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It gives me great pleasure to share MCCI’s 2020 Annual Report in which we aim to showcase the scope and depth of the research we are engaged in. In what was a challenging year, we reached a significant milestone with Enterprise Ireland and IDA investing €10 million into the centre. The centre commenced operating in Phase 3, a huge endorsement of the research our team continues to deliver for the robust microelectronics sector in Ireland. The sector is an important one for Ireland with over 13,000 jobs and almost €10 billion exports generated. MCCI has become conduit for IDA clients entering the Irish microelectronics system, and we are very encouraged by the number of semiconductor companies establishing or expanding their circuit design R&D operations in Ireland.

In what was an extraordinary year, 2020 highlighted the resilience of the MCCI team who adapted to working remotely while maintaining high levels of productivity. The Covid – 19 pandemic is having a dramatic impact on our sector but our researchers adjusted to the new ways of working, while not compromising on the high quality research undertaken. I would like to commend the support team in Tyndall who worked tirelessly to ensure that all essential research continued through the restrictions, while being fully compliant with public health guidelines. Our team were able to work on site and have access to labs, equipment, and work remotely from home.

MCCI will also continue to position itself as a provider of key enabling technology to generate and support new start-up companies in areas such as medical devices, smart food and smart agriculture. We will achieve this through the consistent quality of our research and the scale of our national footprint with our high performing teams located in Tyndall, University College Dublin, University College Cork, Munster Technological University, Institute of Technology Carlow, University of Limerick and Maynooth University. I am pleased to announce that at the time of print a new Executive Director is about to be appointed to drive the scale and ambition plans for MCCI.

The team profiles featured in this report are testimony to the calibre of talent in MCCI. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MCCI team for their ongoing dedication to generating impactful research that tackles the complex challenges faced by industry. The continued growth and success of MCCI is due to their expertise and unique skillset to deliver innovative ground-breaking research.

Donal Sullivan
Chairperson and Interim Director
ABOUT US

We work collaboratively with our research partners to address application based microelectronic research in developing circuits that sense, condition, convert, interpret and connect the physical and digital worlds. Central to the delivery of commercial impact to our industry partners is the development, protection transfer of novel market ready intellectual property.

Funded by Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, MCCI’s mission is to deliver high impact research for the semiconductor industry and to generate high impact innovative technology. MCCI is a national research centre operating within the network of Irish Universities. Hosted at Tyndall National Institute in Cork, with a large team in University College Dublin, as well teams located in six other universities across Ireland making high-calibre academic research accessible to Industry.

In 2020 our stakeholders approved a further €10M funding over the next five years. This investment, coupled with competitively won funding by MCCI from industry and Europe (Horizon 2020) brings the total investment into microelectronic circuit research to €9 million per annum.

Our member companies employ nearly 13,000 people in Ireland, with exports of over €10 billion and in-house R&D of over €300 million. 22 companies are actively involved in collaborative research projects, including 15 IDA Clients who have increased employment by 458 in the past 2 years as a result of collaborating with MCCI. MCCI plays a key role through the generation of talent, particularly post-graduates with potential to be future leaders in the sector.

VISION AND MISSION

To be the number one microelectronic circuits research centre globally, for industrial and academic collaboration by 2025.

To deliver high impact research outcomes, and by doing so develop our researchers into independent thinkers and future leaders in Irish companies and in the global semiconductor landscape.

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NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES
RESEARCH PILLARS

High Speed Transceivers
Research on next generation broadband, TV connectivity, data-centres and cloud computing as well as RF for next generation wireless communications and medical/environmental sensing, imaging and stimulation.
Power Management
Research for Ultra Low Power (ULP) integrated systems, and energy harvesting solutions. Also highly integrated power supplies to address on energy reduction challenges.

Digital
Research focus on “intelligent extreme edge” to cloud. Projects will explore how data is sensed, converted and stored incorporating ML and AI. Data protection and security are a big focus.

Precision Circuits
Research centered on data converters, sensor interfaces, analogue front ends, the core building blocks used in almost all applications.

High-Frequency RF
Focus on fundamental science and applications of microwave and millimetre wave RF front-end components, RF co-design methods for multi-functional RF components, filter synthesis techniques, broadband antenna arrays and low-cost integration methods for wireless, space and defence communication systems.
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

MCCI 3.0
Enterprise Ireland and IDA approved a further €10M funding for MCCI over the next five years. In the last 10 years, we have established ourselves as the single point of contact for access to high calibre microelectronics research in Ireland. This endorsement by our stakeholders will enable us to go from strength to strength by enabling us to continue to deliver world-leading research. We will continue to provide a competitive advantage to microelectronics companies (SMEs and MNCs) located in Ireland leading to increases in employment, export revenue and the generation of future leaders in the sector.

Call for Proposals 2020
We awarded €5 million in research funding for innovative future technologies. The funding will be used to develop future deep-tech, such as beyond 5G wireless communications, implantable biomedical devices, IoT, sustainable electronics, space and satellite electronics.

The eight research projects funded will advance state of the art novel ideas in circuit design, enabling Ireland to lead in new applications such as beyond 5G wireless communications, cryogenic circuits, wireless power, implantable biomedical devices, IoT and sustainable electronics. All of the projects will advance ideas for lower power, higher precision analog and mixed signal interface circuits, and new hardware architectures, for emerging applications in sensors, communications, AI and quantum engineering.

Professor Dimitra Psychogiou Appointed
University College Cork and Tyndall National Institute appointed Professor Dimitra Psychogiou, a global expert in RF front-end technologies, to the position of Professor of RF Microwave Communications in the School of Engineering.

Prof. Psychogiou will also assume the role of Head of Group for Advanced Radio Frequency (RF) Technologies at the Tyndall National Institute, where she will undertake internationally-leading research with MCCI. She will lead the RF research pillar with us and we are delighted to have her on board.

Professor Psychogiou, who joins from the University of Colorado Boulder, USA, will lead a new research programme to develop disruptive RF technologies for the next generation of 5G/6G.

Dimitra has a track record of ground-breaking research on reconfigurable microwave and millimeter-wave RF front-end components research, and her appointment is a real coup for I To date, Dimitra’s research has resulted in more than 160 IEEE publications, the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award 2020 and the 2020 International Union of Radio Science (URSI) Young Scientist Award.

Her professorship comes following a four-year career as a faculty member at the University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA where she led the research on tunable filter technologies. She received her Diploma in Engineering Degree from the University of Patras, Patras Greece, in 2008 and the PhD Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), in Zurich, Switzerland in 2013.
US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme

Dr Ivan O’Connell, Head of Precision Circuits, won a funding award in the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme. Ivan is the lead applicant on a project entitled “Enabling next generation integrated optoelectronics with free-form metamaterials based on graphene”. The project will enable next-generation optical communications, extending the reach and capability of existing fibre optical communication networks. In particular, the team will develop optical components which are compact, energy-efficient, silicon-compatible, and reconfigurable, for use in communication and sensing applications. The researchers will also explore the integration of 2-D materials with nanophotonic structures designed through the recently proposed free-form metamaterials concept.

The total value of the award is €442,860, and the co-applicants are Dr Hamza Shakeel (Queen’s University Belfast) and Prof Berardi Sensale-Rodriguez (University of Utah).

Events

Our annual technical conference MTC was hosted virtually for the first time in July 2020. We welcomed 150 attendees online which was a great success. The event ran over 3 days via zoom on the following research areas:

- RF & mmWave Power Amplifiers & Frequency Synthesis
- Data Converters
- Application & Circuits Innovations

MTC is a private event for our member companies where we provide them with access to novel information. The event is of very high value to our members as they gain advance insight to our research breakthroughs.

Researchers won €725K in Enterprise Ireland’s Capital Call

The Capital Funding Programme provides industry with access to critical, leading-edge equipment and infrastructure, which will help them to build resilience and to remain globally competitive, particularly in the face of challenges such as those posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD announced the successful applicants of the Capital Equipment Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland through the Technology Gateway and Technology Centre Programmes.

The award will fund the purchase of a cryogenic refrigeration system to enhance our quantum materials and nanostructures capabilities. It will be the first opportunity for Irish companies to engage in emerging quantum engineering and space applications.

2 IP Licenses completed

MCCI’s 19th IP license was completed with Altratech for €250K. The research lead was Dr. Ivan O’Connell. The IP covers DNA Sensor Chip; Sigma Delta Modulator on XPAB 0.35um; Interdigitated Sensor Structure Test Chip; Asynchronous I2C Slave Interface; versampled Sigma Delta ADC with extended Input Range.
RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Our research roadmap is centred around the delivery of innovations for the broad range of applications listed below.

Future Networks, Communications and IOT
- Beyond 5G cellular infrastructure for mobile phone technology.
- Satellite and mmWave communications.
- OptoElectronics and PICs.

Medical Devices & Technologies and Connected Health
- RF sensing namely depth, distance and composition.
- Biosensing and neuromodulation.
- On-body wearable and in-body implantable.
- Point of care, imaging and robustness.

Smart Agri, Industrial and Automotive
- Smart Agri, and animal diagnostics.
- Sustainability and water quality.
- Green Energy - battery monitoring, health and charging.
- Machine monitoring and fault tolerance.
- Radar and antenna.

Digital and Processing
- Quantum and cryogenic.
- Artificial intelligence, machine learning and edge processing.
- Security and cryptographic technologies.
- Robotics navigation, sequencing engines and annealing processors.

