

Minutes of NNTC Meeting at IJCNN 2000

July 25, 2000, 9-10:45am

Grand Hotel di Como, Carlotta 2

Present: David Brown (dgb@cdrh.fda.gov), Fathi Salam (salam@egr.msu.edu), George Lendaris (lendaris@syc.pdx.edu), Majid Ahmadi (ahmadi@uwindsor.ca), Ron Sun (rsun@cecs.missouri.edu), Nabeel Murshed (nabeel.murshed@i-u.de), Ian Cloete (ian.cloete@i-u.de), Mary Lou Padgett (m.padgett@ieee.org), Wlodek Duch (duch@ieee.org), Tamas Roska (roska@sztaki.hu), Lei Xu (lxu@cse.cuhk.edu.hk), Jacek Zurada (j.zurada@ieee.org), Clifford Lau (lauc@onr.navy.mil), E. June Glass (jglass@jwac.osis.gov), Paul Werbos (pwerbos@nsf.gov), Ken Marko (kmarko@ford.com), Robert Kozma (kozma@socrates.berkeley.edu), Evangelia Micheli-Tzanakou (etzanako@rci.rutgers.edu) and Gary Yen (gyen@ceat.okstate.edu)

Yen called the meeting to order at 9am.

Yen first introduced himself and had everyone present introduce him/herself. The attendance sheets were circulated for sign-in. Yen distributed and overviewed the NNTC report submitted to NNC AdCom (see attachment 1). All issues of concern were incorporated into the agenda. Yen then introduced VP for Technical Activities, Salam. Salam voiced his strong support for NNTC and solicited comments to energize the NNC technical activities. Salam also briefed the discussions made in the Technical Activities Board meeting. Yen then briefed the agenda to be discussed (see attachment 2).

Yen distributed a copy of compiled Neural Network Pioneer Award candidates for discussion (see attachment 3). The nominees are recommended from the previous year. Padgett explained the qualifications and procedures. A minimum of fifteen years of active contributions in this community should be carefully examined. This requirement will put some youngsters in question. Additional names were solicited by Yen. Duch and Padgett nominated Rumelhart, McClelland, Fukushima, Taylor, Anderson, and Oja. Yen will begin to solicit nominations from all NNTC members with exact qualifications included. It was understood the nominations will not be officially considered by the Award Committee without supporting materials. We will begin the process as early as possible. Padgett discussed the efforts to complete the history of NNTC Pioneer Awards with assistance from Haines. The complete list will be posted in NNC Award page and NNTC page. One paper was nominated by Fukuda and Huang for the best transaction paper award. The papers published in TNN during 1998 and 1999 are qualified. Solicitations for the best transaction paper award will be requested from TNN Editor-in-Chief and AEs, as well as NNTC members. Yen encouraged nominating for Service Award. Padgett and Lau suggested Haines, Karplus, Eberhart, Sha(?) and Bezdek. Continuous from last year's action plan, Yen suggested submitting a few names to Fukuda to be part of the Fellow Committee. Lendaris, Salam, Zurada and Roska are all willing to serve. Lau added he is already in the Fellow Committee. Some discussions were made to encourage more qualified to apply for IEEE fellow. Lendaris considered fellow status to be a great honor and should be initiated by his/her fellow colleagues. It was clearly understood the NNTC should not endorse any names, but encourage more qualified individuals to apply.

IJCNN was the next subject of discussions. Werbos (General Chair) briefed the progress made and new ideas planned for IJCNN 2001. Werbos also mentioned the potential plenary speakers for IJCNN 2001. Yen explained the idea to organize the pre-conference topic-specific workshops. Ken Marko (Program Chair) overviewed his plan to have fewer oral presentations (and parallel sessions) and more poster presentations. Brown and Ahmadi supported the possibility of having 1-3 minutes (1 slide) oral overview of each poster paper. The consensus is to run the poster sessions without distraction from parallel oral presentations. Ahmadi voiced the concern of having too long poster sessions. Werbos and Marko encouraged more invited sessions from newly evolved areas, say bio-informatics and financial forecasting. Yen discussed the idea to solicit industry sponsors for IJCNN best student paper award. Werbos mentioned the successful experience Szu had in IJCNN 1999. Murshed solicited support for IJCNN 2004 in Rio, while Roska discussed the interest to run IJCNN 2004 in Hungary. Ahmadi expressed his concern to have too many IEEE led IJCNNs outside of continental U.S. Lendaris overviewed the possible registration fee structure discussed in Conference Committee jointly held by NNC and INNS. It was considered to charge additional registration fee to publish more than one paper by the same author. The consistency of fee structure will be maintained within Conference Committee.

Yen mentioned that the NNTC mailing alias will be created soon. Yen showed the new initiative, web-based newsletter. Yen gave a demo of the inaugurated issue available now in NNTC homepage linkable from NNC homepage. Lau voiced his support and would like to elevate the newsletter to the council level. A Technical Activities homepage will be created by webmaster and will be the home for NNC Newsletter. Zurada and Litsa proposed to form new technology incubator, like data mining, within technical committees.

At the end, Ahmadi invited all to participate at ISCAS 2001 in Sydney. This is indeed the best way for NNTC to interact with the corresponding technical committees within our sponsor membering societies.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45pm.

Actions to be taken:

- Solicit nominations for NN pioneer award from NNTC members with specific qualifications attached. When the list is in place (around March 2001), it will be distributed within the committee for comments. The finalists (with consensus) will be officially nominated via NNC Award homepage.
- The complete history of Neural Network Pioneer Awards and the Best Transactions Paper Awards will be posted on the web.
- Solicit nominations for the TNN Best Transactions Paper Award from TNN EIC/AE and NNTC members.
- Recommend two names (with fellow grades) to Fellow Committee chair, Fukuda, for consideration.

- Solicit industry support for IJCNN 2001 Best Student paper competition.
- Coordinate with NNC webmaster and VP-Technical Activities to create a Technical Activities homepage
- Finalize the inaugural issue of NNC web-based newsletter to be available on September 1, 2000. Solicit inputs and submissions from all.

The list of current NNTC members is included as attachment 4 for your reference. If there is someone who should be included in the list, please kindly let me know the names and e-mail addresses. I will extend a personal invitation.