

The History Committee (2011)

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History of the Neural Networks Council (NNC): 1990

1. Introduction

1990 was the year that the NN committee became the NN council, on January 1, 1990. Councils can publish transactions, sponsor conferences, endorse IEEE Fellows, and have a vote on the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB). The NNC held two ADCOM meetings in 1990: January 16 and June 19. Officers of the 1990 NNC were elected at the Jan. 16 ADCOM. Officers of the 1991 NNC were elected at the June 19 ADCOM (see 1991). The June 19 ADCOM approved the NNC Pioneer and TNN best paper awards, and also approved the NNC/INNS Agreement for jointly sponsoring IJCNN's.

2A. Sponsor organizations. The IEEE NNC was composed of charter members from 10 IEEE societies, viz.

- Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing
- Circuits and Systems Society
- Communications Society
- Control Theory Society
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
- Industrial Electronics Society
- Information Theory Society
- Laser and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS)
- Robotics and Automation Society
- Systems, Man and Cybernetics

2B. Administrative Structure

Officers of NNC (elected at the Jan. 16 ADCOM of the NNC):
Robert J. Marks II, President
Russell Eberhart, Vice President
Evangelia Tzanakou, Secretary
Toshio Fukuda, Treasurer

2C. Standing Committees created by the NNC Adcom

Jan. 16 : NNC Standards Committee, Evangelia Tzanakou, Chair
Jan. 16 : NNC Fellows Committee, Edward Posner, Chair
June 19 : NNC Awards Committee, Brad Dickinson, Chair

3. Conferences sponsored by the IEEE.

Name	IJCNN
Dates	June 17-21, 1990
Venue	San Diego, CA
Administrators	Walter Karplus, Conference co-Chair Joseph Goodman, Conference co-Chair

Conference record

Walter Freeman, Program co-Chair
Bart Kosko, Program co-Chair
Proc. of the IJCNN

4. Archival Publications

The *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* (TNN) is launched in March, 1990
Founding Editor in Chief (EIC) of TNN is Herbert Rauch

5. Awards and Prizes : None

6. Significant Related Events

None

7. Anecdotes for 1990

Disclaimer. This section contains anecdotal material related to the NNCom/NNC//NNS/CIS. Each contribution represents the author's opinion and recollection. Contributions are not endorsed by IEEE or the IEEE CIS, and neither has certified the factual authenticity of the anecdotes.

----- *Begin Jim Bezdek Anecdote* -----

I attended the inaugural 1990 Fuzzy Logic Systems Institute (FLSI) conference, which was held in Iizuka, Japan. One of the other attendees was Bernie Widrow, whom I had known since my days as a graduate student at Cornell. I don't know if Bernie remembers what I am about to relate, but in my memory it is as clear as a bell, because this incident marked the first time that anyone in the fuzzy sets community really believed that the IEEE would finally pay attention to our science.

Bernie and I strolled through the manufacturer's exhibits at this conference, looking at vacuum cleaners, washing machines, heat pumps, train controllers, and the like, which were being called "fuzzy vacuum cleaners", "fuzzy washing machines", and so on. Bernie turned to me at one point, and asked: "Jim, where are the neural network washing machines"? I replied: "there won't be any Bernie, because these devices you see rely on a far simpler approach based on cheap sensors and elementary fuzzy controllers". He thought about my reply, and then said: "I can see that we are at war with Japan - economic war - and they are winning it. I intend to go home and tell the IEEE that we need to get into this game, quit making fun of it, and learn how to use it".

When Bernie returned to the US, he contacted Bob Marks and relayed his advice about incorporating fuzzy systems into the IEEE framework. In a matter of months Pat Simpson called me to ask if I was interested in throwing my hat into the IEEE arena on behalf of fuzzy sets and systems. Of course I said yes. And within two years, the NNC sponsored the first FUZZ-IEEE conference (San Diego, 1992) and the *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems* was begun. And so, I have always believed that one of the unsung early pioneers of fuzzy sets in the CIS was Bernie Widrow.

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27 February 2018

8. Glossary, Notation and Acronyms for 1990

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CIS	<i>Computational Intelligence Society (of the IEEE)</i>
DARPA	<i>Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency</i>
EIC	<i>Editor in Chief</i>
FLSI	<i>Fuzzy Logic Systems Institute</i>
ICNN	<i>International Conference on Neural Networks</i>
IJCNN	<i>International Joint Conference on Neural Networks</i>
NN	<i>Neural Network</i>
NNC	<i>Neural Networks Council (of the IEEE)</i>
NNCom	<i>Neural Network Committee (of the IEEE)</i>
NNS	<i>Neural Networks Society (of the IEEE)</i>
TAB	<i>Technical Activities Board (of the IEEE)</i>
TNN	<i>(IEEE) Transactions on Neural Networks</i>

9. References for 1990

[90.1] Herb Rauch, "The Inauguration of a New Publication," *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks*, 1(1), 1990.

[90.2] Russell C. Eberhart and Roy W. Dobbins, *Neural Network PC Tools: A Practical Guide*, Academic Press, 1990.