

Editorial

SPECIAL times call for special measures. During the Corona pandemic, it was impossible to hold the 2020 IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPSS) Real Time Conference (RT2020) in person at the International Center for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE) in Quy Nhon, Vietnam. After shifting the original date from spring to fall 2020, the executive committee decided to run RT2020 completely virtual for the first time. This was quite a challenge, but the combination of free or readily available software tools, such as Indico, Zoom, Slido, Slack, and Padlet, made it possible to give all participants a good and sometimes even better experience compared to in-person meetings. One example was to give all poster presenters an individual Zoom room, where they not only could display a poster but also show slides or even live video from their lab. Our traditional micro-ormals were pre-recorded 2-min videos stitched together, giving many people the possibility to talk about their work to the whole audience. Although most of us look forward to seeing each other one day, the virtual experience was much better than originally anticipated, especially giving many people from developing countries the possibility to participate who otherwise could not have joined. I would like to express my great gratitude to our Co-Chair Martin Grossmann from PSI, with whom I ran all logistics and the virtual environment for the whole conference.

In total, we had six vendors and 212 participants coming from 25 different countries, with a large fraction from Asia. There were 233 abstracts submitted, of which 57 were accepted for oral presentation and 171 were accepted for the poster presentation. This led to 81 articles submitted to this Special Issue of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE (TNS), of which 62 were accepted by the TNS

peer-review process. I hope you will find something interesting in this issue and will enjoy it as much as I do.

Finally, let me thank the organizers and the Executive Committee of this successful conference:

David Abbott (Jefferson Lab)
 Pierre-André Amaudruz (TRIUMF)
 Christian Bohm (Stockholm University)
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 Martin Grossmann (PSI)
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 Marc-André Tétraul (University de Sherbrooke).

Additional thanks go to all people involved in making this publication possible. You will find a list of the complete editorial team led by Senior Editor Sascha Schmeling from CERN on the front page of this issue.

After many people regretted not being able to go to Quy Nhon, Vietnam, the committee has decided to hold the RT2022—should it be possible in-person—in that place on August 1–5, 2022. It will be led by Vo Hong Hai (VNU Ho Chi Minh City) and Masaharu Nomachi (Osaka University). You can find more information about RT2022 at <https://indico.cern.ch/e/rt2022>, where you also see the nice location of the conference. I very much hope to see you at the conference center.

STEFAN RITT, *RT2020 General Chair*
 Paul Scherrer Institute
 5232 Villigen, Switzerland