



Branislav M. Notaroš ^{ID}
AP-S President

New AP-S Conferences, Journals, Workshops, and Membership Initiatives

Welcome to the August issue of *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine* and the fourth President's Message of the year. At the time of writing this message, I am exactly at the middle of my term. My serving you and the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) as president for half a year now has been truly enjoyable and enriching for me, and I continue to feel incredibly honored and privileged to be able to serve with you and lead AP-S to further successes. I believe that we accomplished a lot together in the past six months, and I very much look forward to the second half of my term!

As I wrote before, and now it is even more true and crystal clear, all Society officers, Administrative Committee (AdCom) Members, Committee Chairs,

Editors-in-Chief, Conference Chairs, and Support Staff have been absolutely amazing as we work together, and I would like to thank all of them for their fantastic work, collaboration, help, and contributions. As in my previous messages to you, I have opted not to include names and personal thanks in the article to avoid the situation where some well-deserving people are not mentioned by name due to my selection of topics, subjective decisions about who to ultimately not mention on a topic, or simply by mistake. Although I feel that this is a “safer” and less unfair solution, I know it is far from a perfect solution, and I do apologize for that.

At the time of writing this message, we are in the final stretch of preparations for our flagship conference, the 2024 IEEE International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation and USNC-URSI Radio Science Meeting (AP-S/

URSI 2024) in Florence, Italy, from 14–19 July (see [Figure 1](#)). The conference promises to be an astounding success, and to provide technically productive, professionally rewarding, and socially enjoyable experience for all attendees. We have nearly 1,900 papers ready to be presented and more than 2,000 registered participants ready to travel to Florence, each of which is a record number that guarantees a great program and great interactions. We have prepared a comprehensive range of technical sessions, plenaries, invited talks, special sessions, discussion panels, student paper and design competitions, short courses, tutorials, industry exhibits, demonstrations, professional and business meetings, and social and networking events. The Society is incredibly grateful to the APS/URSI 2024 Steering and Organizing Committee for their fantastic accomplishments and for their time, effort, and

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FIGURE 1. The 2024 IEEE AP-S/URSI Conference to be held in Florence, Italy, 14–19 July, <https://2024.apsursi.org/>.

spirit in putting together an outstanding conference. Please visit <https://2024.apsursi.org/> for more details.

We are also performing final preparations for the Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of AP-S, which will be held in Florence on 17 and 18 July in conjunction with the conference (please see my June President's Message) [1]. The informal Organizing Committee for the AP-S's 75 Years Celebration has done an exceptional job in making sure that the 75 Years Plenary Session, AP-S Past Presidents Panel, Intersociety Collaboration Panel, 75 Years Celebratory Lunch, 75 Years Celebratory Gala, IEEE AP-S Awards Ceremony, Conference Banquet, and other celebratory events in Florence are truly memorable and a "once-in-a-generation" experience in some aspects. I hope that this celebration will be of great significance to our members, for their technical and professional advancement, for morale and belonging to the Society, for our outreach to new members, and for our promotion among other organizations that we care about. I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you in Florence!

As I wrote in my April message [2], at our first meeting of the year on 17 and

18 February 2024 in Orlando, Florida, the AP-S AdCom decided to create a new AP-S conference in Latin America: the Latin American Conference on Antennas and Propagation (LACAP). LACAP is not just another conference, it is a top priority of AP-S for this year and further. In addition to meeting technical and professional needs of researchers, educators, engineers, and students in Latin America and beyond, LACAP is designed to directly address a question and the practical goal of increasing IEEE's and AP-S's membership and impact in IEEE Region 9 and the participation of Region 9 in IEEE and AP-S activities, and this is urgent and long overdue. This also nicely adds to our new conferences in Asia and Africa.

Since then, we have identified champions for this extremely important and exciting initiative, and there has been an outstanding response and enthusiasm as well as an outburst, I would say, explosion, of communication and activity on planning and organization of the conference. A huge amount of progress has already been made. That this could be done so quickly (in my April message, for example, I wrote that LACAP 2025 seems more realistic and feasible than LACAP 2024) is far beyond anyone's expectations

and is further confirmation how strong and urgent the demand for this conference has actually been in the Region and in the Society. As a result of this work, our first LACAP will be held 1–4 December 2024 at San Andrés Island, Columbia (see Figure 2). Please visit <https://lacap2024.org/> for more details. We have already finished all the paperwork for the conference with IEEE, and LACAP 2024 has been fully approved and registered in record timing. AP-S is the 100% financial sponsor for this event.

Early December is a very good time to visit Colombia. The venue, San Andrés Island, is a beautiful island in the Caribbean Sea, with an absolutely spectacular, unique, and Latin American authentic place, with great flight connections to everywhere. We have already identified an excellent hotel, Decameron "El Isleño" Hotel and Convention Center, situated amid a stunning mix of tropical and Caribbean Sea landscapes. We have lined up a fantastic group of keynote speakers, special issue of *IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters* devoted to LACAP 2024, and so many other activities. Please visit the conference website and the Call for Papers at <https://lacap2024.org/call-for-papers/>. Please mark your calendars and consider attending if you can.