CURRENT MEMBERS

- Xilinx
- Analog Devices
- Infineon
- Dialog
- Boston Scientific
- ON Semiconductor
- Cadence
- Firecomms
- Macom Technology Solutions
- Qorvo
- Ublox
- AltraTech
- Qualcomm
- equal1.labs
- Rohde & Schwarz
- Acacia
- Capri Medical
### IP AVAILABLE FOR LICENSING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Owning PRO</th>
<th>Research Lead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 100dBFS SFDR Band-Pass $\Sigma \Delta$ Current-Steering DAC in UMC 90nm</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Brendan Mullane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.32mm$^2$, 0-6GHz, 4ps rms Multi-band LC VCO PLL</td>
<td>NUIM</td>
<td>Ronan Farrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>A continuous time front end for ADC in 28nm SOI</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Tony Scanlan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS Instrumentation Amplifier</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS nano-watt 32.768KHz always-on clock generator</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS nano-watt 12b SAR ADC utilizing a 32KHz clock &amp; converting at 800Hz</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS nanowatt differential input &amp; output bandpass filter</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Control from Innovation partnership</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Mark Halton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Control synthesis tool from CFTD</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Mark Halton</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS thoracic impedance circuit used to infer respiratory rate</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS nanowatt voltage reference &amp; bias current circuit. Vref is independent of temperature &amp; power supply variation</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS low power PMIC that uses an external inductor to increase a Vin (varying from 2V to 3V) to a higher Vout, programmable up to 18V.</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS Pacing Block which charges a Pace Capacitor via a current source. The Pace Capacitor is discharged in a controlled manner to force the heart to beat.</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS Neurostimulation pulse generator can operate up to 18 Volts, and delivers biphasic currents</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35µm CMOS Digital Block for controlling Pacing or Neurostimulation</td>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O'Connell</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Peter Ossieur</td>
<td>PAM-4 CDR Components for analog phase locked loop</td>
<td>STM 65nm CMOS, Phase detector, charge pump, analog filter, high-speed digital divider circuit with few programmable divider settings</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCD</td>
<td>Anding Zhu</td>
<td>ADC Algorithm</td>
<td>Volterra-based RLS (Recursive Least-Square) algorithms for Digital Post-Correction of ADCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCD</td>
<td>Anding Zhu</td>
<td>ADC Algorithm</td>
<td>Algorithms for Non-uniform Analog Interpolated Multichannel Digital Post-Correction for Time-Interleaved ADCs</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>John Doyle</td>
<td>AMS Current Sense</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS High-side Current Sensor</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Kevin McCarthy</td>
<td>Power Management</td>
<td>30MHz DC-DC Converter with Integrated Magnetics</td>
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<td>UL</td>
<td>Tony Scanlan</td>
<td>ADC ADC</td>
<td>65nm HICOSANT SAR ADC with Novel Calibration</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Peter Kennedy</td>
<td>PLL</td>
<td>Freq Div</td>
<td>Divide-by-three Injection-Locked Frequency Divider</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>RF Voltage Controlled Oscillator</td>
<td>High-performance Voltage Controlled Oscillators in a SiGe BiCMOS technology</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>RF Varactor</td>
<td>High Q Varactor for High-performance Voltage Controlled Oscillators in a SiGe BiCMOS technology</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>Thermal noise reduction</td>
<td>Reduction of Sampled KT/C Thermal Noise for ADC</td>
<td>Simulation</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>AMS TI A</td>
<td>3.3V 0.35µm transimpedance amplifier</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>AMS Active Quench Circuit</td>
<td>Active quench circuit for use with Single Photon Avalanche Diode</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>AMS Bandgap</td>
<td>3.3V supply 0.35µm 1.2V Bandgap Reference circuit</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Digital Ring Oscillator</td>
<td>0.35µm 666MHz ring oscillator with divide-by-32</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>AMS SPAD readout</td>
<td>0.35µm single photon avalanche diode pixel read out circuit</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>AMS TDC</td>
<td>0.35µm time-to-digital converter</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Digital Standard-cells</td>
<td>0.35µm digital standard cells</td>
<td>Layout</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Biomedical Pace controller circuit</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS low power Cardiac Pace Controller which interfaces with sense channels &amp; microprocessor to handle multi-mode pacing</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Clocking</td>
<td>Clock generator</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS low power clock oscillator that generates a freq stable across power supply range, with adjustable pulse width</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Biomedical Chip</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS low power chip that includes Atrium Sense, Ventricle Sense, Thoracic Impedance Sense, Atrium Pace, Ventricle Pace, Neurostimulation, Hysteric Boost Block and Real time Clock to enable Rate Responsive heart pacing</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Biomedical Chip</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS low power chip that includes Atrium Sense, Ventricle Sense, Atrium Pace, Ventricle Pace, Neurostimulation, Hysteric Boost, Real time Clock and Pace Controller to enable heart sensing and pacing without the intervention of a micro controller</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>ADC Capacitive-to-Digital converter</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS Oversampled Sigma Delta ADC with extended Input Range</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Digital Asynchronous I2C Slave Interface</td>
<td>Asynchronous I2C Slave Interface</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>Sensor Layout</td>
<td>Several permutations of Interdigitated Sensor Structure Test Chip</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC</td>
<td>Ivan O’Connell</td>
<td>ADC Sigma Delta Modulator</td>
<td>Sigma Delta Modulator on XFAB 0.35µm</td>
<td>GDS</td>
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<td>Owning Research Lead</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>Biomedical</td>
<td>DNA Sensor Chip</td>
<td>0.35µm CMOS DNA Sensor Chip containing a high-resolution sigma-delta Capacitive-to-Digital converter, I2C Interface, bandgap reference, bias generator, 1MHz oscillator, Power-on-Reset circuits, EEPROM memory for ID coding, chip tracking, and sensor calibration coefficients.</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>SAR ADC Chip</td>
<td>28nm 13 ENOB noise-shaped SAR ADC</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>SAR ADC Chip</td>
<td>28nm 15 ENOB noise-shaped SAR ADC</td>
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<td>UCC Mark Smyth</td>
<td>Clocking</td>
<td>ADPLL</td>
<td>28nm 16GHz Low Power All-Digital Phase Locked Loop (DPLL)</td>
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<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>SAR ADC Chip</td>
<td>65nm Low Power 1MS/s 12-bit SAR ADC, 76db SFDR, 62db SNR</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>SAR ADC Chip</td>
<td>130nm 2-MS/s 12-bit Extended Input Range SAR ADC with Improved DNL &amp; Offset Calculation</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC Ivan O'Connell</td>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>High-speed ADC</td>
<td>28nm 10G/s 8-Bit ADC</td>
<td>Layout</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC R. Bogdan Staszewski</td>
<td>RF-DAC</td>
<td>RF-DAC</td>
<td>28nm iDTX - an Interpolative Digital Transmitter with Quantization Noise and Replicas Rejection</td>
<td>Silicon Proven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Ivan O’Connell, Head of Precision Circuits

Ivan joined MCCI in 2013 and is the Head of the Group of the MCCI core research team. Since joining MCCI he has grown the MCCI core team to 20 researchers, which consists of Masters and PhD students, Postdocs, Research Assistants and Senior Researchers. His primary research interests are in the area of Analogue Mixed Signal Circuits and data converters. He is particularly interested in the application of this research in areas including: Internet of Things, Biomedical, Smart Agri and Energy Harvesting. He is currently a principal investigator in a number of Innovation Partnerships and Commercialisation Funds. He is involved in a number of H2020 projects. In addition, he is an SFI CONNECT Funded Investigator and is actively involved in the newly funded SFI centre VistaMilk. Prior to joining MCCI, Ivan was the Design Manager in ChipSensors, which was subsequently acquired by Silicon Laboratories in 2010. While there, he lead the development of their digital relative humidity and temperature sensor products, from initial concepts, through to initial and interim prototypes, to their subsequent commercialisation, including custom test development. Since joining MCCI, he has secured €6 million in funding, in addition to 10 commercial licenses and transferring 27 trained researchers to industry. Since 2016, he is a member of the Custom Integrated Circuits Conference Technical Programme Committee.
Dr. Daniel O’Hare, Senior Researcher

In May 2017 Danny joined MCCI as a senior researcher based in Tyndall National Institute. Danny’s research interests are low noise, low area and low voltage analogue interface circuits and ADCs. These interests are applied in Sensor interface ICs with photonics interfaces and precision current sensing strong interests. He lectures ‘Advanced Analogue IC Design’ to UCC masters in Electronic Engineering students and is a UCC school of Engineering Fellow. Prior to MCCI he worked in industry for 12 years. From 2000 to 2008 he was with Motorola/Freescale Semiconductor designing filters, ADCs and DACs for Cellular transceivers. From 2008 to 2012 he was Analogue Design lead with M4S NV a spinout of IMEC and from 2013 to 2017 he was an ADC researcher in the Circuits and Systems group at the University of Limerick.

Current research: Danny’s present research is in low-noise sensor interface circuits for sensor fusion and Bio-medical applications. He supervise several PhD research projects investigating precision current interfaces and magnetic field sensors. He has several on-going projects with the Bio-photonics group at Tyndall National Institute.

Education: Danny received the BE degree in Electronic Engineering from University College Dublin in 2000 and completed his PhD at the University of Limerick in 2017. His PhD title was “Design of Continuous Time input pipeline ADCs for deep sub-micron technologies”.

Anita Schuler, Senior Digital Design Engineer

Current Research: 1.5GHz Noise-shaped SAR ADC on TSMC 28nm
Implementation of an ADC Non-Linearity Calibration Algorithm in the Xilinx Zynq UltraSca

Research Topics: Digital design for ADCs, including specification, design, Verilog RTL Coding, verification, synthesis, place and route and gate-level back-annotated simulations.

Digital PLL on TSMC 28nm
Digital-on-Top auto-routing using Cadence Innovus

Verilog and Digital Design consulting to other groups in Tyndall/UCD

Education: Anita holds a B. Eng (Electronic Engineering), University of Limerick, 1994. First Class Honours.

Work Experience: Anita previously worked as a Digital Design Engineer in Silicon and Software Systems (S3) in Dublin. She then moved to Galway and worked as a Senior Digital Design Engineer for Toucan Technology, which was later acquired by PMC-Sierra.

She also worked as an FPGA Design Lead for a start-up company called PortoMedia.
Dr. Gerardo Salgado, Senior Researcher

Current Research: He is developing novel high resolution Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) architectures using digital signal processing techniques to compensate for analog circuit imperfections. He is also continuously developing/improving his Matlab(R)-based SAR ADC design toolbox, SIMSAR, which provides accurate simulation results at a highly reduced computational time. The SIMSAR toolbox is available to download free from charge at https://www.mcci.ie/simsar-toolbox/. (This toolbox has been already downloaded over 100 times from different universities around the world.)

Research topics: Design and implementation of SAR ADCs, Delta-Sigma Modulators (Digital, Discrete-time and Continuous-time), Digital Signal Processing (Filter design), Machine-Learning assisted calibration and simulation algorithms for ADCs, Behavioural modelling, and Computer-Aided-Design tools.

Education: Gerardo Salgado received the B.S., M.S and Ph.D. degrees in Electronics Engineering from Institutes ITP and INAOE, Mexico, in 2009, 2011 and 2015, respectively. During his Ph.D. studies, he joined the Microelectronics Institute of Seville (IMSE), Seville, Spain, and Texas A&M University, USA, as a visiting scholar. Since January 2016 he has been working as a postdoc researcher at MCCI.

Aidan Murphy, PhD Student

Current Research: As sensing technologies develop, there is an increase in the demand to take measurements at the point of sample. MCCI are collaborating with the Nanotechnology Group in Tyndall to enable point of care electrochemical sensor detection. A variety of voltammetric techniques have been enabled on the data acquisition system. The system is now battery powered and wireless connectivity has been enabled via Bluetooth. It can be interfaced to via an android smartphone application. Current work is focused on implementing portable impedemetric biosensing for nano electrochemical sensors.

Research Topics:

• Embedded Systems
• Electrochemistry
• Nanotechnology

Education: Aidan received his BE degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from University College Cork in 2016 and is currently pursuing a PhD degree with MCCI, University College Cork.
Subhash Chevella, Senior Design Engineer

Current Research: Current research involved in investigating the novel design ideas to improve the linearity and the noise for high precision analogue circuits. In addition, digitally assisted techniques to improve the performance of analogue engineering blocks.

