# IFAC International Federation of Automatic Control

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## 2009 No. 6 Dec.

# Newsletter

Contents:

**Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for a Healthy
and Successful
Year 2010
to all Newsletter
Readers**

## IFAC Awards

Although still more than one and a half years away, the next IFAC World Congress, to be held in Milan, Italy, August 28 – Sept. 2, 2011, already casts its shadow. Preparations are well under way. One special feature of the Congress, taking place in addition to the large number of sessions, plenaries, semi-plenaries, etc., is the presentation of a number of Majors Awards, which are given as distinction for excellence in various areas. In addition, there are the specific Congress Prizes (Applications Paper Prize, Young Author Prize, etc.) for which the nomination procedure will be published in the Congress Call for Papers. Finding suitable candidates for these Majors Awards starts early, i.e. at least 18 months before the Congress. This is why this Newsletter is largely dedicated to presenting the awards in question and to inviting your nomination of suitable candidates.

The Awards in question are the

**Quazza Medal**
**Nichols Medal**
**Industrial Achievement Award**
**High Impact Paper Award**

The first three awards will most probably be known to you, since they have already been awarded in the past. For a list of past award winners, go to

http://www.ifac-control.org/awards/Past_Award_Winners.pdf

The fourth Award which is listed above, i.e. the *High Impact Paper Award* is new, however. At its 2009 annual meeting, held in London, the IFAC Council approved the institution of this major new IFAC award. Its purpose is to acknowledge the impact of a paper published in any of the official IFAC journals on the broad areas of Automatic Control theory and application. At most two such awards will be made in any triennium and they will be presented by the President at the Opening of each IFAC Triennial Congress. The first of these new awards will be presented at the IFAC World Congress in Milan in 2011.

The award(s) are given in all the technical fields covered by IFAC and should acknowledge impact upon the progress of control science as well as upon the practice of control engineering. The High Impact Selection Committee will evaluate and rate the impact of the proposed papers on the basis of evidence that the work under consideration has been actually used by others in their research/professional activity, as well as by a high number of citations.

In the following, you will find the official Calls for Nominations for these four Awards, listing the criteria, the time schedule and the mode of submission of nominations.

## Call for Nominations
### Giorgio Quazza Medal, Nathaniel B. Nichols Medal
### Industrial Achievement Award
### High Impact Paper Award

**According to the provisions as outlined for the Giorgio Quazza Medal, for the Nathaniel B. Nichols Medal, the Industrial Achievement Award and the High Impact Paper Award, the IFAC community is invited to nominate candiates and**

to send these nominations to the
IFAC Secretariat at

secretariat@ifac-control.org
until

**March 15, 2010**

The nominations should contain a curriculum vitae for the candidate, a summary of his/her major contributions and a proposed citation. Submission by e-mail is requested to: secretariat@ifac-control.org

It may be useful to have a look at the list of past winners in the IFAC Homepage at: http://www.ifac-control.org/awards/Past_Award_Winners.pdf

Please note that it is possible to resubmit a nomination that was made in the past.

The Selection Committees, with Tamer Basar (Quazza Medal), Paul Van den Hof (Nichols Medal), Rolf Isermann (Industrial Achievement Award) and Jan C. Willems (High Impact Paper Award) as Chairs will give a report on potential candidates at the forthcoming Council meeting, to take place in Baltimore, MD, USA, July 3, 2010.

**To make a clear distinction between these awards, find below the history of each award and the nomination criteria to be applied. Please make sure to read the guidelines carefully. Should there be any questions about the procedure to be followed, please do not hesitate to contact the IFAC Secretariat at** secretariat@ifac-control.org

## GIORGIO QUAZZA MEDAL (Created 1979

This is an IFAC award to a distinguished control engineer as a memorial to the late Giorgio Quazza, a leading Italian electrical and control engineer who served IFAC in many capacities in a most distinguished manner. The medal is presented by the President at each IFAC Triennial Congress at the Opening Ceremony. A prize is presented to the recipient together with the medal. Financing is provided by IFAC.

