Candidates for Election to the Board

The following motion is brought by the Nominations and Appointments Committee, and does not require a second.

Resolved, that the following people be permitted to run for election to the Board for a three-year term starting in 2020.

1. Erik Agrell
2. Po-Ning Chen
3. Alexandros G. Dimakis
4. Pingzhi Fan
5. Meir Feder
6. Christina Fragouli
7. Camilla Hollanti
8. Sidharth Jaggi
9. Tara Javidi
10. Jong-Seon No
11. Joachim Rosenthal
12. Andrew Thangaraj
13. Gregory W. Wornell

All of these candidates have agreed to run. For the information of the Board, brief biographies are appended.
Erik Agrell received the Ph.D. degree in information theory in 1997 from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, where he is currently a Professor. He held postdoctoral research positions at the University of California, San Diego and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has also worked with R&D at AB Volvo. He was a Visiting Professor at University College London in 2014–2017. His research interests belong to information theory, signal processing, coding theory, and particularly their applications in optical communications. He has served as Publications Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory and as Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Communications. He is a recipient of the 2009 ITW Best Poster Award, the 2011 GlobeCom Best Paper Award, the 2013 CTW Best Poster Award, and the 2015 JLT Best Paper Award. He is a Fellow of the IEEE.

If elected, Prof. Agrell will raise a green voice in the IT Society. He will promote a climate-friendly perspective on all our activities, including conferences, meetings, and outreach.

Po-Ning Chen received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Maryland, College Park, USA, in 1994. He joined National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) in 1996, and has served as the Department Head of Communications Engineering during 2007-2009, and the Associate Chief Director of Microelectronics and Information Systems Research Center (MISRC) during 2012-2015. He was a member of the Project Review Committee of Engineering and Technologies Department in the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Taiwan, from 2016 to 2018. He is now the Associate Dean of College of Electrical and Computer Engineering, NCTU. Dr. Chen is also active in local IEEE services. In 2006, he chaired the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) Taipei Chapter, and IEEE ComSoc Taipei Chapter received the IEEE ComSoc Chapter Achievement Awards (CAA) and IEEE ComSoc Chapter of the Year (CoY) in the following year. He co-chaired the 2017 IEEE Information Theory Work (ITW) and is currently organizing the 2023 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT). He is now a member of the Board of Governors at IEEE Taipei Section. Dr. Chen received the Award for Junior Research Investigators, Academia Sinica, in 2000. He has been selected as NCTU Outstanding Tutor Teacher in 2002, 2013 and 2014. He was also the recipient of Distinguished Teaching Award from College of Electrical and Computer Engineering, NCTU, in 2003 and 2014. He has published two books and around sixty journal papers. His research interests generally lie in information and coding theory, large deviations theory, distributed detection and sensor networks.

Alex Dimakis is an Associate Professor at the ECE department at UT Austin. He received his Ph.D. in 2008 from UC Berkeley. He received the NSF Career, a Google faculty award and the Eli Jury dissertation award. He is the co-recipient of several best paper awards including the joint Information Theory and Communications Society Best Paper Award in 2012. In 2018 he received the James L. Massey Research and Teaching Award for Young Scholars. He served as an associate editor for IEEE Signal Processing letters IEEE Transactions on Information Theory. He is currently serving as a senior editor for the Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory (JSAIT). His research interests include information
theory, coding theory and machine learning.

Pingzhi Fan received the MSc degree in Computer Science from the Southwest Jiaotong University, PRC, in 1987, and Ph.D. degree in Electronic Engineering from the Hull University, U.K., in 1994. From 1994 to 1997, he worked for Hull University and Leeds University (UK) as a postdoctoral and research fellow. He is a visiting/guest professor for Leeds University (UK, 1997-), Mikkel Polytechnic (Finland, 1996), Georgia State University (USA, 2001), FernUniversity (Germany, 2002), National Chonbuk University (Korea, 2003), Tsukuba University (Japan, 2005), and Shanghai Jiaotong University (China, 1999-). He is currently a distinguished professor of the Southwest Jiaotong University, the director of the institute of mobile communications, and the director of the International Cooperation Research Centre “Communications & Sensor Networks for Modern Transportation (CSNMT)” (Ministry of Sci & Tech, China). He is a recipient of the UK ORS Award (1992) and the NSFC Outstanding Young Scientist Award (1998), and IEEE VTS Jack Neubauer Memorial Award (2018). He was the chief scientist of a national 973 research project (MoST, 2012-2016), IEEE VTS Distinguished Lecturer (2015-2019), and a fellow of IEEE, IET, CIE and CIC.

