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# Emerging Trends of Biomedical Circuits and Systems

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## ABSTRACT

Biomedical circuits and systems are heading toward a multidisciplinary race in two main directions. On the one hand, advanced smart medical devices must be built to improve human healthcare conditions. On the other hand, breakthroughs are required in mimicking the brain when designing learning algorithms and corresponding hardware implementations for numerous applications. In this monograph, we review the main emerging trends and report the trends of biomedical circuits and systems. We report most related circuits and systems activities for biosignal recording and processing, advanced imaging techniques and corresponding circuits and systems, power harvesting and wireless data communications, as well as body area networks, biosensors, and neural prostheses. The research direction in each one of these circuits and systems occupies a large place in several international conferences and prestigious journals, not only in many IEEE societies but also in several other publications.

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\*Mohamad Sawan, Jie Yang and Mahdi Tarkhan are equal contributors.

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**Keywords:** Biomedical circuits and systems, Smart medical devices, Neurotechnology, Neurorecording, Neuroprostheses, Biotelemetry, Biosensors, Biosignal Processing, Imaging, Implantable devices, Wearable systems, Power harvesting.

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# 1

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## Introduction

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With the development of fields of biomedical circuits and systems (BioCAS), challenging directions are also emerging. The challenges are related to several technological and medical limits, such as understanding biomedical applications requiring the development of efficient diagnostic tools and grasping the addressed mechanisms of involved medical organs and functions to be enhanced or recovered. Over the past 5–10 years, several topics have been addressed by BioCAS, and many research and review papers [1]–[7] reporting the latest contributions to these biomedical fields have been published.

More recently, machine and deep-learning techniques have begun to occupy parts of emerging chipsets [8]–[10]. The latter are analog and mixed-signal circuits intended to run complex neural-network-based architectures. However, smart medical devices intended for the diagnosis, treatment, and prediction of neurodegenerative diseases remain among the most challenging goals when multiple dimensions, such as large complexity due to the number of channels, reliability, and sensitivity, must be met. In addition, numerous tests, and validations, such as monitoring bioelectronics interface conditions, are required for enhanced safety, and *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in vivo* tests are necessary before any translation to the product can occur. In short, to achieve breakthrough innovation in



**Figure 1.1:** Distribution of main BioCAS research interests.

BioCAS, researchers must deal with multidimensional design challenges such as power management, low-power high-data-rate wireless communication, reliable harvesting energy methods and application-specific system architectures. In addition to common BioCAS, case studies will be described, which include epileptic seizure foci localization, detection, and prediction and optogenetic retinal prostheses [11]–[14]. For the contents of this study, we scanned publications in main IEEE journals and, more particularly, the Transactions on BioCAS, then sorted out the occurrence of BioCAS topics, and built the diagram shown in Figure 1.1.

The distribution of various research fields in this figure includes the analog front ends (AFEs), which are among the most popular research works. The latter includes building blocks to acquire numerous types of biomedical signals such as electroencephalogram (EEG), intracortical EEG (IcEEG), electrocorticogram (ECoG), local field potential (LFP), single cell spikes, and electrocardiogram (ECG). This AFE includes a low-noise amplifier (LNA) and subsequent signal processing functions to adapt to the next circuit blocks. Filtering, amplification, power reduction, and noise canceling are the main functions. Stimulation devices come second, where the heart parts are analog back-end stages to deliver, in most cases, constant-current biphasic stimulation or light-tuned

stimuli [1], [15]–[18]. Third, sensors, radio-frequency building structures, biosignal processing, and algorithm architectures are the four topics that share the same importance. Implantable devices and biosensors, including Lab-on-CMOS-chip, are next, followed by brain-machine interfaces and wearable devices. In addition, many other topics are emerging, such as neuromorphic, machine learning, and electrode–tissue interfaces and harvesting energy. Finally, most of the above summarized research topics are interconnected or integrated in system-on-chip (SoC), system-in-package, and other flexible 2D and 3D structures [19]–[23].

In this review, we focus on the most currently conducted research activities in circuits and systems, including their assembly and validation. Consequently, the remaining parts of this review include in Section 2 biosignal recording circuits and systems, AFE for electrical readout, architecture based on time-division and frequency-division multiplexing, AC- and DC-coupled AFE, and direct-digital readout AFE. Section 3 concerns biosignal processing, which includes compression techniques, compressive sensing, principal component analysis, feature extraction such as time-domain, frequency features, and time-frequency features, and biosignal classification such as regression, SVM, and neural networks. In Sections 4 and 5, we describe radio-frequency transmission and power management, which include photovoltaic, motion-driven, thermoelectric, and biofuel cell-based energy harvesting, power conditioning circuits and wireless power transmission, such as inductive, capacitive, and ultrasonic links, as well as wireless body area network.

In Section 6 dedicated to neuroimaging, we describe functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and ultrasound, photoacoustic, electromagnetic, and electrical impedance tomography, which are considered among the main brain imaging methods where innovative circuit techniques are required. In Section 7, chemical and molecular biosensors such as amperometric, potentiometric, and ion-specific, and other bio-transistors, such as ISFET devices are described. Case studies such as neural prostheses intended to enhance or recover vision are reported in Section 8. In Section 9, the criteria and characterizations of electrode–tissue interfaces are discussed. Last, the conclusions are detailed in Section 10.

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