### Selection Criteria for the Quazza Medal

The award is given in technical fields covered by IFAC. The contributions should be manifested in technical publications. A nominee should have served IFAC in some capacity, formally or informally. IFAC Officers are not eligible. The Selection Committee and the Council may add further suitable candidates for consideration. The selection is based on:

- Quality of publications
- Impact of publications
- Engineering significance
- Service to IFAC
- International recognition

### Nominations should contain:

- Summary of the contributions
- a Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- Supporting letters
- Suggested citation

## NATHANIEL B. NICHOLS MEDAL (Created 1996)

This is an IFAC award that recognizes industrial leadership, outstanding contributions of an individual to design methods, software tools and instrumentation, or significant projects in major applications and advancement of control engineering. The medal is presented by the President at each IFAC Triennial Congress at the Opening Ceremony. A prize is presented to the recipient together with the medal. Financing is provided by IFAC.

### Selection Criteria for the Nichols Medal

The award is given in technical fields covered by IFAC. The contributions should be manifested in technical publications, patents or reports documenting completed projects or developed products. IFAC Officers are not eligible. The Selection Committee and the Council may add further suitable candidates for consideration. The selection is based on:

- Quality of publications
- Impact of publications
- Innovation level of patents
- Impact of patents
- Engineering significance of products and projects
- International recognition

### Nominations should contain:

- Summary of the contributions
- a Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- Supporting letters
- Suggested citation

## INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (Created 2000)

This is an IFAC award to an individual, or a team of individuals, who has made a significant contribution to industrial applications of control. The award, together with a certificate, is presented to the recipient by the President at each IFAC Congress. Financing is provided by IFAC.

### Selection Criteria for the Industrial Achievement Award

The award is given in technical fields covered by IFAC. The selection is based on industrial achievements measured in terms of:

- Inventions in the control area
- Engineering significance of products and projects
- Industrial leadership
- Promotion of control technology in industry
- Impact of patents
- International recognition

The award may be given to a team of engineers for joint achievements. IFAC Officers are not eligible. The Selection Committee and the Council may add further suitable candidates for consideration. There is no requirement that the nominated candidates must have been involved in IFAC. The award can be given to a single achievement (an invention or a leadership of a major project) or a record of achievements over a period of time.

### Nominations should contain:

- Summary of the contributions
- a Curriculum Vitae
- Supporting letters
- Suggested citation

## HIGH IMPACT PAPER AWARD (created 2009)

At its 2009 annual meeting, held in London, the IFAC Council approved the institution of a new Major IFAC Award. It is to acknowledge the impact of a paper published in any of the official IFAC journals on the broad areas of Automatic Control theory and application. At most two such awards will be made in any triennium and will be presented by the President at the Opening of each IFAC Triennial Congress. The first of these new awards will be presented at the IFAC World Congress in Milan in 2011.

### Eligibility Criteria

Eligible papers must have been published in any of the official IFAC Journals (Automatica, Control Engineering Practice, Annual Reviews in Control, Journal of Process Control, Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence, Mechatronics). For the award(s) to be given at the 2011 Congress, only papers published after 1st of January 1981 and not later than 31st December 2002 are eligible. Papers authored or co-authored by IFAC Officers (President, Past President, President-elect, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary) are not eligible.

**Selection Criteria**

The award(s) are given in all the technical fields covered by IFAC and should acknowledge impact upon the progress of control science and/or upon the practice of control engineering. The High Impact Selection Committee (HISC) will evaluate and rate the impact of the proposed papers on the basis of the following information, to be provided by the nominator:

1. Evidence of a high number of citations, as obtainable from either (or both) of the engineering databases: Thompson ISI's Web of Science and Elsevier's SCOPUS.