Meir Feder is a Professor and holder of the Information Theory Chair at the School of Electrical Engineering, Tel-Aviv University. He is also a Visiting Professor at the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is an IEEE fellow, works on various subjects in information theory, signal processing, communication and learning, published well over 150 papers on these subjects and holds over 50 patents. He received several academic and professional awards including the IEEE Information Theory society best paper award for his work on universal prediction.

In parallel to his academic career, he is closely involved in the high-tech industry. He founded several companies, among them Peach Networks (Acq: MSFT) and Amimon (Acq: LON.VTC). In addition, he is an angel investor and serves as a board/advisory board member in several US and Israeli companies. Recently, with his renewed interest in machine learning and AI, he co-founded Run:ai, a virtualization and acceleration platform for deep learning utilizing high-scale distributed computing.
Christina Fragouli is a Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. She received the B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece, and the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has worked at the Information Sciences Center, AT&T Labs, Florham Park New Jersey, and the National University of Athens. She also visited Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, and DIMACS, Rutgers University. Between 2006–2015 she was an Assistant and Associate Professor in the School of Computer and Communication Sciences, EPFL, Switzerland. She is an IEEE fellow, has served as an Information Theory Society Distinguished Lecturer, and as an Associate Editor for IEEE Communications Letters, for Elsevier Journal on Computer Communication, for IEEE Transactions on Communications, for IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, and for IEEE Transactions on Mobile Communications. She has also served in several IEEE committees, including the Cover Dissertation Award Committee (chair), the IT Magazine Steering Committee (chair), the IEEE Hamming Medal Committee, the IEEE Kobayashi Award Committee, the IEEE Teaching Award committee and the IT Fellows Committee. Her research interests are in network coding, algorithms for networking, network security and privacy.

Camilla Hollanti received the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Turku, Finland, in 2003 and 2009, respectively, both in pure mathematics. Her research interests lie within applications of algebraic number theory to wireless communications and physical layer security, as well as in combinatorial and coding theoretic methods related to distributed storage systems and private information retrieval. From 2004 to 2011, Hollanti was with the University of Turku. She joined the University of Tampere as Lecturer for the academic year 2009-2010. Since 2011, she has been with the Department of Mathematics and Systems Analysis at Aalto University, Finland, where she currently works as Full Professor and leads a research group in Algebra, Number Theory, and Applications. During 2017-2020, Hollanti is also affiliated with the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Technical University of Munich, where she holds a 3-year Hans Fischer Fellowship, funded by the German Excellence Initiative and the EU 7th Framework Programme. Hollanti is an editor of the AIMS Journal on Advances in Mathematics of Communications. She is a recipient of several grants, including five Academy of Finland grants in 2010-2018. In 2014, she received the World Cultural Council Special Recognition Award for young researchers. In 2017, the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters awarded her the Väisälä Prize in Mathematics.

Sidharth Jaggi received his B.Tech. from IIT Bombay in 2000, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from CalTech in 2001 and 2005 respectively, all in Electrical Engineering. In 2006 he was a postdoctoral scholar in LIDS at MIT, and since 2007 he has been faculty in the Department of Information Engineering at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received the Prof. R. Narasimhan Memorial Award in 2018 for his work on adversarial models in information theory, and the University Education Award in 2019 for his innovations in flipped class-
rooms. His research interests include network coding, arbitrarily varying channels, covert communications and group testing. His service to the Information Theory community include organizing 4 summer schools in Information Theory in East Asia.