Research Topics:
- Low power techniques in deep-submicron technology
- High speed, Low noise Dynamic amplifiers
- High precision & Hybrid ADCs

Education: Subhash Chevella is a PhD researcher at MCCI. The Primary focus of his research is precision analogue engineering blocks. He completed his Master’s in 2011 from DA-IICT, India. His Masters research was involved in Analysis of Charge injection, Clock feed-through and Capacitor mismatch in Switched Capacitor Circuits. He completed his Bachelor’s in Electronics and Communication in 2009 from JNTU, Hyderabad, India.

Annamaria Fordymacka, PhD Student

Current Research: Temperature sensors are required in a vast number of applications such as food monitoring or MEMS compensation. Traditionally, the temperature sensor read-out circuitry would consist of a Wheatstone bridge followed by an instrumentation amplifier that would require high input impedance and low input-referred noise. While the design of such an amplifier is challenging, the design of the subsequent analog-to-digital converter (ADC) is equally if not more demanding, to ensure that these blocks do not limit the resultant achievable resolution and accuracy. There have been many attempts to remove the requirement for the input instrumentation amplifiers from temperature-to-digital converters, but the majority of these are based on either sigma-delta or VCO based ADC, which trade area for power. The research here is on designing a more efficient architecture for a bridge-to-digital converter.

Research Topics:
- Analog and Mixed-Signal IC Design
- Hybrid Data Converters
- Low Energy Applications
- Sensor Interfaces

Education: Annamaria graduated from UCC with a Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering in 2014. After her graduation, she joined MCCI at Tyndall National Institute where she completed her Master’s degree in 2016. She is currently a PhD researcher in MCCI under the supervision of Dr Ivan O’Connell. The primary focus of her research is mixed signal/analogue IC design.
Spyridon (Spyros) is currently a Ph.D. Student / Researcher. He received his B.E. degrees in Electronic Engineering Education and in Electronic Engineering, in 2010 and 2011 respectively, both from the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education in Athens, Greece, and his M.S. degree in Electronic Physics / Radioelectrology from the Physics Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, in 2015. He has held internship positions with COSMOTE S.A. in Athens, Greece, as a broadband network engineering trainee for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of its 3G mobile network, and with MCCI, where he has worked on an implantable and fully integrated biopotential acquisition chip, for cardiac pacing and sensing purposes. His current Ph.D. research is on the field of Delta-Sigma Analog-to-Digital Converters, aiming to develop new design guidelines and solutions for higher performance in terms of higher Figure-of-Merit, and therefore, to set higher state-of-the-art specifications, as imposed by the ongoing and increasing demand for even more efficient Analog-to-Digital Converters over the next few years.

Spyros Kalogiros, PhD Student

Madhan Venkatesh, PhD Student

Current research: Developing low power and low voltage analog to digital converters on TSMC 65nm.

Research topics: low voltage and low noise comparator design, low power digital circuits, sampling circuits breaking the KT/C thermal noise Limit, SAR ADC’s.

Education: B.E. in electronics and communication from Visvesvaraya Technological University, Karnataka, India and is currently pursuing the PhD degree with MCCI, University College Cork.

Die micrograph of 1V and 500m volt 14 bit SAR ADC.
**Hao Zheng, Research Assistant**

Current research: Implementation of high-resolution data converter in 28nm CMOS processes for IoT application. Building DPLL and noise model for the clock jitter research, based on Matlab and Simulink. Analysis and research jitter suppression techniques for the high-resolution converter.

Research Topic:
- CMOS Analog IC design, Mixed-signal system modelling and design.
- DPLL & its noise modelling

Education: Master of Engineering Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland (2017)
Bachelor of Engineering, Lanzhou University of Technology, Lanzhou, Gansu, China (2013)

**Anthony Wall, PhD Student**

Current Research: A host of new sensing methodologies have emerged in electrochemistry and biological sensing over the past decade. The physics of many of these sensing topologies require charge-based rather than potential-based measurement. Thus, there is a requirement for high resolution current-to-digital readout solutions, often in arrays. Anthony is researching the wide-bandwidth acquisition and digitization of current signals using novel Analog-to-Digital conversion methods. Wide bandwidth current readouts present a host of challenges in terms of noise, bandwidth and power consumption. Anthony is exploiting novel circuit architectures, such as the Flipped Voltage Follower Current Conveyor, and developing open-loop, improved-linearity, Current-Controlled Ring Oscillators to improve the state of the art in wideband Current-to-Digital conversion. Anthony has recently completed the tape-out of a Current-to-Digital Converter in 65nm which is capable of 1nArms resolution at 1MHz bandwidth with 65dB Dynamic Range in a 50um x 40um area.

MIDAS 3rd Level Project of the Year Winner for ‘Design and Stimulation of an Analog Front End for Cancer Detection by Fluorescence Imaging’

UCC School of Engineering Joe Gantly Prize Winner for design of Sigma-Delta Converter while on placement with Cypress Semiconductor

Research Topics:
- Current-Mode Sensor Interfaces
- High-Resolution Current Measurement
- Wide Bandwidth TIA Frontends
- High Linearity Ring Oscillator Design
- Current-Mode ADC design

Education: Anthony graduated from University College Cork with 1st Class Honors in the BE degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering in 2018, and is currently pursuing the PhD degree with MCCI, University College Cork in the area of Mixed Signal Circuit Design.

Direct Current-to-Digital Converter test chip on 65nm using the Flipped Voltage Follower Current Conveyor and Linearised Open Loop CCO Quantiser. Measuring 1mm x 1mm in total, the ADC cores measure 40um x 50um and achieve 50dB SNDR at 1MHz Bandwidth
Rachel Georgel, PhD Student

Current Research: Combining the photodetectors and electronic interfaces together has many advantages especially in medical device applications, including custom sensor calibration, on chip data conversion and pre-processing and signal control and transmission. Hardware solutions to situate the electronics and photodiodes together can use Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) technology to connect off the shelf detectors and electronic components, and this can be quickly realised. However, PCB based solutions have a large footprint and PCB wiring tracks pick up noise and parasitic wiring capacitances, which limits the speed of measurements. Hence, this is not an optimal solution to achieve the lowest overall noise, detect the smallest signals and the most accurate time stamp. Rachel’s project involves the design of ultra-low noise high precision analogue and digital circuits as an application specific IC (ASIC) to electronically capture bio-photonics data. This involves working with the Bio-photonics team to understand their system requirements and then design a custom Integrated Circuit chip(s) to meet those specifications.

Education: Rachel graduated from University College Dublin with a 1st Class Honours in the BE degree in Biomedical Engineering in 2019. She is currently pursuing a PhD degree with MCCI and the Bio-Photonics group in Tyndall, in the area of electronics interfaces for Bio-Photonics data capture.

Prof. Dimitra Psychogiou

Dimitra Psychogiou received the Dipl.-Eng. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Patras, Patras, Greece, in 2008, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zürich, Switzerland, in 2013. She is currently a Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University College Cork (UCC) and Tyndall National Institute, Cork Ireland. Prior to joining UCC, she was a Sr. Research Scientist with Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA and an Assistant Professor with the University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA. Her current research interests include RF design and characterization of reconfigurable microwave and millimeter-wave passive components, RF-MEMS, acoustic wave resonator-based filters, tunable filter synthesis, frequency-agile antennas and additive manufacturing techniques. Her research has been presented in more than 170 IEEE publications and has received the 2020 CAREER award from National Science Foundation (NSF), the 2020 URSI Young Scientist Award and the Junior Faculty Outstanding Research Award from UC Boulder. Prof. Psychogiou is a Senior Member of IEEE and URSI and a member of the IEEE MTT-S Filters and Passive Components (MTT-5) and Microwave Control Materials and Devices (MTT-13) committees. Furthermore, she serves on the Technical Review Board of various IEEE and EuMA conferences and journals and is the Chair of MMT-13 and the Secretary of USNC-URSI Commission D. Prof. Psychogiou is an Associate Editor of the IEEE MICROWAVE AND WIRELESS COMPONENTS LETTERS and the International Journal of Microwave and Wireless Technologies. Previously, she was an Associate Editor of the IET Microwaves, Antennas and Propagation Journal.

Tissue Recognition system hardware schematic. AI = Analog Input, DIO = Digital Input/Output, AO = Analog Output, LP = Low Pass filter, APD = Avalanche Photodiode, OPT = Opto-mechanical components. Green boxes denote amplifiers. Orange box is the illumination source.
**Dr. John Buckley, Senior Researcher**

John received the BEng degree in Electronic Engineering form Cork Institute of Technology in 1994 and the MEngSc and PhD Degrees in Electrical Engineering in 2005 and 2016 respectively. John was with EMC Corporation, Cork from 1994 to 2002 where he specialized in PCB design, High-Speed Digital Design and Signal Integrity. John joined the Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) Group, Tyndall in 2005 where he led the development of an Antenna and RF Design and Test capability within Tyndall. John is a Senior Researcher with 26 years’ experience and leads a team of 7 researchers, consisting of Post-Doctoral researchers, PhD and Masters students working on both fundamental and applied antenna and RF research. John has a long track record of working closely with industry to develop custom antenna and RF solutions ranging from component to system-level solutions from initial concept to working prototypes, and has licensed developed antenna technology to industry.

**Research Interests:** Electrically small antenna design, Antenna bandwidth enhancement, Tunable antennas, Wearable and implantable antenna design, Batteryless wireless devices using wireless power transfer, reconfigurable antenna design, RF front-end (RFFE) design, RFIC design, RFID antenna and system design, Wireless systems design, Electromagnetic (EM) Simulation, RF Circuit simulation, Equivalent circuit modelling, Human body EM modelling and Testing, Antenna and RF Characterization, Digital system design, Embedded and Mixed-Signal Design.

**Current Research:** John’s is actively working on several research projects for both industrial and academic applications. These projects include antenna design for wearable health-monitoring applications, implantable antenna and RF design for medical applications, RFID antenna and system design, antenna and RFIC wirelessly powered implantable medical devices.

**Autonomous 433 MHz tunable antenna for wearable wireless applications**

**Autonomous 433 MHz tunable antenna for wearable wireless applications**

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**Prof. Peter Kennedy**

He received the BE (Electronics) degree from UCD in 1984, the MS and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1987 and 1991 respectively, the DEng from the National University of Ireland in 2010, and the DSc (Engineering) honors causa from the Queen’s University of Belfast in 2020. He joined UCC as Chair of the Department of Microelectronic Engineering in 2000. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 2003 through 2005 and as UCC’s Vice-President for Research from 2005 to 2011. He moved to UCD in 2017. He has over 400 research publications (including four patents) in the fields of oscillator design, hysteresis, neural networks, nonlinear dynamics, chaos communication, mixed-signal test, and frequency synthesis.