2. Evidence that the work under consideration has been actually used by others in their research/professional activity, consisting of a detailed description of all research and/or industrial achievements made possible by the contributions of the nominated paper.

3. Opinions expressed by (no more than three) referees from internationally reputed experts in the field, who are personally aware of the contributions of the nominated paper.

**Nominator**

Any person is eligible to serve as a nominator with the exception of members of the High Impact Selection Committee (HISC), and IFAC Council Members. Self-nominations are not allowed. The nominator is responsible for supplying full and accurate information.

**Guidelines for Nominators**

Interested nominators are invited to send a nomination package to the IFAC Secretariat consisting of a nomination letter accompanied by the following attachments:

1 A statement specifying the number of citations, as obtainable from either (or both) the engineering databases: Thompson ISI's Web of Science and Elsevier's SCOPUS.

2 Excerpts of technical papers documenting work and progress made possible because the contributions of the nominated paper. Papers (co)authored by one of the authors of the nominated paper cannot be used for this purpose.

3 A description (if appropriate) of industrial achievements made possible because the contributions of the nominated paper.

4 Up to three letters of reference.

**The Tables of Contents of the IFAC Journals can be found respectively at**

Automatica
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/automatica

Control Engineering Practice
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/conengprac

Engineering Applications of
Artificial Intelligence
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/engappai

Journal of Process Control
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jprocont

Annual Reviews in Control
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/arcontrol

Journal on Mechatronics
http://www.elsevier.com/locate/mechatronics

## Special Issues of IFAC Journals

In addition to their regular issues, almost all IFAC Journals occasionally publish Special Issues, addressing particular and specific aspects of the subjects in their portfolio. To allow prospective contributors to learn about such Special Issues and, if possible, even to contribute to them, we shall forthwith publish Calls for Papers for them. We make a start in this Newsletter issue, by publishing the Call for Papers for a Special Issue of Automatica below.

# CALL FOR PAPERS
## Automatica
### Special Issue on Systems Biology

The control community has made significant contributions to the field of systems biology, bringing rigorous tools from dynamic systems, feedback, modeling and robustness analysis. These contributions range from elegant theories to explain principles of regulation, to more technological developments that advance the state of treatments and therapies. The field has reached a certain level of maturity in both tools and applications that make the timing opportune for a special issue capturing its current state of development. Accordingly, this special issue of Automatica will address the state of the art in theories, tools, and applications of control to systems biology. Among the topics to be covered in the special issue are:

- Robustness in gene regulatory networks

- Information processing in signal transduction cascades

- Control architectures that shed light on biological regulation

- Multiple scales of length and time in biophysical networks

- Network inference and problems of model identification

- Synchronization phenomena in coupled oscillators at the cellular and subcellular level

- Control principles that led to novel approaches to drug target identification

- Novel approaches to biomarkers in complex biophysical models

- Applications of control principles to specific disease problems (with clinical or experimental studies)

High quality papers on topics listed above, or related ones, are invited for publication in the Special Issue.

### The timetable is:

**Submission Deadline:**
**February 1, 2010**
**Tentative Publication Date:**
**March 2011**

The Special Issue will be prepared by a team consisting of guest editor, Francis J. Doyle III, and Automatica Editor Frank Allgöwer.

Prospective authors should submit their contributions by February 1, 2010 via the Automatica web-based paper handling system, which is now configured to receive papers for the special issue at

**http://www.autsubmit.com.**

Submissions can be in either full paper format or brief paper format. They should be submitted as a Special Issue Paper to Special Issue Corresponding Editor Frank Doyle. The submission site is open starting October 2009.

