

Welcome from the General Chairman

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2021 Edition of the Workshop on Smart Antennas. This year's WSA combines a great scientific program with a great location. Yes, you have read correctly. Indeed, in the year 2021, the second year of the pandemic, after an endless sequence of lockdowns, we are preparing for a hybrid conference with a strong onsite component. The substantially higher complexity of 'going hybrid', was tamed by a hard-working team of organizers, two very generous sponsors, an engaged EURECOM administration, and most importantly by the authors, reviewers, speakers and session organizers who are guaranteeing this to be a high-level scientific event.

We are particularly excited to announce a very rich schedule that includes many presentations of groundbreaking results, and an additional sizeable part of invited talks as well as special sessions from renowned research groups from around the globe.

The TPC's specially selected invited papers give us a chance to highlight well-established and promising topics such as Multi-Antenna Communications, Localization, Cooperative Communications, and Advanced Coding Techniques, while also exploring newer topics thus continuing the tradition of always expanding the original scope of WSA. Such topics include Compressed Sensing, Satellite Communications, Energy Harvesting, as well as Bayesian Learning, Deep Learning, and Neural Network Solutions, all for communications.

A special acknowledgement is owed to the TPC chairs Marios Kountouris and Giuseppe Caire who have guaranteed a rigorous and timely reviewing process that led to proceedings of high scientific standard as well as a technical program that seamlessly fuses the hybrid and the onsite elements. The technical program further includes a set of special sessions that were carefully selected to represent the most promising new research paths. These sessions touch upon Machine Learning Applications (organized by S. ten Brink), Security and Privacy (organized by R. Schaefer, O. Günlü, and S. Perla), MIMO for 5G Systems (E. Björnson), Distributed and Cell-Free Massive MIMO (D. Slock and L. Cottatellucci), Multi-antenna Satellite Communications (E. Lampiris), Multi-antenna Coded Caching (A. Tölli), Experimental Wireless Communications (F. Kaltenberger) and Noncoherent Communications (S. Yang).

I would also like to thank the rest of our organizing team that included Florian Kaltenberger, Eleftherios Lampiris, Antonio Bazco Noguerras, Jakob Hoydis, and Berksan Serbetci, who took on their shoulders the task of making WSA an event where people can enjoy onsite and virtual interactions with colleagues while feeling at home and safe. Special thanks also go to our advisory board members Wolfgang Utschick and Josef Nettek for their trust and advice, our sponsors Huawei Technologies and the Académie franco-allemande pour l'industrie du futur for their very generous contributions, and also of course to the Eurecom administration that has offered flexibility and support toward making sure WSA is successful.

Finally, special thanks go to our authors and speakers for making this WSA a very special one indeed. We hope that WSA will give us all a chance to delve into the newest scientific findings, to advertise some of our own top scientific achievements that came out of our hard work during the endless lockdowns, and of course to give us a chance to catch up – virtually or physically – with old friends and colleagues.

Welcome to WSA 2021!

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