

## Message from the General Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 13th edition of COMSNETS to be held from January 4 - 11, 2021. As with most events in the last year, COMSNETS '21 will be an entirely virtual event. Despite the trying circumstances, we are happy to inform you that the Organizing Committee and our invaluable volunteers has persevered to put together a vibrant program consisting of several events, both live and pre-recorded. The main conference will be held from January 6 through January 8 and the associated workshops will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the first year that COMSNETS is introducing tutorials, which will be held on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Keynotes:** We have three eminent Keynote speakers this year: Prof. Michele Zorzi from University of Padova, Italy, Prof. Jennifer Rexford, Princeton University, USA, and Prof. Sunita Sarawagi, IIT Bombay. Additionally, we will be having industry invited talks by four speakers who are leaders in their respective fields: Kenneth Duda, Arista Networks USA, Timothy Lee, IEEE FNI, USA, Kiran Mukkavilli, Qualcomm Wireless Research, USA, and Laxmi Mukund, Cisco India.

**Conference Program:** The Technical Program Committee has carefully selected 38 papers from the open call for presentation. They have also assembled invited talks by 9 well known research leaders from academia and industry. In addition, the conference program includes Poster Sessions which will showcase new ideas and works in progress. The Technology Demos and Research Exhibits sessions will include several presentations from both industry and academia. There will be three panel discussions on topics of great relevance to current times. The Graduate Forum is a great opportunity for students to present their work, and the Women in Engineering session includes presentations from several eminent experts. Research Café and COMSJOB will bring together top companies and organizations together with the best and brightest students and post-docs. The Mentoring Sessions bring together eminent mentors with undergraduate and graduate students for a formal and structured interaction.

**Workshops and Tutorials:** The main conference is adjoined by five workshops: CyberSecurity and Blockchain Workshop, Workshop on Machine Intelligence in Networked Data and Systems (MINDS), Workshop on "Last-mile" Challenges and Standardization Opportunities in Smart Infrastructure (LastMileS), Workshop on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and Workshop on Networking Humanitarian Technology for Healthcare (NetHealth). We also have four tutorials this year: WiFi 6 and WiFi 7: WLAN for the multi-Gigabit Era, Learning-Based Massive MIMO Hybrid Beamforming for Radar and Communications, Distributed Learning Algorithms for Wireless Networks, and 5G NR Deployment Considerations and its Continued Evolution in 3GPP.

**Sponsors and Partners:** On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we thank our corporate patrons: platinum patrons Qualcomm, gold patrons Cisco and Google, silver patrons Arista and IEEE Future Networks, and bronze patrons Microsoft, Bosch, SMU, Glaukes Labs, DRDO and MindNet Services. We are also thankful to our humanitarian non-profit partner Aarogya Seva and eco-friendly partner 14 Trees. We are grateful to our technical partners Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and TSDSI, conference video partner VideoKen, and our university partners: UQ IITD Academy of Research, IISc, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Jammu, IIIT Delhi, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Bangalore, DA-IICT, BMSCE, UPenn – USA, SMU – Singapore, and KAIST – South Korea. COMSNETS 2021 is technically co-sponsored by the IEEE, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Future Networks, and IEEE

Bangalore Section, and is presented in-cooperation with ACM SIGCOMM, ACM SIGMOBILE, and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Government of India).

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Sincerely,



Ranjita Bhagwan

Microsoft Research India



Ashutosh Dutta

Johns Hopkins University/APL



Manish Gupta

Google Research