# Dependable Control of Discrete Systems (DCDS'09)
## IFAC Workshop (2nd)
### Bari, Italy, 10 - 12 June, 2009

DCDS is a series of biennial meetings that aims to bring together researchers and practitioners of the community of safety/reliability analysis of DES (Discrete Event Systems), giving them the opportunity to exchange information and new ideas, and to discuss new developments in the field of dependable control of DES. Research activities in this field are driven by the needs of many different application domains and their growing complexity, such as production systems, transport systems, embedded systems, healthcare systems, computers and communication systems. DCDS'09 was the second workshop of the series after DCDS'07 in Paris. The workshop was organized by the Laboratory of Control and Automation of the Politecnico di Bari, Italy. The International Programme Committe Chair was Professor Maria Pia Fanti, while the National Organizing Committee Chair was Dr. Mariagrazia Dotoli.

The main sponsor of the workshop was the Technical Committee on Discrete Event and Hybrid systems (TC 1.3) and other co-sponsors were the Technical Committee on Safeprocess (TC 6.4), Technical Committee on Components and Technologies for Control (TC 4.1), the Technical Committee on Mechatronic Systems (TC 4.2), and the Technical Committee on Manufacturing Plant Control (TC 5.1).

Three distinguished speakers were invited to give a plenary talk each. They were the following:

**Petri Net Modeling, Scheduling and Real-Time Control of Cluster Tools in Semiconductor Manufacturing, by MengChu Zhou, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA**

### Abstract

Cluster tools provide a flexible, reconfigurable, and efficient environment for semiconductor manufacturing. They become difficult to operate because of residency time constraints and process time variation. This talk addresses their real-time scheduling and control issues. A generic Petri net model is developed to model them. It describes the robot activity sequence with robot waits included. Hence, to operate a cluster tool is to determine robot wait times. A two-level operational architecture is proposed and discussed. It includes an off-line periodic scheduler and real-time controller. This proposed approach allows a cluster tool to adapt to activity time variation while operating at its highest throughput at the steady-state.

**Model-Based Approaches for Railway Safety, Reliability and Security: The Experience of Ansaldo STS, by Dr. Francesco Flammini, Ansaldo STS Italy – Innovation Unit**

### Abstract

In order to master the increasing complexity of modern railway control systems, novel model-based approaches are needed to allow engineers to evaluate such systems against strict system-level dependability requirements. In this talk, we provide an overview of the experience of Ansaldo STS in using model-based approaches for railway safety, reliability and security. Dependability requires assessment both at the software and at the hardware levels. At the software level, models have proven useful to support both static and dynamic functional analyses in order to discover systematic faults in the code. At the hardware level, we have experimented that compositional multi-formalism modeling approaches well suit the evaluation of system safety and reliability against random faults. The use of models has allowed engineers to improve both the effectiveness and the efficiency of system verification. Views of the Unified Modeling Language have been adopted to perform informal or semi-formal analyses, while Stochastic Petri Nets, (Repairable) Fault Trees, Continuous Time Markov Chains and Bayesian Networks have been employed for formal and quantitative analyses. Analytical risk and vulnerability models have also been experimented for security assessment with respect to intentional threats and natural hazards. Due to the wide range of possible applications, we are currently studying in depth both the theoretical and the technological issues related to the multi-paradigm dependability modeling using appropriate frameworks.

**Model Based Safety Analysis, by Wolfgang Reif, University of Augsburg, Germany**

### Abstract

In safety critical applications, the growing complexity and risk associated with embedded software intensive systems demands for reliable safety assessments. Additionally, in many application areas standards and norms require the usage of model based techniques to guarantee the quality of safety critical systems. Model based safety analysis is a formally grounded approach to compute reliable safety properties from system models. In this context the term safety covers functional correctness, failure tolerance, safety optimisation as well as balancing antagonistic safety concerns. The analysis has both qualitative and quantitative aspects. Systems under consideration are discrete reactive systems. An extension also applies to self-organising systems. The talk presents the approach as well as some interesting applications.

In addition to the above, special sessions were organized on:

1. Bayesian Networks in Dependability I and II

2. Reconfiguration for Discrete Events Control

3. Scheduling and Control of Semiconductor Manufacturing Systems

4. Fault Detection and Isolation (FDI) of Discrete Event Systems

5. Petri net based RAMS (Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Safety) Modeling I, II, III

The workshop was very successful, with 46 presentations, 74 participants from a large number of countries that attended the parallel sessions with interest, rousing discussions and comments.