He has worked as a consultant for SMEs and multinationals in the microelectronics industry and is founding Director of the Microelectronics Industry Design Association (MIDAS Ireland) and the Microelectronic Circuits Centre Ireland (MCCI). He won UCC’s Invention of the Year Award in 2011 and led the development of the US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards in 2014/15. He was a member of the IEEE Gustav Robert Kirchhoff Award Committee, and was Vice-Chair of the IEEE Technical Field Awards Council in 2020. He has received many prestigious awards including Best Paper (International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications), the 88th IEE Kelvin Lecture, IEEE Millennium and Golden Jubilee Medals, and the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Parsons Award in Engineering Sciences. In 2004, he was elected to membership of the Royal Irish Academy and was made a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland by Presidential Invitation. From 2005 to 2007, he was President of the European Circuits Society and Vice-President of the IEEE Circuits and Systems (CAS) Society (with responsibility for Europe, Africa and the Middle East). He was made a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering in 2014. He was elected to membership of Academia Europaea in 2015. During 2012 and 2013, he was a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE CAS Society. He served as Secretary for Policy and International Relations of the Royal Irish Academy from 2012 to 2016 and as President from 2017 to 2020.
Luca Avallone, PhD Student

**Current Research:** Advanced Frequency Synthesis  
**Area of Research:** Fractional-N All Digital PLLs.  
The key points of the research are: Understanding the state-of-the-art of the fractional-N structure, identifying its main limits and problems; developing a theoretical analysis of fractional-N time-to-digital converter (TDC)-based Digital PLLs; implementing a new solution focusing on the TDC.  
**Education:** Bachelor Degree in Electronic Engineering at University of Naples Federico II, 14/03/2014  
Master Degree in Electronic Engineering at University of Naples Federico II, 28/09/2017.

Dawei Mai, Post Doc Researcher

**Current Research:** High-Performance Fractional Frequency Synthesis Modelling and analysis of the source of the spurious tones in the fractional-N frequency synthesis are always needed for achieving better communications systems. In the traditional phase-locked loop, the divider controller contributes significantly to the output phase noise. The conventional multistage noise shaping delta-sigma modulator divider controller (MASH-DDSM divider controller) with a large input word length induces periodic and time-varying spurious tones in the output phase noise spectrum. To understand the phenomenon, provide insight into the cause of it, and finally provide solutions to eliminate the periodic tones is the aim of the research.

**Research Topics:**  
- Modelling of frequency synthesizers  
- Spur elimination and noise reduction in fractional-N frequency synthesis  

**Education:** Bachelor of Engineering (2015), University College Cork  
Master of Engineering (2018), University College Cork  
PhD (2021), University College Dublin
Current Research: RTWOs as multiphase oscillators for frequency synthesisers. The Rotary Travelling Wave Oscillator is an oscillator topology based on a transmission line rather than a lumped resonator. The RTWO operates by propagating a travelling wave along a differential transmission line that is closed in a Möbius connection. The losses of the transmission line are restored by distributed CMOS amplifier stages. This oscillator topology is attractive for the intrinsic multiphase nature of the oscillator and its ability to operate a very high frequency with low phase noise and power consumption.

Research Topics: Oscillators, phase noise.

Education: Salvatore holds a Bachelor’s degree in Electronic Engineering from University of Pavia, Italy, 2009 and Masters’ degree in Electronic Engineering from University of Pavia, Italy, 2012. He was awarded the PhD degree by University College Dublin in 2020.

Dr. Yann Donnelly, Post Doc Researcher

Current Research: Fractional-N Phase Locked Loops, which are employed throughout the communications industry, suffer from the appearance of spurious spectral components, “spurs”, which limit performance. This research topic has elucidated the causes of spurs and investigates novel techniques for reducing this unwanted behaviour. Work to date has achieved best-in-class measured spur performance and further improvements, based on cyclostationary stochastic processes, have been investigated.

Research Topics:
- PLL phase noise spectrum prediction
- Reduction of fractional-N spurs by modulator redesign
- Silicon verification through digital IC implementation

Education: BE (Electrical & Electronic) – University College Cork, 2014
PhD (Microelectronics) – University College Cork, 2018
Valerio Mazzaro, PhD Student

Current Research: Advanced fractional-N frequency synthesizers.

In fractional-N PLLs, increased phase noise and spurious tones come from the interaction between the DDSM quantization error and nonlinearities in the system.

The purpose of this project is to investigate the nature of spurious tones in fractional-N PLLs in order to predict them and, eventually, mitigate them.

Research Topics: Frequency synthesis, fractional-N PLL design, phase noise, spurious tones, horn spurs.

Education: Bachelors Degree in Electronic Engineering at University of Naples Federico II, 2014
Masters Degree in Electronic Engineering at University of Naples Federico II, 2017

Xu Wang, PhD Student

Current Research: The CMOS device noise from the charge pump (CP) within the phase-lock loop together with other nonlinearities associated with the Fractional-N frequency synthesiser architecture induces spurious response and deteriorates the phase noise performance of the wireless communication system.

The current research analytically studies the noise generation mechanism of the CP, the prediction of which is systematically compared with the system nonlinearity noise. Eventually the research aims to come up with novel CMOS synthesiser design that optimally minimises the phase noise and spurs caused by both the device noise and system nonlinearity.

Research topics: System-and block-level analogue design for advanced frequency synthesis, Machine-intelligence aided frequency synthesis.

Education: M.Eng. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Imperial College London (2015-2019)
In Sept. 2014 Prof. Staszewski joined University College Dublin (UCD) as a Full Professor while still holding a part-time Full Professor position at TU Delft. Prior to 2014, he was at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) in the Netherlands, where he held academic positions since 2009. He joined TU Delft in 2009 after 18 years in high-tech industry with diverse experience in microelectronics and communication systems. He is an IEEE Fellow for contributions to the digital RF communications systems. In 2012, he won the prestigious IEEE Circuits and Systems Industrial Pioneer Award. He has co-authored five books, six book chapters, 140 journal and 210 conference publications, and holds 200 issued US patents.

Professional experience: University College Dublin. Position Full Professor in the School of Electrical, Electronic & Communications Engineering.

Carrying out research and teaching in the area of microelectronic circuit design, concentrating on frequency synthesis and RF using advanced CMOS for Internet-of-Things (IoT).

Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Delft, the Netherlands. July 2009 to present. Carrying out research and teaching in the area of microelectronics, concentrating on frequency synthesis and RF using advanced CMOS.

From 1995 to 2009, he was with Texas Instruments, Dallas, Texas, where achievements included the invention and development of the Digital RF Processor (DRP) technology: A novel all-digital frequency synthesizer, all-digital RF transmitter and discrete-time RF receiver architecture that is suitable for the mainstream digital CMOS processes and presents a unique opportunity to build ultra low-cost and power-efficient single-chip radios. Developed a new digitally-intensive CMOS read channel architecture for magnetic recording hard-disk drives. Prior to TI he worked with Alcatel Network Systems, Texas, from 1991 – 1995, included work in telecommunications systems, discrete analog and digital circuits, high-speed signal integrity, software algorithms.


Reza received his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, in 2014. He is a Research Fellow with the University College Dublin, Ireland. Reza was a recipient of the Marie Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program from 2017 to 2020. He was also a recipient of the Iran’s National Elites Foundation Fellowship from 2010 to 2014 and the Second-Place Award Winner of the National Electrical Engineering Olympiad in 2004. His current research interests include:
- CMOS integrated circuits for quantum computing and sensing
- Energy-efficient AI and machine learning
- Integrated circuits for mm-wave communications

Reza Nikandish, Research Staff

Amir Bozorg received the M.Sc. degree (with Hons.) in Microelectronics from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), Tehran, Iran in 2012. He just submitted his Ph.D. thesis at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. From 2016 to 2018, he was consulting for TSMC, Hsinchu, Taiwan, on a 16-nm ADPLL/RX for automotive radar applications. From 2017 to 2020 he was working as an R&D Scientist at former S3 Semiconductor (now Dialog Semiconductor) Dublin, Ireland, where he was developing a K-band phased-array receiver. He has also raised venture capital from Atlantic Bridge Ventures, Dublin, Ireland, for commercializing an ADPLL-based phased-array transmitter for automotive radars. Since 2020 he has been working with Equali Labs Ltd. in Dublin, Ireland as a Research Scientist. He has authored or coauthored several IEEE journal papers, an upcoming book on discrete-time receivers, and holds four issued U.S. patents in the field of RF-CMOS design. His research interests include millimeter-wave/RF transceivers, discrete-time receivers, ADPLLs, and oscillators.

Mr. Bozorg serves as a Reviewer for the IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuit and IEEE Transaction on Circuit and System I.

Amir Bozorg, Post Doc Researcher

Prof. R. Bogdan Staszewski

Amir received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, in 2014. He is a Research Fellow with the University College Dublin, Ireland. Reza was a recipient of the Marie Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program from 2017 to 2020. He was also a recipient of the Iran’s National Elites Foundation Fellowship from 2010 to 2014 and the Second-Place Award Winner of the National Electrical Engineering Olympiad in 2004. His current research interests include:
- CMOS integrated circuits for quantum computing and sensing
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Reza Nikandish, Research Staff

Amir Bozorg received the M.Sc. degree (with Hons.) in Microelectronics from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), Tehran, Iran in 2012. He just submitted his Ph.D. thesis at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. From 2016 to 2018, he was consulting for TSMC, Hsinchu, Taiwan, on a 16-nm ADPLL/RX for automotive radar applications. From 2017 to 2020 he was working as an R&D Scientist at former S3 Semiconductor (now Dialog Semiconductor) Dublin, Ireland, where he was developing a K-band phased-array receiver. He has also raised venture capital from Atlantic Bridge Ventures, Dublin, Ireland, for commercializing an ADPLL-based phased-array transmitter for automotive radars. Since 2020 he has been working with Equali Labs Ltd. in Dublin, Ireland as a Research Scientist. He has authored or coauthored several IEEE journal papers, an upcoming book on discrete-time receivers, and holds four issued U.S. patents in the field of RF-CMOS design. His research interests include millimeter-wave/RF transceivers, discrete-time receivers, ADPLLs, and oscillators.

Mr. Bozorg serves as a Reviewer for the IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuit and IEEE Transaction on Circuit and System I.

Amir Bozorg, Post Doc Researcher
Panagiotis Giounanlis is a postdoc researcher at UCD since September 2017. His current work includes the development of numerical and analytical approaches for the modeling and simulation of nano-structures and semi-conductor coupled quantum-dots, the development of circuit equivalent models for electron transfer through multiple-quantum-dots, the characterisation and modeling of CMOS devices operation at low temperatures and others. He received his B.Sc. degree in Physics and M.Sc. degree - Computational Physics Master of Science from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, in 2008 and 2011 respectively. In 2017, he received his Ph.D degree for his research on the modeling of non-linear effects for micro-scale devices (MEMS) and their application to reliability and control by the use of both numerical and analytical approaches. His research interests include: Modeling and simulation of micro/nano-scale devices and mixed-domain complex systems, Solid state Physics, Computational quantum mechanics.

Viet Anh Nguyen, PhD Student

Current Research: Viet Anh Nguyen is currently researching ultra-low-voltage, oscillator-based ADCs for Internet of Things applications.

