



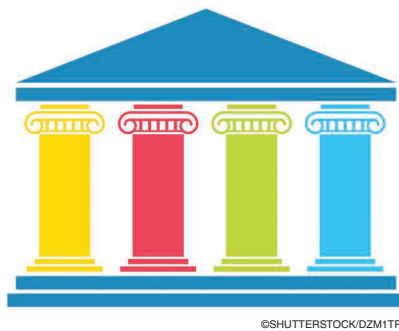
President's Column

MTT-S Themes for 2021

■ Gregory Lyons

Greetings! Let us salute the beginning of 2021. We should congratulate ourselves for having adapted to a new normal and look toward a future that will be brighter. I would like to acknowledge Alaa Abunjaileh, 2020 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) president, for his leadership and for a close and productive collaboration in navigating the sharp twists and turns of 2020. MTT-S volunteers have successfully worked through 2020, taking advantage of opportunities to bring value to our membership and adapt to the new realities of virtual conferences, online lectures, and restricted travel. A big MTT-S thank you to our volunteers at all levels within our Society. It will be good to see each other in person at conferences and meetings in the near future.

There are four important themes for the MTT-S in 2021 that I would like to highlight for you. Each of them has played a part in our Society for many years, and each is a way to focus our efforts and move all of us forward.



Mentoring and Learning

The MTT-S was founded in 1952, and we sponsored our first technical symposium that same year. For several decades, the main role of the MTT-S was to provide opportunities to network with other microwave/RF engineers at conferences and Chapter meetings, publish new advances in microwave technology, and provide a means to pass information among Society members to keep them informed of technological advances.

Today, these functions of the Society are still important, but the world now moves with much greater efficiency, with information and connections at our fingertips through high-speed Internet and 5G technology. The role of the MTT-S has evolved, with mentoring and learning becoming more core. The MTT-S acknowledges and

advocates that volunteering in our Society offers not only an opportunity to give back to the profession; it is also an opportunity to learn in a setting somewhat different from the work environment. Learning to lead and motivate in a volunteer organization is of value in and of itself. Mentorship from more experienced MTT-S members and even within our Administrative Committee (AdCom) is also of great value.

Finally, you will find more focus on learning at our conferences and from our membership services. Sponsored by the IEEE Technical Activities Board, we launched the MTT-S Resource Center (<https://resourcecenter.mtt.ieee.org>) in August 2020. As a companion to the Resource Center, we are working toward rolling out material on the IEEE Learning Network (<https://iln.ieee.org>), sponsored by the IEEE Educational Activities Board.



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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MMM.2020.3028411
Date of current version: 2 December 2020

Membership Value

It is more important than ever in these new-normal times for the MTT-S to provide membership value. Fortunately, this has been a focus of the MTT-S AdCom for a number of years now. Free electronic access to Society publications was offered starting in 2017. This free electronic access includes all MTT-S publications (fully sponsored or cosponsored by the Society), financially sponsored or cosponsored conference proceedings, and technically sponsored or cosponsored conference proceedings. The MTT-S has rolled out registration discounts to members for Society-sponsored conferences.

A new example of a key membership benefit is the previously mentioned MTT-S Resource Center. Here, you will find webinars, lectures, and other learning materials at no cost or a reduced rate for MTT-S members. As we move through 2021, we hope to offer additional benefits for our members. Volunteering opportunities will always be one of the greatest benefits. I encourage you to be active with your local MTT-S Chapter, volunteer to help organize MTT-S-sponsored conferences, and support MTT-S publications as a reviewer. The learning and mentorship from those experiences are of high value.

Publications and Conferences

The MTT-S continues to enhance and expand its portfolio of publications and conferences. We are launching a new gold open access publication in 2021, *IEEE Journal of Microwaves*. This adds to the following list of publications fully supported/owned by the MTT-S (with the first year of publication in parentheses):

- *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques* (1953, as *Transactions of the IRE Professional Group on Microwave Theory and Techniques*)
- *IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters* (1991, as *IEEE Microwave and Guided Wave Letters*)
- *IEEE Microwave Magazine* (2000)
- *IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology* (2011).