The workshop steering committee decided to continue the series of these biennal meetings and to hold the next DCDS'11 in Saarbruecken, Germany.
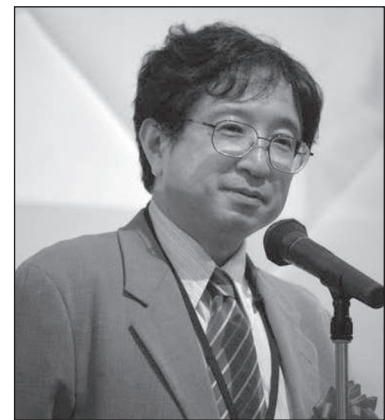
Maria Pia Fanti, IPC Chair

# Robot Control
## SYROCO 2009
## IFAC Symposium (9th)
### Gifu, Japan, 9 - 12 September, 2009

Hideki Hashimoto

The 9th IFAC Symposium on Robot Control, SYROCO2009, was held in Gifu, Japan, from 9 to 12 September, 2009. The primary topics for the SYROCO 2009 were "Robot Control in Human-Robot Dynamic Interaction". Robot control technology is widely used for space, surgery, rehabilitation, micro machine, entertainment, etc.

154 papers were submitted to the Symposium. Reviews were handled electronically, under the supervision of the Members of the IPC and NOC. For each paper, two independent reviewers and one IPC member's judgment were collected. We are indebted to all the reviewers for their precious assistance in guaranteeing proper reviews of the papers. This process was of vital importance to ensure the high quality of the Symposium. The final selection led to having 135 papers in the technical program. They were split up into 33 sessions which were arranged in 3 or 4 parallel tracks for the 3 days of the Symposium, bringing together contributions from 34 different countries.

The Symposium also featured three invited plenary speakers: Prof. Oussama Khatib, from Stanford University, USA, presented the lecture "Human-Friendly Robotics", Prof. Tsuneo Yoshikawa, from Ritsumeikan University, Japan, presented the lecture "Robot Hand Control for Grasping and Manipulation", and Prof. Thomas Mergner, from the University of Freiburg, Germany, presented the lecture "Neurologically Inspired Control of Stance in a Humanoid Robot". Moreover, a special invited lecture from Industry was scheduled on September 10, 2009. Mr. Masaru Ogino, from Toyota Motor Corporation, Japan, demonstrated humanoid robots and presented the lecture "Next-Generation Robotics: Ushering in the Future".

Abstracts of all these papers as well as the ones of the invited session can be found on the Homepage of the Symposium at http://www.syroco2009.org/

We would like to thank the Members of the IPC, the NOC, and the NAC.