Research Topics:
1. Analog and Mixed-Signal Integrated Circuit design
2. Analog-to-digital converters
3. Time-to-digital converters
4. Process voltage and temperature (PVT) tolerant ultra-low voltage design.

Education: Viet Anh Nguyen has been a PhD student at UCD since September 2017. He received his Masters degree in Electronic and Computer Engineering in 2016 and his Bachelors degree in Electronic and Communications Engineering in 2016, both from University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland.

Suoping Hu, PhD Student

He was born in Changzhou, China. He received the B.E. degree in Integrated Circuit Design and System from Tianjin University (TJU), Tianjin, China, in 2013, and the M.Sc. degree (Hons.) in Electronic Science and Technology from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), Shanghai, China, in 2016. He is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree with University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin, Ireland. Since 2017, he has been sponsored by Analog Devices, Cork, Ireland, and worked in a joint project -- ULP receiver.

His current interests include:
- Phase-tracking receiver design
- Ultra-low-power receiver design for BLE application.
- Discreet-time circuit design
- Analog/RF circuit design
Yizhe Hu, Post Doc Researcher

He received the B.Sc. degree (summa cum laude) in microelectronics from Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China, in 2013, and the Ph.D. degree in microelectronics from University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, in 2019.

From 2013 to 2014, he was with Fudan University, Shanghai, China, where he was involved in RFIC design as a Postgraduate Researcher. From May 2016 to Oct. 2017, he was consulting for the PLL Group of HiSilicon, Huawei Technologies, Shenzhen, China, designing 16 nm DCOs and ADPLLs. From 2019 to 2020, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher with Prof. R. Bogdan Staszewski in University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland. Since June 2018, he has been consulting for the Mixed-Signal Design Department, TSMC, for a new type of PLL design. He is currently working as a Principle Investigator (PI) at Microelectronic Circuits Centre Ireland, Dublin, Ireland. His research interests include RF/mm-wave integrated circuits and systems for wireless/wireline communications.

Dr. Hu serves as a reviewer for the IEEE JSSC, TCAS-I/II, and TMTT.

Hieu Minh Nguyen, PhD Student

Current Research: Hieu Minh Nguyen is now focused on all digital RF Digital-to-Analog Converter and Transmitter for low-band and high-band 5G application.

Research Topic:
- Switched-Capacitor Power Amplifier (Switching Class)
- Hybrid Data Converter for Transmitter
- All Digital Charged Sharing RFDAC
- Power Combination network for high-efficiency Transmitter
- mmW Digital Power Amplifier

Education: Hieu M. Nguyen received the B.E. degrees, M.E in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology in 2014 and 2016, respectively. During 2013-2014, he joined Integrated Circuit Design Research and Education Center where he studied about Analog and RF integrated circuit design. He also received the Award of Best Student in Analog IC Design for the design of 24-Bit Delta Sigma ADC. From 2014 to 2015 he worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant at the Department of Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Electricals–Electronics Engineering, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology. From 2015 - 2017 He worked as an Analog IC Design Engineer in Uniquify where he focused on the PHY and SERDES system. He is currently pursuing Ph.D. in IoE Laboratory in University College Dublin, his research is focusing on Digital Power Amplifier, RFDAC and RF integrated circuit design. He is also serving as a JSSC and TCAS reviewer.
Mohamed Shehata, PhD Student

Mohamed Shehata received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in electrical engineering from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt in 2009 and 2016 respectively. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree in microelectronics from University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland. From 2009 to 2016, he was with MEMS Vision, Cairo, Egypt as analog/mixed-signal IC design engineer where he was involved in designing of VCOs and PLLs. In 2016, he joined Xilinx, Dublin, Ireland as analog design engineer. Since 2017, he has been with Analog Devices, Limerick, Ireland as an RF design engineer. His current research interests include RF and millimeter-wave integrated circuits and systems for wireless communications and automotive radars. Mr. Shehata has served as a reviewer for the IEEE European Solid-State Circuits Conference (ESSCIRC) and IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) since 2017.

Jianglin Du, PhD Student

Current Research:
1. Design low-power oscillator, SAR-ADC for BLE application.
2. Design low-power wireless frequency synthesizer using reference-sampling digital phase locked loop.
3. Design grating coupler for silicon-photonic application.

Research Topics: Low-power PLL Design, low-power receiver system design.

Education: Jianglin Du received his MSc degree in Physical Electronics and BSc degree in Micro-Electronics from Jilin University, China in 2016 and 2013, respectively. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Mixed-signal Circuits Design for IoT at University College Dublin.

Yang Xu, PhD Student

Current research: RF power amplifier design for 5G system and beyond, which offers efficiency enhancement at the power back-off and bandwidth extension at the same time.

Research topic:
• Broadband continuous mode power amplifier design
• GaN MMIC power amplifier for 5G system
• High efficiency power amplifier with enhanced performance

Education: She received her MSc and BSc degrees in Electromagnetic Field and Microwave Technology at Harbin Institute of Technology, China, in 2015 and 2013, respectively. She is currently pursuing her PhD degree in the RF & Microwave Research Group at University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin, Ireland.

Effective Self Interference Cancellation (SiC) is an important consideration for future 5G radio. If it can be successfully implemented, SiC has the potential to double spectral efficiency for certain 5G applications.

Research Topics: Fig. 1 Radio Architecture for Full-Duplex

Full-duplex operation is considered difficult to implement because the isolation between the transmit (TX) and receive path (RX) is not perfect. Current solutions take a copy of the TX signal and use this copy to cancel the unwanted self-interference as shown Fig. 1.

The research topics focus on novel methods to extract time delayed copies of the TX signal so that advanced stochastic algorithms can precisely match the frequency domain response of the channel.

Education: BEng (Hons) in Electronic Engineering, MSc in Computer Science.

Lecturer in IT Tallaght, Department of Electronic Engineering.

Current PhD studies are supported by UCD and SFI.

Prof. Anding Zhu

Anding Zhu received his Ph.D. degree in electronic engineering from University College Dublin (UCD) in 2004. He has been working in UCD since 2005, first as a Post-doc, then a Lecturer, an Associate Professor and now he is a Professor in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. His research interests are in the area of nonlinear modelling and characterisation of RF circuits and systems with a particular emphasis on digital linearisation of RF power amplifiers for wireless communications. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and received research funding from various sources including awards from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), European Space Agency (ESA), Enterprise Ireland (EI) and industry donations.

Prof. Zhu collaborates with many universities and international companies. He was appointed as a Guest Research Fellow at University of Aveiro, Portugal in 2006 and worked as a Visiting Scholar at University of California at San Diego (UCSD) in 2007. Prof. Zhu was undertaking a sabbatical leave working as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Stanford University from January to June 2013. He is currently with the RF & Microwave Research Group at UCD and he is the Director of the IoE2 Lab, a multi-disciplinary research laboratory focusing on developing enabling technologies and making scientific breakthroughs for next generation Internet of Things (IoT) and future (5G) communication networks. Prof. Zhu is a Funded Investigator in the SFI Research Centre for Future Networks and Communications - CONNECT, where he is particularly working on physical layer network-aware intelligent radio access nodes in collaboration with Xilinx, Analog Devices, MA-COM and Synopsys.

His current research includes behavioural modelling and digital linearisation of RF power amplifiers, high-frequency non-linear circuit and system simulation, wireless transmitter architectures, RF-DAC, digital signal processing and nonlinear system identification algorithms.

Mr. Brian Keogh, PhD Student


Effective Self Interference Cancellation (SiC) is an important consideration for future 5G radio. If it can be successfully implemented, SiC has the potential to double spectral efficiency for certain 5G applications.

Research Topics: Fig. 1 Radio Architecture for Full-Duplex

Full-duplex operation is considered difficult to implement because the isolation between the transmit (TX) and receive path (RX) is not perfect. Current solutions take a copy of the TX signal and use this copy to cancel the unwanted self-interference as shown Fig. 1.

The research topics focus on novel methods to extract time delayed copies of the TX signal so that advanced stochastic algorithms can precisely match the frequency domain response of the channel.

Education: BEng (Hons) in Electronic Engineering, MSc in Computer Science.

Lecturer in IT Tallaght, Department of Electronic Engineering.

Current PhD studies are supported by UCD and SFI.
Samaneh Sadeghi Maraht, PhD Student

**Current Research:** My research is mainly focused on designing small size antenna with high directivity/gain and wide bandwidth that operates in the frequency of mm wave range (30 GHz-300 GHz).

**Research Topics:** mm-wave antenna for high speed data transmission

**Education:** University College Dublin (Current PhD student), 2017-
K.N.Toosi University of technology (MSc), 2015
Guilan University (BSc), 2012

Chenhao Chu, PhD Student

**Current Research:** Chenhao Chu is focused on load modulated balanced power amplifier (LMBA) architectures with high efficiency and wide dynamic range over broad bandwidth for 5G communications.

**Research Topics:**
- Load modulated power amplifier design
- High-efficiency MMIC power amplifier design

**Education:** He received the B.E. degree from the Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing, China, in 2015, and the M.S. degree (Distinction) from the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, in 2017.

From Oct. 2017 to Sept. 2018, he was a Research Assistant with the State Key Laboratory of Millimeter Waves, Department of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong.

Currently, he is pursuing his Ph.D. degree in the RF & Microwave Research Group, at University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

Enis Kobal, PhD Student

**Current Research:** Compact, low-loss, highly efficient transceiver components design for massive MIMO systems with CMOS technology.

**Research Topics:**
- mm-wave transceiver components design for 5G MIMO systems including:
  - phase shifter design
  - power amplifier design
  - T/R switch design
- Characterisation and modelling
- mm-wave antenna design

**Education:**
[2018 – 2022 (Expected)] University College Dublin School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Doctor of Philosophy
[2013 – 2016] Middle East Technical University School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Master of Science
Thesis Title: Comparative Design of Millimeter Wave RF-MEMS Phase Shifters
[2009 – 2013] Middle East Technical University School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Bachelor of Science
Introduction: Dr. Muhammad Usman has joined the RF & Microwave Research Group at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland, in August 2019, as a Senior Research Fellow under EDGE Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Action. His research interests are in the area of front-end antenna system design for wireless communication devices, RF circuit design and application of RF in biomedical Engineering.

Current Research: Currently, he is working on a project titled, “PAAS-5G, Spatially Polarized MIMO Phased Array Antenna Systems for 5G Wireless Communications”. The main objective of this research is to design the innovative Multiple Input multiple Output (MIMO) phased array antenna systems for mobile phones and small cell base stations, operating at mid-band (24GHz-45GHz) with reduced mutual coupling and spatial correlation. Due to a large number of antenna elements integrated in a limited space, mutual coupling and spatial correlation become severe issues in 5G front-end design. In order to reduce the spatial correlation, this research will focus on innovative spatially polarized phased arrays. 2D and 3D phased arrays will be designed, to achieve the required beamforming for 5G. Reduced mutual coupling will be achieved by using meta material for designing Dielectric Resonant Antennas (DRAs) with substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) transmission line technique for phase shifting. Furthermore, this research will be focusing on the use of ferrite materials as substrates to integrate large number of antennas in very compact manner, with reduced mutual coupling. A novel electronic circuit will be designed and integrated, to vary the incident magnetic field on ferrite substrates to achieve the required phase shift.

