



## Living in an Accelerating Frame of Reference

Thanks to the dedicated members and staff, the Society continues to hold relevant and informative Symposia across a broad variety of technical areas. Participation in meetings and publications continues to grow with very healthy submission rates of abstracts and manuscripts. Our next meeting in Honolulu, PRiME 2012, will be our largest; we have already received over 4,000 abstracts. The lovely island state of Hawaii is a wonderful venue for our symposia on Energy Storage and Energy Conversion as the State leads the U.S. in the development of renewable energy with a goal of 70% of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

ECS has dealt with much change as traditional publishing is rapidly heading toward extinction, and new digital methods of communications and information dissemination continue to appear. Paper libraries are now considered archaic modalities and instant access to information continues at a staggering rate. The 300-year+ scientific publishing model of printed periodical journals distributed primarily to institutional libraries has succumbed to direct access. Even the digital devices we use have shifted dramatically from desktop to laptop and now to tablet and smartphones. The revolution in personal computing is a direct result of the scientific discoveries and technical innovations our members have made in solid state technology and energy storage. The rapid pace of change in platforms, communication paradigms and information databases, storage, and retrieval has produced significant challenges to the Society; as soon as we think we have mastered a new medium it is probably obsolete!

I am glad to say that our small staff continues to efficiently meet these challenges; a small example is how we communicate our meeting program information. Over a decade, it has shifted from paper abstracts and program guides, to CD format, then to flash drives, and now to smartphone and tablet apps. Each change requires a transitional period where both the new and the old methods need to be supported and the flexibility and the complexity of the platforms increase with time. The

new ECS meeting app allows for customized scheduling, real time updating, and abstract uploading. Redcat offers the ECS community a much more modern venue for online technical interaction. Our transition to HighWire publishing will allow for more flexible digital publishing of our publications. Our new publishing model of separate solid state and electrochemical journals provides better clarity for the indexing and retrieval of our content.

A downside to the rapid pace of change and instant global digital communication has been the stresses it places on our membership. Separation of our professional and personal lives is nearly impossible. We are empowered by technology to be productive 24/7 and our job expectations often times mirror our round the clock connectivity. Modern professional job expectations often times demand, by past standards, extraordinary publication rates, grant acquisition, fund raising, innovation success, and participation in societies, workshops, and expert panels. Sometimes, the pressure to participate in many publications and professional societies can lead to either conflicts of interest or even the perception of conflict of interest. Honest and ethical behavior while still held in high regard by the scientific community, is unfortunately on the decline in general society and we can no longer expect everyone to behave in this manner. The Electrochemical Society has therefore created a conflict of interest policy for its officers and board members and voted for the creation of an Ethical Standards Committee to oversee the policy. We welcome disclosure of potential conflicts of interest so we can maintain the integrity of ECS as an impartial disseminator of scientific knowledge.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the memory and lifetime achievements of Past President Prof. Wayne Worrell, my former advisor and educator and a true gentleman in the greatest sense of the word.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fernando".

**Fernando Garzon**  
President