Hideki Hashimoto, IPC Chair

| Title | 2010 | Place | Further Information |
|---|---|---|---|
| IFAC/SHAE Conference<br>Control Methodologies and Technology<br>For Energy Efficiency (IFAC CMTEE 2010) | March<br>29 – 31 | Vilamoura<br>Portugal | http://www.cmtee.org/<br>e-mail: info@cmtee.org |
| 8th ENIM/IFAC - Intl. Conference<br>Modelling and Simulation – MOSIM 2010 | May<br>10 – 12 | Hammamet<br>Tunisia | http://www.enim.fr/mosim10<br>e-mail: mosim10@enim.fr |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Time Delay Systems – TDS 2010 | June<br>07 – 09 | Prague<br>Czech Rep. | http://www.tds2010.fs.cvut.cz/<br>e-mail: tds2010@fs.cvut.cz |
| 7th INSTICC/IFAC Intl. Conference<br>Informatics in Control, Automation and<br>Robotics – ICINCO 2010 | June<br>15 – 18 | Funchal<br>Madeira, PT | http://www.icinco.org/<br>e-mail: icinco.secretariat@insticc.org |
| IEEE/IFAC Workshop<br>Variable Structure Systems – VSS 2010 | June<br>26 – 28 | Mexico City<br>Mexico | http://www.vss2010.unam.mx/<br>e-mail: gchair@unam.mx |
| American Control Conference<br>- in cooperation with IFAC | June 30<br>July 02 | Baltimore<br>MD, USA | http://www.a2c2.org/conferences/acc2010/<br>e-mail: to be announced |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Intelligent Manufacturing Systems – IMS 2010 | July<br>01 – 02 | Lisbon<br>Portugal | http://www.ims10.ipb.pt/<br>e-mail: ims2010@uninova.pt |
| IFAC Symposium<br>DYnamics and COntrol of Process Systems<br>- DYCOPS 2010 | July<br>05 – 07 | Leuven<br>Belgium | http://www.dycops2010.org/ |
| IFAC/(EFB) Symposium<br>Computer Applications in Biotechnology<br>- CAB 2010 | July<br>07 – 09 | Leuven<br>Belgium | http://www.cab2010.org/ |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Large Scale Systems: Theory and<br>Applications – LSS 2010 | July<br>11 – 14 | Villeneuve<br>d'Ascq<br>France | http://lss2010.ulbsibiu.ro/<br>e-mail: p.borne@ec-lille.fr |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Advances in Automotive Control<br>-  IFAC-AAC 2010 | July<br>12 – 14 | Munich<br>Germany | http:// www.vdi.de/aac2010.<br>e-mail: ringelmann@vdi.de |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing<br>- IFACMMM2010 | August<br>02 – 04 | Cape Town<br>South Africa | http://www.ifacmmm2010.com/index.html<br>e-mail: info@ifacmmm2010.com |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Adaptation and Learning in Control and<br>Signal Processing (ALCOSP 2010)<br><br>in conjunction with | August<br>26 – 28 | Antalya<br>Turkey | http://ifacworkshops@boun.edu.tr<br>e-mail: to be announced |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Periodic Control Systems<br>- PSYCO 2010 | August<br>26 – 28 | Antalya<br>Turkey | http://ifacworkshops@boun.edu.tr<br>e-mail: to be announced |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Discrete Event Systems – WODES 2010 | August 30<br>September 1 | Berlin<br>Germany | http://www.wodes2010.org/<br>e-mail: info@wodes2010.org |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Analysis, Design, and Evaluation<br>of Human-Machine Systems- HMS | August 31<br>- Sept. 03 | Valenciennes<br>France | http://www.univ-valenciennes.fr/IFACHMS2010/<br>e-mail: contact-ifachms2010@univ-valenciennes.fr |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Nonlinear Control Systems<br>- NOLCOS 2010 | September<br>01 - 03 | Bologna<br>Italy | http://www.nolcos2010.unibo.it/<br>e-mail: nolcos2010@morettieventi.it |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Cost Oriented Automation – COA 2010 | September<br>01 – 03 | Prague<br>Czech Rep. | http://ifac.cz/coa/<br>e-mail: richard@susta.cz |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles<br>- IAV | September<br>06 - 08 | Lecce<br>Italy | http://iav2010.unile.it/<br>e-mail: iav2010@unile.it |

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS ctd.

