canada, 2023 NSS/MIC report, delivered by V. Sossi, General Chair of 2023 NSS/MIC
	+ November 3-11, 2023
	+ Status and milestones
		- GC : Vesna Sossi
		- Local arrangements: Ralf Engels
		- Treasurer: Andrew Goertzen
		- NSS Chair: John Valentine; MIC Chair M Daube -Witherspoon
		- RTSD co-Chairs: Ralph James/Michael Fiederle
		- M Keyser agree to be Students Scholarship chair - but need a co-chair
		- Interacting with IEEE MCE to determine their involvement
		- Contract just about to be signed: it had several iterations between the Vancouver convention center and IEEE
		- Very likely a hybrid event: format to be decided
* Report on NPSS AdCom Activities, delivered by R.S. Miyaoka
	+ IEEE events nimbly adapted to new formats during COVID-19
		- In 2020: Virtual events: 1549, Hybrid events: 162
	+ Hybrid conferences are the most expensive to run but receive both F2F and Virtual registrations
	+ Live and online simultaneously or live and taped later for sharing with virtual audience
	+ What content will you stream or tape to post later?
	+ Who is your target audience for F2F (regional) and target audience for Virtual (international)?
	+ Plans for Exhibitors and Posters
	+ Room capacity limits for F2F attendees. Sanitizing rooms between sessions
	+ 3rd party heatth check vendors
	+ How to negotiate contracted F&B minimums and room blocks (cancellation policies)
	+ Registations fees for F2F versus Virtual
	+ IEEE expects a certain return from conferences
	+ Over the years NPSS has accumulated reserves of about $14M.
		- Reserves are a normal component of most organizations.
		- Having reserves is good as they are a safeguard in case of unexpected losses during a given year
	+ Within IEEE, each society may spend up to 3% of it reserves for Initiatives.
		- Initiatives are projects that align with the strategic goals of your society and also with the mission of the IEEE.
		- 3% of a societies reserves can be used on initiatives each lasting up to 3-years.
		- Each society can also spend up to 50% of its previous years operational surplus on 1-year initiative projects.
		- Some years the in-year funds for initiatives does not get spent and then it goes into reserves, effectively reducing the short term impact that money could have had.
			* Like scholarship money, it only gets given to people that apply and some years no one receives the money.
* NPSS Education Committee (EduCom) report, delivered by V. Sossi
	+ Instrumentation Schools to be overseen by EduCom and not treated as initiatives
		- more stable financial footing rather than year-to-year funding
		- Allow the Transnational Committee to focus on new geographical diverse initiatives
	+ EduCom also to include broader educational scope
	+ A working group has been formed to propose terms of refence and membership of EduCom
	+ Soliciting ideas about appropriate educational activities to be included under EduCom purview
		- *Examples*: online course material, high school events at conferences…..
* Report on Creation and Dissemination of Interactive NPSS Educational Modules, delivered by A. Alessio
	+ Goal: To develop and share a suite of interactive educational modules to build comradery amongst labs and to attract and educate the future innovators in our field.
	+ NPSS Initiative; proposed in Feb 2020; funded in 2021 for $20K
		- Each lab that completes module will be awarded $1500.
	+ Active learning modules to teach physics, algorithms, methods of Nuclear Medicine Instrumentation Sciences would be beneficial for our community
	+ Interest in contributing a module and/or being on the editorial team can be directed to Adam Alessio
* Report on Student Abstract Reviews & “Young” observer at NMISC, delivered by V. Sossi
	+ Student Abstract Reviews
		- Eligibility: PhD students only
			* need to have presented an abstract at a previous MIC
			* need approval from supervisor
		- Logistics should be discussed for enrolling students
		- Impact: The student review would be added to the usual number of reviews
			* The weight of the review could be 10-20% (?) of that of the regular reviewers
		- Evaluation of students (If desired): the student’s score can be compared to the average and std of the regular reviewers’ score this feedback can be provided to the students (cc-ing to their supervisor?)
		- EventClass could be involved with the logistics and evaluation
		- Need coordination with RISC
	+ Student Observer at NMISC
		- Student would gain experience and insight into NMISC
		- NMISC would have a young voice.
		- The observer student can be selected through an election process?
			* Selection criteria need to be set up
		- Non-voting member
		- Possibly part of sub committees
		- Term duration: 2 years?
		- (Other TC consider doing this)
		- Perhaps include this topic with a proposal in the agenda of the upcoming 2021 AGM?
		- Initiate discussion on Basecamp in the meanwhile?
* IEEE Meetings, Conferences, Events (MCE) management services proposal, delivered by R. Fulton, NMISC Chair, on behalf of A. Goertzen (NMISC Vice Chair)
	+ IEEE operates the MCE group as an in-house Professional Conference Organizer (PCO)
	+ NSS/MIC has not traditionally used their services.
	+ The need to exit contracts for the Boston venues led to engaging IEEE MCE for help with contract negotiations. This led to a broader discussion at JES about whether there is benefit to NSS/MIC to engage MCE for future conference site selection and planning
		- How might MCE and JOS interact?
		- What services from MCE might we use?
	+ A. Goertzen reached out to Bill Moses to discuss how MCE services might benefit NSS/MIC.
		- Bill Moses has been extensively involved with MCE for a number of years and is very familiar with site selection and planning for NSS/MIC
	+ The takeaway points from this discussion were:
		- MCE may be useful in site selection
		- MCE will be useful for contract negotiations
		- If we are happy with our current PCO (EventClass), keep using them
	+ Following this, discussion began with MCE.
	+ MCE Proposal: includes 3 service components
		- Site selection and contract negotiations
		- Destination management and support – ancillary services
		- Event management
	+ JES is currently reviewing the MCE proposal.
		- JES will need to decide on the involvement of MCE for site selection and how MCE interacts with JOS.
		- Involvement of MCE in Destination and Event Management services would be at discretion of General Chair each year
	+ Benefits to MCE Involvement
		- MCE are event planning professionals, and as such:
			* Efficiently review contracts
			* Have good sense on market pricing for costs associated with conferences
			* Can provide guidance on meeting budgeting to mitigate financial risk
			* Have understanding of market trends with meetings
			* Can suggest venues that lower overall cost of meetings
		- With a formal relationship with MCE in place, MCE will assign a permanent planner to NSS/MIC.
			* Ensures continuity from year to year for meeting
			* Ensures that NSS/MIC is meeting required IEEE reporting guidelines
			* Reduces key person risk in meeting planning and continuity – i.e. distributes meeting knowledge outside of limited pool of volunteers
	+ Potential Drawbacks to MCE involvement
		- Costs: MCE operates on a cost recovery basis.
			* Costs for MCE assistance in site selection and contracting will likely be cost-neutral through savings in both processes – also lead to overall cost savings with venue costs.
			* Many years some local event management/planning is already used, so this would displace some of those costs.
		- Traditionally NSS/MIC has depended heavily on volunteers that carry forward the unique culture of this meeting.
			* Increased involvement of professional planners may lead to long term change in the culture – towards a more ‘commodity’ meeting
			* Important that General Chair has a clear vision for the meeting
	+ Consensus after discussion with NMISC members
		- It is a proposal worth looking further into and NMISC is overall supportive of it
		- Would be useful for JES and JOS to discuss it and decide on future actions
	1. Any Other Business
		+ None