

ITSoc Schools Committee

Stark Draper, 21 June 2020

Committee: Stark Draper (Chair), Parastoo Sadeghi, Christina Fragouli (ex-officio)

2019 Schools: All 2019 schools occurred prior to ISIT 2019, hence nothing to report.

Four schools were planned for 2020: ESIT'20 (Stuttgart, May), NASIT'20 (Vancouver, July), EASIT'20 (Seoul, August), India'20 (Kanpur, July).

ESIT'20 update: As the first school scheduled, ESIT'20 needed to decide earliest what to do. EASIT'20 was deferred to fall. The ESIT organizers Christian Senger and Stephan ten Brink are now looking into running a virtual school in fall 2020. (More on next slide.)

Other schools: All other schools (NASIT/EASIT/India) submitted to the BoG motions to defer till 2021. All motions were approved.

Finances: The Committee and ITSoc Treasurer confirmed with the IEEE that all financial support issued by IEEE to the deferred schools can remain in the schools' bank accounts for use in 2021.

Follow-on schools: The Committee has confirmed with all the groups that, prior to COVID-19, had been planning to submit proposals to hold the respective 2021 schools (NASIT, EASIT, India), that they can defer their proposals till 2021 with the intent of holding those respective schools in 2022.

Looking forward

ESIT'20: Virtualization

- ESIT organizers will look to ISIT 2020 plenaries as a model and believe it should and can be “more than downloading a few good videos”.
- Advantages of running a virtual ESIT'20 include: (i) We will have more than zero schools in 2020, (ii) Organizers will contact the organizers of other planned schools to advertise and coordinate, (iii) The Goldsmith and Padovani Lectures that were scheduled for 2020 may occur, (iv) If (some of) the schools in 2021 need to be run virtually, ESIT'20 will provide experience that can be shared.
- There are disadvantages; the organizers would have preferred an in-person event.
- If the organizers decide a virtual school is not feasible the Committee will bring a motion-to-defer to the BoG later in the summer (via email voting).
- The Schools Committee is in favor of the ESIT'20 organizers exploring the possibility of a virtual ESIT'20.
- The organizers and School Committee request input from the BoG.

Virtualizing schools if the pandemic continues unabated

- If the pandemic continues it may not be feasible to hold some (or all) the schools.
- In such an event we will consider virtualization.

Named lectureships

- The Padovani and Goldsmith Lectures are delivered at schools. (Padovani was to be delivered at NASIT'20 and Goldsmith at ESIT'20.)
- The plan for the named lectureships in 2021 will be discussed as part of the Membership Committee report.