Education and Previous Experience: Dr. Muhammad Usman had received his BSc in Electrical Engineering (Communication) from University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila, Pakistan in 2004 (Islamic International Engineering College, Islamabad). Later, he earned MSc and Ph.D in Radio Frequency Communication Engineering from University of Bradford, UK, in 2005 and 2009 respectively. Dr Usman joined University of Ha’il, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering in December 2009. He has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering at University of Ha’il, KSA in 2017. He has over nine years of teaching and research experience. He has contributed 35 international journals/conference papers.

Dr. Muhammad Usman

Tugce Kobal, PhD Student

Current Research: Intelligent Digital-Calibration Algorithms for mm-wave Transceivers

Research Topics: Her research interests are:
- Behavioural modelling of RF Power Amplifiers
- Linearization of RF Power Amplifiers
- Deep Learning Algorithms on Digital Predistortion

Education:
- (2019 – 2023 (Expected)) University College Dublin School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Doctor of Philosophy

Xi Chen, PhD Student

Current Research: My current research is mainly on millimeter-wave frequency synthesizers for 5G and beyond.

Education: Xi Chen received the B.E degree in information engineering from Southeast University, Nanjing, China, in 2018. From Sep. 2016 to June 2018, he was involved with the design of the power amplifier in deep submicron CMOS technology, as a research intern, at the Institute of RF- & OE-ICs of Southeast University. In Sep. 2018, he joined RF & Microwave Group at University College Dublin, where he is currently pursuing his PhD degree.

Xi Chen, PhD Student
Teerachot Siriburanon received the B.E. degree in telecommunications engineering from the Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thammasat University, Pathum Thani, in 2010, and the M.E. and Ph.D. degrees in physical electronics from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan, in 2012 and 2016, respectively. In 2016, he joined University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin, Ireland, as a Post-Doctoral Researcher under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship Program. Since 2019, he has been an Assistant Professor with UCD.

Dr. Siriburanon was a recipient of the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship, the Young Researcher Best Presentation Award at the Thailand–Japan Microwave in 2013, the ASP-DAC Best Design Award in 2014 and 2015, the IEEE SSCS Student Travel Grant Award in 2014, the IEEE SSCS Predoctoral Achievement Award in 2016, and the Tejima Research Award in 2016. He has been a Guest Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUIT AND SYSTEMS—I in 2019-2020 and serves as a Reviewer for the IEEE JOURNAL OF SOLID-STATE CIRCUITS.

Research Interests:
- Clock/frequency generations exploiting waveform technology, i.e. wave-locked loop, charge-sharing locking, reference waveform sampling
- Waveform-shaping for low-phase-noise oscillators
- mm-wave transmitter/receiver for 5G communications and beyond
- Mixed-signal circuits design for quantum computer and artificial intelligence.

Dr. Elena Blokhina

Research areas: Emerging applications of circuits and systems and analytical and numerical methods for the design, analysis and simulation of multi-physics micro and nano-scale systems and quantum electronics. My research interests also include computer aided design and system verification.

Research topics: design and optimisation microelectromechanical energy harvesting systems, CMOS oscillator networks, CMOS quantum computers

Qualifications: Habilitation HDR (equiv. D.Sc.) degree in electronic engineering from UPMC Sorbonne Universities, France; the Ph.D. degree in physical and mathematical sciences and the M.Sc. degree in physics from Saratov State University, Russia. Prof Blokhina is a Senior member of IEEE and the Chair of the IEEE Technical Committee on Nonlinear Circuits and Systems.
Dr. Deepu John
Deepu John is an Assistant Professor at University College Dublin. He is a recipient of Institution of Engineers Singapore Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award (2011), Best design award at Asian Solid-State Circuit Conference (2013), IEEE Young Professionals, Region 10 individual award (2013). He served as a member of technical program committee for IEEE conferences ASICON 2015, TENCON 2016, ICTA 2020. He is a reviewer of several IEEE journals and conferences. He serves as an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems, Guest Editor for IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems and IEEE Open Journal of Circuits and Systems currently. His current research includes 1) Edge AI for IoT Biomedical devices 2) Distributed AI for wearable healthcare 3) Event driven AI for IoT devices 4) Multimodal data fusion for IoT sensors. He is a senior member of the IEEE.

Research Topic:
• AI for IoT devices
• Wearable Biomedical Sensors
• Biomedical Circuits and Systems
• Energy Efficient Signal Processing

Education:
• PhD in Electrical Engineering from National University Singapore (2014)
• MSc in Electrical Engineering from National University Singapore (2008)
• B. Tech in Electronics & Communication Engineering from University of Kerala (2002)

Guoxin Wang, PhD student
Current Research: The research here is on the implementation of ECG-based human authentication on embedded system. Previous work achieved a high accuracy result with convolutional neural network. However, the time and space complexity of those approaches is too high to be deployed in a wearable device. The research focus is to use one-dimension signal and to combine it with low-complexity binary network that implement real-time authentication.

Research Topics: Continuous authentication using IoT sensor.
Education: Bachelor of Engineering, Beijing University of Technology, Beijing, China (2019)

Adnan Ashraf, Masters Student
Current Research: IoT Wearable Sensor Design, developing hardware and firmware of a low power ECG wearable device besides deploying the AI code to detect arrhythmia

Research Topics:
• IoT
• Wearables
• Wireless sensor networks

Education: 2009: B.Eng. in Electrical Engineering, from National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan

Gawsalyan Sivapalan, Masters Student
Gawsalyan is currently a M.Eng.Sc. Student / Researcher at University College Dublin. He received his B.Sc.Eng.(HONS) degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 2016. He has also completed CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management of Accountants - UK) professional qualification. Previously, he has been working in research and business strategy development sectors across corporate and startup companies in Sri Lanka.

His current research focuses on design and development of computationally efficient neural networks and machine learning methods for continuous monitoring of Electrocardiogram signals from a point of care device. The research will result in development of wearable solutions that make arrhythmia predictions in real time.
Maryam Saeed, PhD Student

Maryam Saeed is a PhD scholar at the University College Dublin and a Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Fellow. Her current research includes designing arrhythmia classifiers for low power circuits using event-driven ADCs, advanced signal processing and deep learning. She has previously worked on neural spike sorting for implanted brain circuits and EEG based biomedical applications.

She received her M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad and her B.S. in Telecommunication Engineering from the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Lahore. She has also received training in EEG data acquisition and equipment handling at the NeuroPsychology Lab, University of Oldenburg, Germany.

Arlene John, PhD Student

Arlene is currently a Ph.D. student at University College Dublin. Her research focuses on the development of data fusion frameworks for ambulatory health monitoring. Continuous and proactive monitoring of vital health signs using wearable sensors, outside a lab-environment, is a very attractive method for health analysis these days. However, there are several challenges involved in making wearable sensors a reality. One of the major challenges is the low quality of the signals acquired due to motion artifacts, lack of robustness due to a node failure, etc. Data fusion has emerged as a solution that can enhance the performance of a task by combining information from multiple sensor sources.

Education: B. Tech, Electrical and Electronics Engineering from National Institute of Technology, Calicut

Research Interests: Biomedical signal processing, Algorithm design, Machine Learning, Robot-human Interaction and Behavioural Economics.

Experience: Worked at Bosch India Ltd in engineering and strategy development for hybrid electric vehicles.

Research Intern at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore with research focusing on statistical signal processing.

Li Xiaolin, PhD Student

Education: She received her BE (Electronics) degree from UCD and Beijing University of Technology in 2019. Her undergraduate major was Internet of Things (IoT). She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree with the Department of Electrical and Electrotonic Engineering, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

Research Interests: Continuous monitoring of vital physiological signals like Electrocardiogram (ECG), using wearable devices for early detection and preventive action is widely regarded as a solution to the costs and risks associated with cardiovascular disease. While the concept itself is not new, continuous monitoring of medical-grade physiological signals has yet to become a reality. One of the major challenges involved is the high-power consumption of continuous wireless transmission, which makes the device too large for continuous use.

Her research aims to solve this problem by developing distributed machine learning technology, in which the preliminary classification of physiological signals is completed locally in the sensor and the rest is completed on the cloud server. Wireless transmission is enabled only when it is deemed necessary, based on initial processing. The topic is to develop powerful, accurate, fast and low-cost methods for identifying arrhythmia events in distributed wearable sensor data.
Current Research Focus: Leading teams across two main research strands, in Tyndall and in MCCI - in Integrated Power Systems and in Ultra-Low Power PMIC for IoT. The integrated power systems research is primarily centred on exploiting the opportunities being presented by recent advances in both thin film cobalt based magnetics-on-silicon (tf-MoS) and in substrate embeddable magnetic materials. The ultra-low power PMIC research is centred on the challenge of bringing advanced digital control techniques to the sub-micro watt PMIC arena. This will enable advanced feature set in next generation smart sensor nodes employing ambient energy harvesting and/or achieving extremely high battery life.

Research Activities:
- Highly integrated multi-level and multi-phase POL and iVR on 180nm SOI and 28nm Bulk CMOS. These employ inductor technologies spanning Co-Zr-Ta-B tf-MoS, substrate embeddable through to air-cored at 100MHz.
- Monolithically integrated GaN HEMT switching bridges and smart gate driver circuits, employing MoS functional level galvanic isolation.
- Ultra Low Power PMIC and power-centric SoC architectures, on 180nm CMOS, for smart sensing nodes at IoT edge and wearable.
- Integrated resonant converter systems.

Mr. Seamus O’Driscoll, Principal Investigator

Gerry Mc Glinchey, Senior Researcher

Current Research: (analog / mixedsignal) at MCCI, Tyndall National Institute, Cork, where he is investigating analog integrated circuits.

Research Topics: Gerry’s research interests are ultra-low power analog integrated circuits.

Current Research Focus: Ultra Low Power PMIC and associated mixed signal circuit design techniques to create a variety of Nano power implementations of oscillators, charge pumps, dynamic precision references, extra low voltage cold start, DACs, ADCs, level shifting comparators and amplifiers.

Education: MSEE from Santa Clara University, California.
BE from National University of Ireland, Dublin.
Ruaidhrí Murphy, PhD Student

Current Research:
- Depletion mode GaN HEMT based voltage regulator modules. GaN is a wide bandgap material capable of operating at high frequencies. GaN has the potential to reduce the footprint of voltage regulator modules for next generation electronics.
- Planar embedded inductors. Embedding the inductor within the substrate of a voltage regulator module has potential to reduce footprint and the manufacturing cost of the module. The inductor is an integral part of many power converter topologies. Research is based on analysing the embedded inductor device and modelling it using FEA simulators such as Ansys Maxwell and Keysight ADS.