1st IEEE Latin American Conference on Antennas & Propagation

LACAP 2024
San Andrés Island, Colombia
1-4 Dec. 2024

LACAP 2024
CALL FOR PAPERS

December 1-4, 2024
San Andrés Island, Colombia

IEEE AP-S / 75th Anniversary
Antennas and Propagation Society

IMPORTANT DATES
Special Session Proposals: July 15, 2024
Submission deadline: August 15, 2024
Notification: September 30, 2024

www.lacap2024.org

LACAP 2024 Keynote Speakers

- Constantine Balanis**, Arizona State Univ., IEEE Life Fellow, Celebrated Author of "Antenna Theory: Analysis and Design" and "Advanced Engineering Electromagnetics"
- Yahya Rahmat-Samii**, UCLA, US National Academy of Engineering Member, Northrop-Grumman Chair in Electromagnetics, IEEE Life Fellow, IEEE AP-S Past President
- Jennifer T. Bernhard**, Univ. of Illinois, Donald Biggar Willett Professor, Director of the Illinois Applied Research Institute, IEEE Fellow, IEEE AP-S Past President
- Reinaldo A. Valenzuela**, Nokia Bell Laboratories, US National Academy of Engineering Member, IEEE Fellow, Director of the Communication Theory Department
- Richard W. Ziolkowski**, Univ. of Arizona, Fulbright Distinguished Chair of Advanced Science and Technology, IEEE Life Fellow, IEEE AP-S Past President
- Susan C. Hagness**, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Nat. Academy of Inventors Fellow, Philip D. Reed Prof., ECE Dept. Chair, IEEE Fellow, URSI Isaac Koga Gold Medal
- John C. Mather**, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr., Nobel Prize in Physics Laureate, James Webb Space Telescope Lead Scientist, Time Magazine World's 100 Most Influential People

FIGURE 2. The first LACAP, to be held 1–4 December 2024, at San Andrés Island, Columbia, <https://lacap2024.org/>.

Another piece of exciting, fresh news that I would like to share with you is that our Phase 1 proposal for the new journal *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics on Electromagnetics, Antennas and Propagation (JSTEAP)* was approved by the IEEE Periodicals Committee (PerCom) and the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) at PerCom and TAB meetings on 20 and 21 June 2024, respectively, in Toronto, Canada. *JSTEAP* is financially cosponsored by AP-S (lead), the

IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S), and the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), and we have several other Societies as technical cosponsors of the new journal. Now we will be working on Phase 2 (and final phase) of the *JSTEAP* proposal for PerCom and TAB approvals in November. Our (ambitious) goal and plan is to launch the journal effective 1 January 2025. AP-S has also become the financial cosponsor of two other IEEE journals.

The last few months have also been marked by our Intersociety Collaboration activities on several fronts. We have further solidified the establishment of the Intersociety Joint Distinguished Lecturer Program of AP-S with the MTT-S and the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRS-S). The IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society (EMC-S) has also expressed interest in joining the program in the near future. We organized and ran the IEEE AP-S/MTT-S/EMC-S



FIGURE 3. The IEEE AP-S/MTT-S/EMC-S First Joint Distinguished Lecture Workshop was held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 12 April.



FIGURE 4. The IEEE AP-S/MTT-S/EMC-S/GRS-S Second Joint Distinguished Lecture Workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 17 May.

First Joint Distinguished Lecture Workshop, in Zagreb, Croatia, on 12 April 2024 (see Figure 3), and the IEEE AP-S/MTT-S/EMC-S/GRS-S Second Joint Distinguished Lecture Workshop, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 17 May 2024 (see Figure 4), and several other joint workshops are in the plans for this year.

Joint activities like these are incredibly important, in addition to being of great significance to each of the Societies, for promoting and helping technical and professional development as well as for increasing our memberships and impacts in various regions all over the world. We also have other innovative and impactful international membership-oriented workshops organized by various AP-S Committees. Finally, as another important membership initiative, we have organized, together with the MTT-S, a “presidential” tour of African countries, including Tunisia, Kenya,

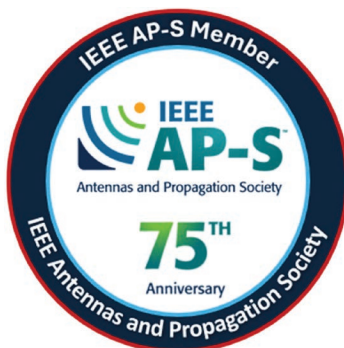


FIGURE 5. The AP-S 75th Anniversary lapel pin with the “IEEE AP-S Member” designation, which is to be delivered to all AP-S members at the 2024 APS/URSI Conference in Florence (see Figure 1).

and South Africa, for later this summer, which will include several AP-S Presidents and Committee Chairs.

As I wrote and have said many times this year, it is indeed a fascinating time—during a very special cel-

ebratory year—to be an AP-S member. If you are attending the conference in Florence, you will receive the beautiful AP-S 75th Anniversary lapel pin with an “IEEE AP-S Member” designation (see Figure 5), which all of us will proudly wear in Florence and beyond for years to come. Congratulations! And if you are not currently a member, please consider joining us!

Until next time, with very best wishes,

Branislav

REFERENCES

- [1] B. M. Notaroš, “Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society [President’s Message],” *IEEE Antennas Propag. Mag.*, vol. 66, no. 3, pp. 6–9, Jun. 2024, doi: [10.1109/MAP.2024.3399352](https://doi.org/10.1109/MAP.2024.3399352).
- [2] B. M. Notaroš, “Fundamental changes and major actions of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society [President’s Message],” *IEEE Antennas Propag. Mag.*, vol. 66, no. 2, pp. 6–11, Apr. 2024, doi: [10.1109/MAP.2024.3371768](https://doi.org/10.1109/MAP.2024.3371768).




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