Tara Javidi studied electrical engineering at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran from 1992 to 1996. She received her MS degrees in electrical engineering (systems) and in applied mathematics (stochastic analysis) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1998 and 1999, respectively. She received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 2002. From 2002 to 2004, Tara Javidi was an assistant professor at the Electrical Engineering Department, University of Washington, Seattle. In 2005, she joined the University of California, San Diego, where she is currently a professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Tara Javidi received the 2018 and 2019 Qualcomm Faculty Award for her contributions to wireless technology. Tara Javidi was a recipient of the National Science Foundation early career award (CAREER) in 2004, Barbour Graduate Scholarship, University of Michigan, in 1999, and the Presidential and Ministerial Recognitions for Excellence in the National Entrance Exam, Iran, in 1992. Tara Javidi was a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Information Theory Society (2017/18). She is currently a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Communications Society (2019/20). She is a member of Board of Governors of the IEEE Information Theory Society (2017/18).

Jong-Seon No (S’80-M’88-SM’10-F’12) received the B.S. and M.S.E.E. degrees in electronics engineering from Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, in 1981 and 1984, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, in 1988. He became a Fellow of the IEEE in Research Engineer/Scientist through IEEE Information Theory Society, November 2011. He also became a Senior Member of the National Academy of Engineering of Korea (NAEK), 2015, where he is currently serving as the Chair of Electrical, Electronics, and Information Engineering Committee. He was with Hughes Network Systems, Germantown, Maryland, as a Senior MTS in 1988-1990 and with Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea, as an Associate Professor in 1990-1999. He joined the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, in August 1999, where he is currently a Full Professor.

He was the founding Chair of the Information Theory Chapter of IEEE Seoul Section in 1996-2009. He was a recipient of IEEE Information Theory Society Chapter of the Year Award in 2007. From January 2012, he has been serving as the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Communications and Networks (JCN) in support of the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Vince Poor. He was a Publication Co-Editor of S.W. Golomb’s 70th Birthday Symposium held in Los Angeles, in 2002. He was a General Co-Chair of Sequences and Their Applications (SETA 2004) in 2004 and was a General Co-Chair of International Symposium on Information Theory and Its Applications (ISITA 2006) held in Seoul Korea, in 2006. He also served as a General Co-Chair of International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT
Joachim Rosenthal is Professor of Applied Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Zürich. He received the Diplom in Mathematics from the University of Basel in 1986 and the Ph.D. in Mathematics from Arizona State University in 1990. From 1990 until 2006 he was with the Department of Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame, where he was the last "Notre Dame Chair in Applied Mathematics" and Concurrent Professor of Electrical Engineering. He joined his present department in 2004, and served as its Chair from 2011-2013. Since 2016 he has served as Vice Dean of the College of Science.

His current research interests are in coding theory and cryptography. In coding theory he is interested in convolutional codes, LDPC codes and more general codes on graphs. In cryptography his main interest lies in the area of postquantum cryptography, in particular in the area of code based cryptography.


Andrew Thangaraj received his B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, India in 1998 and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA in 2003. He was a post-doctoral researcher at the GTL-CNRS Telecom lab at Georgia Tech Lorraine, Metz, France from August 2003 to May 2004. From June 2004, he has been with the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras, where he is currently a professor. From Jan 2012 to Jan 2018, he served as Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Communications. Since July 2018, he has been serving as an Associate Editor for Coding Techniques for the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory.

Gregory W. Wornell (S’83-M’91-SM’00-F’04) received the Ph.D. in EECS from MIT in 1991. Since 1991 he has been on the faculty at MIT, where he is the Sumitomo Professor of Engineering in the EECS department. At MIT he leads the Signals, Information, and Algorithms Laboratory, and is co-chair of the EECS doctoral program. His research interests and pub-
lications span the areas of information theory, signal processing, statistical inference, and digital communication, and include architectures for sensing, learning, computing, communication, and storage; systems for computational imaging and neuroscience; and the design of wireless networks. Among other recognition, he is recipient of the 2019 Leon K. Kirchmayer Graduate Teaching Award, and a Fellow of the IEEE. He currently serves on the Board of Governors of the IEEE Information Theory Society and the Executive Editorial Board of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, and has served on the Senior Editorial Board of IEEE Signal Processing Magazine. He was also on ITSOC Shannon Centennial Committee, served on the ITSOC Awards Committee in 2011 and 2012, and has served on the TPCs of various ISITs and ITWs over the last several years.