Research topics:
- Point-of-load converters
- Integrated magnetics
- Planar magnetics
- GaN HEMT
- Power electronics

Education:
- Presentation Brothers College Cork
- University College Cork (Beng Electrical and Electronic Engineering, PG Cert ICE)

Venkata Bhumireddy, Senior Research Engineer

Current Research: Conversion efficiency of the DC-DC converter is very critical which demands low energy consuming analog circuits. Various buck converter circuits are being implemented to establish the benefit of high-side NMOS over PMOS at 100MHz. Current research work focuses on the design of ultra-low energy high precision 14bit ADC for dc-dc converters which can convert multiple analog input channels to digital output. Challenges in the research are to achieve higher accuracy and guaranteed monotonicity with high speed and low energy in 180nm technology.

Research Topics:
- Design of ultra-low power high precision Analog-to-Digital Converter (180nm CMOS)
- Design of high switching frequency, high efficiency dc-dc converters (iVR for SoC) with bootstrapped flying gate drivers (28nm CMOS).
- Design of high speed all digital-PLL with low jitter.

Education:
1. Bachelor of Science (B.Sc)
2. Master of Science (M.Sc)
3. Master of Technology (M.Tech)
Highly integrated, flexible, multiple-output, point-of-load (POL), DC-DC power management module appropriate for providing all the standard internal system voltages required in the next generation battery powered smart devices.

Research Topics:
- PMIC integrated power solution for PwrSiP application.
- Multi-level and resonant converter topologies.
- Thin film Magnetics-on-Silicon (tf-MoS) and PCB embeddable inductor technologies.
- 180nm SOI and 28nm CMOS implementations.
- 20MHz LLC Resonant Converter MoS isolated CMOS gate drivers.

Madhu Jacob, PhD Student

Current Research: Power Management IC design for ultra-low power energy harvesting application.

Research Topics: Power management IC: Successfully taped out power management IC for 1uW+ applications. This was used a buck-boost architecture to satisfy wide voltage range. Efficiency was above 90% for voltage range in energy harvesting applications. Designed, completed lay-outs and verified power-path and various analog control blocks using CAD tools. Designed and implemented digital blocks through full flow from Verilog to place-and-route with Cadence Innovus.

Low Voltage Cold Start design: This feature allows power management ICs to start from low voltage. Simulated integrated circuit solutions using Tyndall fabricated thin film Magnetics-on-Silicon (MoS) transformer to achieve startup voltage from 30mV. This circuit was taped out and awaiting silicon samples. A new version of this circuit is in development to achieve 10mV startup. Both MoS and PCB embedded cold-start transformer technologies are being fabricated, characterized and electrically modelled.

Education: Master in Electronics design, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Bachelor in Electronics and communication, Cochin University, Kerala, India.
Brendan O Sullivan, PhD Student

Current Research: Investigation & design of isolated smart gate driver technologies. The gate drivers are being designed for implementation on 180nm SOI and are appropriate for Wide Band Gap (WBG) devices such as Gallium Nitride (GaN) High Electron Mobility Transistors (HEMT’s) to achieve high frequency & high efficiency operation. Target applications include high step-down DC-DC Point of load converters operating directly from higher voltage systems, such as 48V automotive.

Research Topics:
- Smart Gate Driver Design
- Gallium Nitride High Electron Mobility Transistors – Device Modelling
- Closed Loop Control Systems
- Isolated Converter Systems

Education: Currently studying for a PhD

Andrija Stankovic, PhD Student

Current research: Ultra low power mixed-signal circuits, digital control loop design for power management circuits used in battery life extending and energy harvesting systems (180nm CMOS). Digital MPPT circuits and impedance matching control loops for transducers such as TEG and PV.

Research topics:
- Ultra low power digital circuits design
- Control systems characterisation and design
- Multi-disciplinary system modelling
- Power electronics, CMOS circuit design.

Education: I graduated from School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia with a Batchelor’s degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Computer Science. Two years later, in 2017, at the same university, I completed my Master’s degree in Electronics Engineering.

Dr. Pádraig Cantillon-Murphy

Has developed the first open-source electromagnetic tracking platform which can track medical instruments with sub-millimeter accuracy which we have chosen to make available free to the global research community (http://anser.io). Our next generation sensor technology will result from the current work at MCCI and we believe it will drive the platform to be commercially viable.

Education: He is a Senior Lecturer in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at UCC, academic member of Tyndall National Institute & honorary faculty at l’Institut de Chirurgie Guidée par l’Image in Strasbourg. He has a first-class honours B.E. degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from UCC and Masters of Science and Ph.D. degrees at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

From 2008 to 2010, he was a postdoctoral research fellow with concurrent appointments at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston and at the Research Laboratory of Electronics at MIT. He is principal investigator at the Biomedical Design Laboratory at UCC and Tyndall National Institute which explores novel device development in image-guided surgery and endoscopy.

His current research interests include magnets for surgery, electromagnetic tracking and navigation and surgical robotics. He is module coordinator for the UCC Biomedical Design module, an award-winning teaching program which couples medical and engineering students at UCC. He is a former Marie Curie fellow (2010-2014), a former MIT Whitaker fellow (2007-08), and a senior member of the IEEE. He has co-founded two start-up companies and is co-inventor on 6 patent applications.
Herman Alexander Jaeger, Post Doc Researcher

Current Research: My work focuses on design and development of electromagnetic navigation systems for image-guided medical interventions. The core technology allows physicians to track the locations of medical instruments within the human body without the use of cameras or radiology.

Research Topics:
- Developing electromagnetic navigation systems for non-line-of-sight tracking applications
- Characterisation and design of magnetic sensors for tracked medical instruments
- Investigating tracking algorithm and system calibration methods.

Education: BEng Hons Electrical & Engineering, University College Cork, 2014
UROP internship in The Hamlyn Centre, Imperial College London, 2014
MEngSc Electrical & Engineering, University College Cork, 2015
PhD Electrical & Engineering, University College Cork, 2018

Dr. Kilian O’Donoghue, Research Fellow

Dr. Kilian O’Donoghue is an electronic engineer with over ten years experience in medical electronic design. Kilian has worked in multiple start-up and early stage medical device companies in Ireland and Canada, developing core technologies in robotics, sensing, navigation and medical imaging systems. His current research includes electromagnetic tracking systems, on-chip magnetic field sensors as well as large scale MRI hardware design.

Research topics: Electromagnetics simulations, magnetic field sensing technologies, electromagnetic tracking, data acquisition systems, medical devices

Education: Kilian graduated with a first-class honours B.E. degree (2011) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, before completing his Ph.D in Electromagnetic Tracking Systems (2014), both from University College Cork.

Manish Srivastava, PhD Student

My current research focuses on design and development of Integrated Amplifier and data converter for electromagnetic tracking system for image-guided medical instrument. The sensor allows to track the locations of medical instruments within the human body. Before joining here, I have worked in companies (Qualcomm and Synopsys) in the field of Device Physic, Mixed Analog circuit design and worked on high speed analog and digital circuit design. I also hold 4 issued and 6 filed US patents. Now, my interest in research and development propelled me pursue a PHD in Data Converters and amplifier design.
Dr. Barry Cardiff

Current Research: Digitally-Assisted Analog Design
Embedded systems (mainly for biomedical devices)
Compressed sensing applications – currently focused on cost & power reduction of 5G systems
Flexible waveforms for future wireless communications
Physical Layer Network coding in relay systems – design and analysis

Education:
- 2011: PhD Electronic Engineering from UCD.
- Thesis Title “Design Techniques for Vector Systems in Communications”
- 1995: M.Eng.Sc in Electronic Engineering from UCD.
- Thesis Title: “Digital Receiver Techniques in Mobile Communications”
- 1992: B.Eng in Electronic Engineering from UCD.

Mr. Armia Salib, PhD Student

Current Research: Digitally-Assisted Analog Design
We are designing new methods to augment traditional ADCs with digital techniques in order to improve the overall circuit performance. This can result in smaller, cheaper, lower-power parts with equivalent conversion performance (e.g. ENOB), or conversely in high-end applications can allow very high conversion performance targets to be achieved. This work is being conducted in collaboration with local industry.

Research Topics:
Digitally-Assisted Analog Design

Education:
2014: M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, from Ain Shams University, Egypt.
Thesis Title: Digital Calibration for Time Interleaved Analog to Digital Converter
2007: B.Sc. in Communications & Electronics, Alexandria University, Egypt.
Dr. Brendan Mullane

Brendan Mullane joined the University of Limerick (UL) in 2003, after spending more than 10 years in industry, mostly as a VLSI designer. He received his Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering from UL in 2010. His current role is Senior Research Fellow in the Dept. of Electronic and Computer Engineering. To-date, he has published over 35 peer-reviewed articles, authored one book-chapter, holds 10 invention disclosures and has been granted four US patents. His research interests include high performance, low-power VLSI signal processing, DSP/CPU and data converters applications.

Professional experience: Senior Research Fellow, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Limerick. Carrying out research and supervision/teaching roles in the area of digital signal processing and VLSI design.

From 1992 to 1995, he worked with ALPS Electric (Fukushima/Japan) working on TV tuner electronics and C++ software design. From 1995 to 1996, he was with the start-up Silicon Systems Design (Dublin) developing DSP core IP for high-end audio applications. Prior to joining UL, he worked with the ASIC design company, LSI Logic (Tokyo/Japan) from 1996 to 2002 as a senior IC designer developing digital ICs for DVDs and other customer applications supporting ARM cores.

Research experience: During his time at UL, he has been Principal Investigator (PI) on a number of research projects involving data conversion and signal processing applications. He gained his Ph.D. in the area of data converter built-in-self test. He has received research-funding awards from Enterprise-Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland while also achieving various donations through collaborations with industry helping to train and graduate PhD/Masters researchers. Dr Mullane is also a Funded Investigator in the SFI Research Centre for Future Networks and Communications – CONNECT where he is working in collaboration with industry on advanced signal processing techniques to overcome noise sources in D/A converters. He is currently with the circuits and systems research group at UL developing technology for next generation connected Internet of Things (IoT) devices that require safety critical signal monitoring capabilities. Current research include digital assisted signal-processing techniques for data converters, test and on-chip feature extraction and analysis. He is interested in the application of this research to areas such as integrated healthcare and brain monitoring devices.

Shantanu Mehta, Research Staff

Current Research: My current research is focused on dynamic element matching calibration techniques to overcome non-linear error sources in current-steering Digital to Analog Converters (DACs).

The aim is to increase the design performance using digital signal processing techniques attached to the analog D/A converter design. My research activities also included design of a tri-level current-steering D/A converter design for use in continuous time ADCs.

Research Topics:
1. High-speed ADC and DAC’s.
3. Sigma Delta ADC and DAC’s.