| Title | | Place | Further Information |
|---|---|---|---|
| IFAC Symposium<br>Automatic Control in Aerospace ACA 2010 | September<br>06 – 10 | Nara<br>Japan | http://www.space.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/aca2010<br>e-mail: ifac-office@space.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp |
| IFAC Conference<br>Management and Control of Production<br>and Logistics - MCPL-2010 | September<br>08 – 10 | Coimbra<br>Portugal | http://www.dei.uc.pt/MCPL2010<br>e-mail: mcpl2010@dei.uc.pt |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Mechatronic Systems | September<br>13 – 15 | Boston, MA<br>USA | https://engineering.purdue.edu/IFACMech10/<br>e-mail: to be announced |
| IFAC Symposium<br>System Structure and Control SSC | September<br>15 – 17 | Ancona<br>Italy | http://leibniz.diiga.univpm.it/SSSC10/<br>e-mail: to be announced |
| IFAC Conference<br>Control Applications in Marine Systems<br>- CAMS 2010 | September<br>15 – 17 | Rostock<br>Germany | www.cams2010.uni-rostock.de  (to be conf)<br>e-mail: to  be announced |
| IFAC Symposium<br>Telematics Applications - TA'2010 | October<br>05 – 08 | Timisoara<br>Romania | http:// www.upt.ro/ta2010<br>e-mail: office.ta2010@aut.upt.ro |
| IFAC Workshop<br>Programmale Devices and Embedded<br>Systems - PDeS | October<br>06 – 08 | Pszczyne<br>Poland | http://pdes.polsl.pl<br>e-mail:pdes@polsl.pl |
| IFAC Workshop (4th)<br>Fractional Differentiation and its<br>Applications - FDA 2010 | October<br>18 – 20 | Badajoz<br>Spain | http://ees.fberg.tuke.sk/fda10<br>e-mail: fda10@tuke.sk |
| **Title** | **2011** | **Place** | **Further Information** |
| **IFAC WORLD CONGRESS – 18th**<br>**Milano 2011** | **August 28**<br>**- Sept. 02** | **Milan**<br>**Italy** | **http://www.ifac2011.org/**<br>**e-mail: info@ifac2011.org** |
| **Title** | **2012** | **Place** | **Further Information** |
| IFAC Symposium<br>System Identification | July<br>11 – 13 | Brussels<br>Belgium | http:// to be announced<br>e-mail: to be announced |

## Robust Control Design - Rocond'09
## IFAC Symposium
### Haifa,  Israel, June 16 - 18, 2009

The 2009 Symposium on Robust Control Design (Rocond'09 ) was held in Haifa, Israel,  on June16-18, and  continued the tradition of highly successful, high quality symposia. In response to our call for papers we received 59 contributed, 27 invited and 12 tutorial/survey  papers,  for a grandtotal of 98 submissions. All of these submissions were put through a rigorous review process by an exceptionally qualified International Program Committee, with all papers having at least 2, and in most cases 3, reviews. As a result of this process, 39 contributed,  22 invited  and 12 tutorial papers were accepted for presentation at the symposium. These papers ran the gamut from infinite-dimensional robust control to robust control and QFT applications and illustrated both the diversity and the health of our community.

Highlights of the program included 6 plenary talks selected to highlight the impact that robust systems ideas are having in  other communities (finance, fluids, computer vision, energy) and in society at large. These themes were carried over to three tutorial sessions, designed to emphasize the contributions of systems theory in other fields and to point out to exciting new research and application opportunities for the robust control community.

The technical program was complemented by an outstanding array of social activities that included a banquet and jazz concert at the Yehiam Crusader Fortress;  a visit to the Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art; a tour of the beautiful city of Haifa; a wine tasting of Israeli terroir wines; an industrial tour; and a beach session, organized by professor Per-Olof Gutman, to close the Symposium.

Mario Sznaier, IPC Chair

## Slowly but Surely...

### Every IFAC Newsletter finally arrives at its destination.

Very recently, we have received the following e-mail from our Advisor and former President, Steve Kahne:

″During the past week, I received by snail mail my copy of the December **2004** IFAC Newsletter.  Upon checking in my file of all IFAC Newsletters, I saw that in fact I did not have a copy of that particular issue of the Newsletter, so this was not a duplicate, but the one originally sent to me about 5 years ago.  It gives a whole new meaning to "snail" mail.  Assuming the snail either "walked" or swam using the great circle route, he made pretty good time, about 30cm/min!"