The MTT-S also cosupports/owns the following publications:

- *Journal of Lightwave Technology* (1983)
- *IEEE RFIC Virtual Journal* (2012)
- *IEEE Journal on Multiscale and Multiphysics Computational Techniques* (2016)
- *IEEE Journal of Electromagnetics, RF, and Microwaves in Medicine and Biology* (2017)
- *IEEE Transactions on Quantum Engineering* (2020).

Currently, the MTT-S financially sponsors or cosponsors 17 conferences in various locations around the world, including our annual flagship International Microwave Symposium (IMS) drawing as many as 10,000 attendees. The MTT-S is also a technical sponsor or cosponsor of another 22 conferences worldwide.

Diversity and Inclusion

The goal of the MTT-S for many years has been diversity and inclusion across many dimensions. As an example, our AdCom actively works to ensure we have balanced relative representation across IEEE Regions (the United States, Canada, Europe/Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific) as well as AdCom members representing academia, industry, and government. As a Society, we have become far more diverse since our founding in 1952 and progressively more diverse over the last 30 years. MTT-developed technology has changed the world we know over this same time, and it is interesting that the rate of technological change has somewhat gone in parallel with improvements in diversity.

However, we could do much more in the area of diversity. Several MTT-S groups are working to improve diversity: our Women in Microwaves group seeks to increase gender diversity, our Young Professionals in Microwaves group provides activities for individuals early in their careers, our Life Members group provides activities for individuals later in their careers, and our Microwave and Wireless Education Initiative provide enhanced education

opportunities around the world. We continue through our MTT-S IMS-sponsored science, technology, engineering, and mathematics efforts and Project Connect for students from underrepresented groups to encourage anyone, regardless of background, to consider a career in microwave engineering. We support students who make this choice to reach their full potential through MTT-S-sponsored scholarships and conference travel grants. We all benefit from encouraging more diverse talent to join us in our pursuit of microwave/RF technology development. It is the right thing to do.

2021 AdCom Members

For the first time in the history of our Society, we held online AdCom elections this past fall. We congratulate AdCom members recently elected to the three-year term for 2021–2023. Our newly elected AdCom members are Xun Gong, Kamran Ghorbani, Robert Caverly, and Sridhar Kanamaluru. We also congratulate Nuno Borges Carvalho, Wenquan (Cherry) Che, and Goutam Chattopadhyay, who were all re-elected to a second three-year AdCom term. We want to thank Sanjay Raman and Atsushi Sanada, who have served two three-year terms, and Julio Navarro, who has served one three-year term. They have contributed greatly to our Society but will be stepping away from AdCom membership for now.

2021 MTT-S Leadership Team

I am honored to serve as 2021 MTT-S president. I am a senior member of technical staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts, and I have been on the MTT-S AdCom since 2012, when I served as AdCom secretary. Some key AdCom positions I have held are MTT-S treasurer; chair of several AdCom committees, including Operations, Membership Value, and Marketing and Communications (as it is now known); and vice chair or member of a wide variety of AdCom committees.

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Figure 1. MTT-S President Elect Rashaunda Henderson is an associate professor at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Let me introduce the other members of our MTT-S leadership team, the 2021 MTT-S AdCom officers. Our 2021 president elect and budget committee chair is Rashaunda Henderson (Figure 1), who joined the AdCom as secretary in 2015. She has been chair of the Education Committee and held



Figure 2. MTT-S Treasurer Maurizio Bozzi is a professor at the University of Pavia, Italy.

a variety of other AdCom positions, including assistant treasurer.

Our 2021 treasurer is Maurizio Bozzi (Figure 2), who joined the AdCom as secretary in 2016. He was chair of the Meetings and Symposia Committee prior to becoming MTT-S treasurer in 2020.



Figure 3. MTT-S Secretary Joseph Bardin is a professor at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst and a member of the Google Artificial Intelligence Quantum Team, Santa Barbara, California.

Joseph Bardin (Figure 3) is joining the AdCom as our 2021 secretary. He was one of our 2020 MTT-S Outstanding Young Engineer Award winners. Congrats, Joe!

I encourage you to visit our website (<https://www.mtt.org>) for more information about the MTT-S and volunteer opportunities. 