Education:
- Currently pursuing Ph.D. in Microelectronics from University of Limerick, Ireland.
- M. Tech, VLSI Design from Vellore Institute of Technology, India.
- B.E., Electronics & Telecommunications from Walchand Institute of Technology, India.
Fotios Kostarellos, MEng student

Current Research: My research is focused on developing a hardware system capable for detection of brain injuries by exploiting signal processing techniques and machine learning principles.

My research activities includes embedded hardware and FPGA high-level code development.

Research Topics:
1. Feature extraction.
3. HLS coding.
4. Machine-learning

Education:
- Currently pursuing MEng in from University of Limerick, Ireland.
- BE/MTech, Electronic Eng. from University of Crete, Greece.

Dr. Darren Francis Kavanagh

Darren is a Lecturer, Principal Investigator & Programme Director for BEng Electronic Engineering with the Institute of Technology Carlow. He received his PhD degree in acoustic signal processing and machine learning (ML) methods from Trinity College Dublin, in 2011. Following this, Darren was a Postdoctoral researcher with the University of Oxford, UK. He has gained valuable academic teaching experience at the University of Oxford, Trinity College Dublin, and the Technological University Dublin. Darren also benefits greatly from industrial experience at Alcatel Lucent-Bell Laboratories, Intel, and Xilinx. He was awarded an EMBARK Scholarship (IRC) in 2006-2010 and the Minister’s Silver Medal for Science from the Minister for Education (Ireland) in 2005.

Darren has a strong track record of working closely with enterprise partners on applied RDI projects typically involving applied embedded systems for solving industrial engineering problems. Broadly, his research interests encompasses ‘signals and systems’ and can be defined under two main research strands: (1) signal processing and machine learning (ML) methods, and (2) advanced Condition based Monitoring (CBM) of energy conversion and propulsion systems using low-cost and low-power embedded systems.

Core research aims:
- Design signal processing and machine learning ML algorithms for classification, segmentation and localisation to advance autonomous and intelligent systems.
- Fundamental research questions on degradation and fault modes of energy conversion systems, with applications in electric vehicles, renewables and medical devices.
- Development of low power embedded systems for novel electronic devices, systems, machines and equipment, utilising various Internet of Things (IoT) platforms.

Projects funded by EI, IRC, SFI, SEAI, Campus France and various collaborative industry partners. Currently interested in applied embedded systems for industrial applications and developing industrial-academic partnership opportunities.
Research Area: Cold Atmospheric Plasma Deposition of Biomolecules using Radio-Frequency (RF) Power Generators

Research Goals:
- Advance existing knowledge and understanding of the cold atmospheric plasma deposition process;
- Explore suitable non-intrusive laboratory methods for monitoring, measurement and characterisation of RF plasma using electronic sensing apparatus;
- Optimise the parameters of the deposition system for high performance, accuracy and repeatability.

Current Research: My research involves conducting original applied electro-mechanical experiments in the laboratory, coating characterisation measurements, and parameterisation of the cold atmospheric RF plasma deposition system. BioDep is a coating process that was developed over a period of 10 years to attach drugs and biologics onto implant surfaces by Theradep Ltd. Arising out of plasma technology that was initially created for the textile industry, it has been developed to bond materials to implant surfaces and labware. When applied to an implant surface, the plasma can sterilise, clean and produce chemical bonding sites on the metal or polymer surfaces. The therapeutic materials are then sprayed onto the reactive implant surface where they instantly cure to form a thin film coating. This novel electro-mechanical coating device will require novel non-intrusive electronic based sensing to optimise an extremely sensitive process.

Research Topics:
- RF Powered Cold Atmospheric Plasma Devices
- Applied Research in Plasma Medicine for Wound Healing
- Proof of Concept Designs and Experiments with Electro-Mechanical Apparatus
- Non-intrusive Electronic Sensing and Monitoring of the Plasma Process

Education: Bachelor (Hons) Engineering Degree with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology Carlow. 2018

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Research Area: Advanced Machine Learning (ML) Methods for Energy Conversion Systems

Research Title: “Machine Learning Methods for Electric Machines used in Electric Propulsion Systems”

Research Goals: Developing new knowledge and understanding for the advancement and design of robust electric machines that prevents premature aging occurring and unexpected catastrophic failure modes occurring in critical applications and systems.

Current Research: My research is primarily based around investigating and developing novel methods of failure diagnostics and prognostics for industrial electric machines, using data-driven machine learning approaches. My work focuses on improving and optimising advanced Condition based Monitoring (CbM) methods for future generation electric propulsion systems.

Research Topics:
- Remaining Useful Life (RUL) estimation for rotating machines by performing a time-frequency analysis on vibration signals from accelerometers
- Investigating novel methods of feature extraction and classification using a combination of supervised and unsupervised Machine Learning (ML) approaches.
- Novel sensing approaches, analogue front end (AFE) circuits and state of the art System on Chips (SoC) for applied embedded systems.

Education: First class B.Eng (Hons) degree in Electronic Systems Engineering from the Institute of Technology Carlow in 2019.
ALUMNI

Jason Hannon 2012
Jan Kubik 2012
Ray Foley 2012
Aidan Keady 2012
Lorenzo Mereni 2013
Vamshi Manthena 2014
Maurice Egan 2014
Lei Guan 2014
Greg Szczepkowski 2015
Diarmuid Collins 2015
Alberto Gola 2015
Francesco Brandonsio 2015
Rishi Singh 2015
Mark Barry 2015
Hsin-Ta Wu 2015
Colm Murphy 2015
Khosrov Sadeghipour 2015
Giuseppe Macera 2016
Girish Waghmare 2016
Ken Ahern 2016
Charles Perumal 2016
Jianghai He 2016
Dimitris Kyritsis 2016
Sohail Asghar 2016
Sohaib Afridi 2016
Andrew Malone 2016
Mengsu Yang 2016
Niamh Costello 2016
Paolo Scognamiglio 2017
Stefano Tulisi 2017
Yan Guo 2017
Kevin McGrath 2017
Noel Kelly 2017
Yuting Wei 2017
Valerio Marotta 2017
Muhammad Asfand Awan 2017
Shiyu “Steve” Zhou 2017
Hongja Mo 2017
David Quilligan 2017
Anil Jain 2017
Mario Conti 2017
Cian O’Mahony 2017
Karine Mnatsakanyan 2018
Mahsa Keshavarz Hedayati 2018
Alberto Dicalaldo 2018
Anu Pillai 2018
Kathy Hanley 2018
Pedro Paro Filho 2018
Ian Asom 2018
Savatore Galeone 2018
Filippo Schembari 2019
Mark Smyth 2019
Vaibhav Pavmaskar 2019
Sean Philips 2019
Stefano Facchin 2019
James McCarthy 2019
Jeff Waling 2019
Arma Salib-Farag 2019
Naser Pourmousavian 2019
Matthew Agnew 2020
Xutong Wu 2020
Hongying Wang 2020
Niamh Creedon 2020
Feifei Zhang 2020
Vivek Govindaraj 2020
Dennis Andrade Miceli 2020
Michael Pastoril 2020
Ali Esmailiyans 2020
Donnacha O’Riordan 2020
MCCI RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Highlight Publications

10. Fordymacka et al, “A 0.01mm2 0.83V Input Range SAR Based Bridge-to-Digital Converter”, SSC-L, 2020
19. G. Nikandish, R. B. Staszewski, and A. Zhu, “Broadband fully integrated GaN power amplifier with embedded minimum inductor bandwidth filter and AM-PM compensation,”, (ESSCIRC), Sep 2019
21. K. Xu; F. Kuo; H. R. Chen; L. Cho; C. Jou; M. Chen, R. B. Staszewski “A 0.85mm2 51%-Efficient 11-dBm Compact DCO-DPA in 16-nm FinFET for Sub-Gigahertz IoT TX Using HDZ Self-Suppression and Pulling Mitigation”, (JSSC) 2019
23. A. Salib; M. F. Planagan; B. Cardiff, “A High-Precision Time Estimation and Correction Technique for Time-Interleaved ADCs”, (TCAS-I), 2019
24. Y. Donnelly, M. P. Kennedy “Prediction of Phase Noise and Spurs in a Nonlinear Fractional-N Frequency Synthesizer” (TCAS-I), July 2019
27. M. P. Kennedy, Y. Donnelly, J. Breslin, S. Tulisi, S. Patil, C. Curtin, S. Brooks, B. Shelly, P. Griffin, M. Keaveney, “4.4GHz 0.18µm SiGe BiCMOS Exact-Frequency Fractional-N Frequency Synthesizer with Spurious-Tone Suppression Yielding a -80dBc In-Band Fractional Spur”, (ISSCC), Feb 2019
33. Y. Li ; W. Cao ; A. Zhu, “Instantaneous Sample Indexed Magnitude-Selective Affine Function-Based Behavioral Model for Digital Predistortion of RF Power Amplifiers”, (MTT), 2018
Searching SPSA Based Model Extraction for Digital Predistortion of RF Power Amplifiers’, IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, 65 (MTT)


Pepe D. et al, “A 78.8-92.8 GHz 4-bit 0-360° Active Phase Shifter in 28nm FDSOI CMOS with 2.3 dB Average Peak Gain”, Accepted for publication at IEEE European Solid State Circuits Conference (ESSCIRC), 2015


Other Publications


P. Giounanlis, E. Blokhina, D. Leipold, and R. B. Staszewski, “A 0.5V 1.6mW 2.4GHz Class-F23 Oscillator in 28nm CMOS,” IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, 2017

R. Staszewski, “A 0.5V 1.6mW 2.4GHz Class-F23 Oscillator in 28nm CMOS,” IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, 2017


Pepe D. et al, “A 78.8-92.8 GHz 4-bit 0-360° Active Phase Shifter in 28nm FDSOI CMOS with 2.3 dB Average Peak Gain”, Accepted for publication at IEEE European Solid State Circuits Conference (ESSCIRC), 2015


67. V. Mazzaro, M. P. Kennedy, “Another moving Spur Phenomenon observed in a MASH-based Fractional-N PLL”, ISSCC, June 2019


75. V. Nguyen, F. Schembri, R. B. Staszewski, “A 0.2-V 30-MS/s 11b-ENOB Open-Loop VCO-Based ADC in 28-nm CMOS”, IEEE Solid-State Circuits Letters (SSC-L), 2019


83. A. Salib, M. F. Flanagan, B. Cardiff, “A Generic Foreground Calibration Algorithm for ADCs with Nonlinear Impairments”, (ISCAS), May 2018

84. P. Giounanlis , E. Blokhina ; D. Leipold ; R. B. Staszewski, “Occupancy Oscillations and Electron Transfer in Multiple-Quantum-Dot Qubits and their Circuit Representation”, (ICECS), 2018

85. K. Pomorski, P. Giounanlis, E. Blokhina, R. B. Staszewski, “From quantum hardware to quantum AI”, In Proc. of The ShanghaiAI Lectures, 2018


129. G. Macera, V. Marotta, M.P. Kennedy and


