**Manifestation**

**of**

**IEEE Uttar Pradesh Section Young Professional Star for the Month of May 2021**

Dr. Sumit Soman has been selected IEEE Uttar Pradesh Section Young Professional Star for the month of May 2021. We congratulate Dr. Sumit Soman for the achievement. His perception about the IEEE, society and young professionals are reflected in this discussion. Here are the exerts of the interview with Sumit Soman made by Varun Kumar Kakar, IEEE UP Section Young Professionals Committee Chair.

**About Dr. Sumit Soman**

Sumit Soman holds a Ph.D. in machine learning from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and is currently a Senior Data Scientist with Ericsson. Prior to this, he was with the Health Informatics Group at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Noida since 2011. His research interests include Machine Learning, 5G, Brain Computer Interfaces and Health Informatics. He was awarded the Director General CDAC Young Innovator Award in 2019. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE, Member, ACM and an Editor of the IETE Journal of Research.

**1. What are your words of motivation?**

Scientific research enables using technology to address and enable human needs, one should pursue it with enthusiasm, determination and zeal!

**2. What was the specific reason, if any, which made you, join IEEE?**

IEEE provides a global platform to connect with leading researchers in my areas of interest. It also conducts several technical conferences (both national and international) and events that publish research papers, as well as provide a forum to discuss current and future research trends. I joined IEEE in 2012 as a Graduate Student Member, and became a Senior Member in 2020.

**3. As a Young Professional, how do you position your interest in your own field with the activities and services you perform as an IEEE member/ volunteer?**

As an IEEE Member, I have been involved with sectional activities as well as with international IEEE standardization working groups and Industry Connect initiatives for Brain Machine Interfaces. These activities have helped me supplement my research interests and provided opportunities to collaborate with eminent researchers.

**4. What are your thoughts about IEEE membership and its paybacks? Whether the IEEE membership benefited you at any time in your career growth? If so, how?**

The IEEE membership gave me several benefits throughout my academic and professional journey. Initially, I primarily used it for travel grants and reduced registration rates at technical conferences. As I explored further, I was able to join technical societies of the IEEE and benefit from their services as they conducted various events and published highly relevant research articles. I was able to participate in working groups that are developing IEEE standards in Brain Computer Interface and Health Informatics areas, which complemented my professional efforts. I was also able to grow my professional network using IEEE Collabratec, as well as deliver talks and participate or mentor students in hackathons and other events.

**5. As a Young Professional, what are the changes or developments you would like to see in evolving this professional body as a group devoted to humanity and its causes?**

IEEE, including our UP Section, has grown significantly, both in terms of members and scope of activities conducted. I believe that the Young Professionals have a key role to play in participating and steering the activities of IEEE as we are strategically placed between industry and academia. Several new efforts have been spearheaded including webinars, industry-academia connect groups, mentoring and internship opportunities, student branch chapters and other affinity groups. I would like to see all members actively participate and utilize these avenues based on their interests in order to enable the realization of the benefits of technology to society at large.

**6. What are your suggestions and recommendations for those young professionals who may aspire to join IEEE?**

I would encourage young professionals to join and actively participate in IEEE activities, both at the sectional level and on global platforms. These are very useful platforms for establishing a bridge between academia and industry, that can motivate energetic students mentored by their faculty to pursue solutions to technical problems, which can be implemented to solve practical challenges in society through industry collaboration. It presents a potential win-win situation for all stakeholders, and is also important to translate research from lab to field environments. Young professionals can leverage the rich expertise of IEEE fellows and senior members to become successful and established researchers through active participation and volunteering.

**7. As a Young Professional and a young researcher in the field, how do you consider the prospects of scientific research in this field for the benefit of humanity?**

I strongly believe that scientific research is driven by societal needs and problems facing humanity. Having worked in the health informatics domain and witnessed the recent crisis due to the pandemic outbreak, the need for technology-driven enablement has become more important than ever. Telemedicine and remote consultations have gained importance, and scalable solutions are required as the demand is high. Thus scientific research has to act as an enabler, such as the use of advances in communication technologies and mobile platforms in this case.

**8. What is your recent exciting research works that may have significant societal impact?**

**I have been involved with various research projects in the health informatics domain over almost the past decade. The healthcare sector in India is evolving and adapting to the available technological advancements. I was fortunate to have worked on research projects involving development of Brain Computer Interfaces in 2012-14 when this domain was in its nascent stage. The team I worked with included technological and clinical experts, and we were able to build systems for assistive technology for differently abled persons that allowed them to control desktops or synthesize voice in hospital settings for communication. In addition, I was also involved in designing and developing mobile applications for hospital management systems at CDAC, which are used at various public hospitals in India. These solutions have helped adoption of technology at scale and proven to be beneficial over prevailing manual workflows.**

**9. What’s the advice you would give to a young professional who is just starting his/ her career?**

One’s professional career is significantly determined by taking proactive steps to enable growth and progression. In today’s age, technology changes rapidly and so do its applications and implications. As young professionals, we must keep abreast with latest technological developments and be able to think of ways and means of scaling up its adoption for the benefit of society. We should use all available platforms, including IEEE, to connect and collaborate with other technocrats, and discuss ideas and their execution strategies. These would surely help advance and shape our career to give the desired benefits.

**10. Anything else that you would like to add?**

I am grateful to the IEEE UP Section, including India Council Chairman Prof. S. N. Singh, current and past session chairs Prof. Satish Singh and Prof. Asheesh Kumar, Young Professionals Committee Chair Prof. Varun Kakar, and all office bearers to have considered me for the Young Professional Star of the Month for May 2021.