Guest Editorial
Council Activities

SINCE its inception two years ago, the growth of activity in the IEEE Neural Networks Council (NNC) has been remarkable and impressive. This is because, simply, those involved in the NNC are remarkable and impressive. I have chosen to use this, the NNC President's annual TRANSACTIONS editorial, to highlight some of the more prominent activities of the Council.

Conferences

We continue sponsorship of the world's largest conference on neural networks. Our hope is that the first FUZZ-IEEE conference, in March 1992, chaired by James C. Bezdek and sponsored by the NNC, proves to be a similar success in the field of fuzzy systems.

The Council will be holding the first IEEE World Congress on Intelligent Systems (WCIS) in 1994. The WCIS will contain an assortment of conferences and workshops. The principal components of the WCIS will be the International Conference on Neural Networks (ICNN) and the International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE). These conferences will be held back-to-back at the same geographic location. In addition, other exciting NNC forums on such topics as genetic algorithms and emerging intelligent system technologies will be added to the WCIS. Besides the obvious advantage of travel reduction, arranging the council's conferences in this manner will foster cross-fertilization of intelligent system technologies. The WCIS, which will span a week and two weekends, will be singularly the most significant annual transnational conference on intelligent systems.

Publications

The NNC sponsors publication of this TRANSACTIONS, which, under the skillful editorial guidance of Michael W. Roth, currently has a circulation exceeding all other neural networks journals combined. The page limits and frequency of publication of the TRANSACTIONS have been increased this year. An additional page limit increase has already been approved for next year.

Those who subscribe to this TRANSACTIONS have received the first issue of the NNC's newsletter. This periodical, crafted by technical editor Wesley E. Snyder, is a vehicle for timely communication of newsworthy items and events in the area of intelligent systems. Starting in 1992, it will be issued quarterly.

In cooperation with the IEEE Press, the Council has also launched a book publication initiative. Under consideration are monographs, texts, and reprint collections in the general area of intelligent systems. Specifics on the availability of these books will be announced in council periodicals. Leading this effort for the council in this initiative is Stamatios Kartalopoulos.

Education

Video instruction eases the task of keeping abreast of cutting-edge technology. In the past, the council, through the IEEE Educational Activities Board, has provided videotapes of our conference tutorials. Tutorials aimed at live audiences, however, sometimes do not translate well onto videotape. The Council is thus initiating separate high-quality studio taping of conference and other tutorials. The cost of these tapes will be kept low enough to be affordable to individual IEEE members. The Council's point person on this project is Mohamed A. El-Sharkawi.

Standards

The Standards Committee in the Council was elevated to the status of a standing committee at the Council's last Administrative Committee meeting. This means that standards development will be an ongoing activity of the Council. Initially, the Standards Committee will be focusing on standardization of neural network terminology. The committee is under the able leadership of Walter Karplus.

Finis

There are still other exciting projects ripening under NNC review. Since this is my last year as NNC President, you will learn about these from the next president, Russell C. Eberhart. I look forward to continuing my service to the Council next year in the more leisurely office of Past President. Old neural net workers don't die, they just lose their connections.

Contacts

The following individuals can provide further information on the activities described in this column. Editors

and conference chairs are listed elsewhere in NNC periodicals.

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