LATEST NCCR NEWS

EO Career Development award
NCCR Robotics has launched a new award for career development, aimed at women that are pursuing a research career in robotics. The nature of the activities these grants aim to support is flexible and focuses on female researcher empowerment in a broad sense. This is part of NCCR Robotics ongoing commitment to tackle the leaky pipeline and help increase the number of female students in robotics-related fields, enhance career development and the recruitment of female PhD students and researchers, and enhance awareness on gender issues and the impact of unconscious bias. The call will open yearlong and we will accept applications for activities starting from May 15th 2020 onwards. Read more

CYBATHLON@school Home Challenge
CYBATHLON@school seeks to make children, young people, and teachers more aware of the everyday challenges faced by those with disabilities. As the schools were closed, the team came up with an additional concept: the CYBATHLON@school Home Challenge. The modules are aligned with curriculum 21 and can normally be booked for double lessons in various STEM subjects. Read More on how to include the CYBATHLON@school Home Challenge into school lessons.

Rise of the event camera
Tobi Delbruck has written an overview for EE Times of the evolution and future potential of event cameras, a new type of sensor that is acquiring more and more importance for robotics, including the NCCR Robotics research programme, thank to the collaboration between his and Davide Scaramuzza’s lab. Read more.

Exchange programmes
Three recent winners of the NCCR Robotics PhD/Postdoc exchange programme share their experience: Jan Carius from Hutter’s lab spent 3 months at Stanford University; Thomas Gargot and Soheil Kianzad spent 3 and 4 months respectively at the Dillenbourg lab.

ICRA 2020
The IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation kicks off on 31 May as a virtual event. Plenaries and keynotes will be live streamed until June 15, while prerecorded paper presentations will be available until 31 August, with dedicated Slack
channels for discussion. Several NCCR Robotics members are featured, including Aude Billard conducting a workshop on 31 May, and many of our labs presenting papers.

Luca Gambardella
After 25 years, Luca has left the direction of IDSIA in Lugano. He will continue to be a member as a professor at Università della Svizzera Italiana, where he has been appointed full professor at the Faculty of Informatics. There is an opening for the position of IDSIA director, currently held at interim by Prof. Andrea Rizzoli.

CONGRATULATIONS
Laura Marchal Crespo
After many years at the University of Bern as SNSF Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Laura has accepted a position at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, where she will join the department of Cognitive Robotics as Associate Professor starting from this Fall. Her involvement in NCCR Robotics will not be affected, as Laura will maintain a 20% position at UniBern and her group will keep working on the Wearable Robotics Grand Challenge.

Newly accepted paper
The paper "A morphing cargo drone for safe flight in proximity of humans", by Przemyslaw Mariusz Kornatowski, Mir Feroskhan, William Stewart and Dario Floreano, has been accepted for publication in IEEE Robotics and Automation Letter in June.

PhD Defense
Boris Gromov (Gambardella Lab) has successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "Human-robot interaction with pointing gestures: intuitive interaction between co-located humans and robots" on 18 March.

NCCR ROBOTICS OPEN POSITIONS
Fellowship in machine learning for soft robotics
The Floreano lab invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship in machine learning applied to soft robotics. The focus is on developing methods for the co-design of control, morphology, and materials of soft robots, such as soft multi-fingered grippers, tensegrity robots, and avian-inspired robots. Areas of interest include deep neural learning, evolutionary algorithms, and biologically inspired learning methods. Applicants should send an email to dario.floreano@epfl.ch with a CV, project portfolio, names and contacts of three references, and a full publication list.

Opportunities at Sevensense
The NCCR Robotics spin-off offers several positions, including engineers (mechanical, DevOps, machine learning, electrical) and software developers (C+). Read more

NCCR ROBOTICS CALLS
Papers on soft wearable systems
Frontiers in Robotics and AI has opened a call for papers on “Actuation, Sensing and Control Systems for Soft Wearable Assistive Devices”. Michele Xiloyannis, from the Rienier lab, is among the topic editors.

PRESS COVERAGE

Flyability’s path to growth
In an interview with the magazin "Bilan" Patrick Thévoz, CEO of the NCCR Robotics spin-off, discusses the impact of Covid-19 on the business and the company's future plans. Read more

Robots against the virus
RTS Rumantsch Radio aired a programme on 24 May about the use of robotics for tackling the Covid-19 emergency, with a short interview to NCCR Robotics Director Dario Floreano. Listen to the episode

An exoskeleton for backcountry skiing
The newspaper 24 Heures tells the story of how the designers of the NCCR Robotics spin-off TWIICE adapted their exoskeleton so that it allowed a disabled skier to strap on the climbing skins once again. Read more

Cover story in "Drones"
The recent Science Robotics publication by the Scaramuzza lab, on drones that can dodge flying obstacles, is featured in a 2-page story and on the cover of the latest issue of the German-language magazine “Drones”. Read more

Microrobots in the NYT
The New York Times ran a story - actually written by a young student for a writing contest - about ant-inspired small robots, also quoting Jamie Paik and her work at EPFL. Read more

Autonomous drones documentary
SRF and 3Sat have produced a documentary (in German only) demonstrating how the work of the Scaramuzza lab on autonomous drones can be used for search and rescue (the video starts at time 15:50). Read more

Francesco Mondada’s profile
The leader of our Educational Robotics Grand Challenge was interviewed for SwissInfo, discussing Thymio, Khepera and other robots, as well as the role of technology in education. Read more

On-demand robotics furniture
IEEE Spectrum reports on the Ijspeert's lab Roombots, modular robots that can move around and latch onto each other, can collaboratively form chairs, tables, or whatever else. Read more

Drones for agriculture
SwissInfo has published a feature story - translated in various languages - about the use of flying robots for agriculture in Switzerland. The story mentions the work of NCCR Robotics' Roland Siegwart at ETH Zurich. Read more

More press coverage available through NCCR Robotics website.

NEW VIDEOS

Redesigning SLAM for arbitrary multi-camera systems

Video to events: recycling video datasets for event cameras

Testing NASA's Perseverance rover

CYBATHLON 2020 Official Trailer

SELECTED NCCR ROBOTICS PUBLICATIONS *


* Selected publications include those that have been notified to the editor. All members are kindly encouraged to inform the management team of new publications. Read all publications.