

Isfahan University of Technology  
wishes you a

Wonderful & Happy New Year

2021



# IUT International E-Newsletter

A window to international activities of IUT

Volume 2, Issue No. 3

December 2020



## What we read in this Issue:

- IUT International Season's Greeting
- IUT International News and Activities
- IUT Awards and Honors
- An Overview on IUT International Activities-Swiss Desk
- Opportunities
- New Year's Resolutions



# IUT International Season's Greeting



From all of us at **IUT\_International**, warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy festive season and a new year filled with peace, joy, health and hope.

An extraordinary year is drawing to a close. 2020 has been quite tough & challenging for everyone.

We can look back over the last year amidst difficult and unsettling times, with an entirely new approach for teaching, research and organization at IUT; times characterized by solidarity and cooperation during and despite the pandemic.

May 2021 brings better times for all of us and we hope for more normality next year, not only for our university, but for the whole world.

We wish all of our students, professors, staff, friends, and university partners a happy, successful, and a healthy start to 2021!



Best wishes,

**Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran**

**Director of IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center**

## Holding Webinars

### IUT International Weekly Webinars

The poster features a dark blue background with yellow and white text. At the top, it displays the logos of Isfahan University of Technology and the International Scientific Cooperation Center. The main title is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, the date and time are given in red. The presenters' names and affiliations are listed with small profile pictures. At the bottom, there are two circular logos: the official IUT logo on the left and the 'IUT International' logo on the right. A network graph with red and blue nodes is positioned to the right of the main title.

Isfahan University of Technology  
International Scientific Cooperation Center

Live Weekly Webinars on Combinatorial Optimization:  
Second webinar:

**FROM BIPARTITE TO GENERAL GRAPHS:  
SHRINK AND CONQUER!**

December 15, 2020 at: 19:00

Presented by:  
Prof. Dr. Paolo Ventura, CNR, Italy    Dr. Maryam Salami, IUT, Iran

Registration Link: <http://internationalnews.iut.ac.ir/dform/13/17/>  
Webinar Link: <https://meet.iut.ac.ir/b/zah-flp-e6m-djb>

The IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center held a series of weekly webinars on "Combinatorial Optimization, the Matching Problem: a Short Journey through Algorithms and Polytopes", on December 3, 2020 and "From Bipartite to General Graphs: Shrink and Conquer!", on December 15, 2020, presented by **Dr. Paolo Ventura**, Institute of System Analysis and Informatics, CNR, Italy and **Dr. Maryam Salami**, Former Researcher at institute of System Analysis and Informatics, CNR, Marie Curie 7th Framework, ITN.

Participants received a certificate of attendance from Isfahan University of Technology at the end of these series of Webinars.

### A Webinar on Nano-Bio Interface

The **Department of Chemical Engineering** of Isfahan University of Technology held a Scientific webinar on "Revealing Nano-Bio Interface Secrets: Potential Role in Drug Delivery and Cellular Associations", presented by **Dr. Hossein Mohammad Beigi**, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

## UT5 Webinar

The First Joint International Winter Scientific Event of the group of five top Iranian Universities of Technology (UT5), entitled "**Real World Optimization Projects**", was organized by IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center of Isfahan University of Technology on December 21, 2020. The purpose of this one-day event was to discuss a large number of real-world optimization projects and advanced solution methods and algorithms for tackling with various large-scale problems in various engineering fields such as Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace and Chemical Engineering. The event provided an opportunity for researchers and those interested in optimization topics to explore different experiences for future effective international collaboration, multiple disciplines and joint networks in the field of science and technology.

The one-day event had more than 266 registered audience members, from which 75% were graduate students and researchers, and about 25% were faculty members from the National and international top universities.

Speakers of this scientific event were: **Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Naghsh**, Associate Professor from Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Isfahan University of Technology, **Dr. Hadi Mossadegh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology and Post-doctoral Fellow at Ontario Tech University, Canada; **Dr. Maryam Salami**, Former Researcher at ITN, Marie Curie 7th Framework, CNR, Italy; **Dr. Mohammad Reza Zahir Emami**, CEO of Farassan Manufacturing & Industrial Company, **Dr. Pietro Belotti**, Assistant Professor at Clemson University in South Carolina and Developer at FICO, Birmingham; **Dr. Mohammad Reza Peyghami** from the Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology; **Dr. Behrouz Touri**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of San Diego, California; and **Dr. Pooya Hoseinpour**, Assistant Professor, Industrial Engineering and Management Systems, Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), Iran.

### Read more



# UT5



5 Top Iranian Universities of Technology



IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center,

Isfahan University of Technology Presents:

**The First UT5 Winter Event on:**

**December 21, 2020**

**Real World Optimization Projects**

**12:20 pm - 17:30 pm**



Associate Prof. at the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Eng., Isfahan Univ. of Technology, Isfahan, Iran

**Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Naghsh**



Prof. at the Dept. of Applied Mathematics, K.N. Toosi Univ. of Technology, Chair of SCOP Research Center, Tehran, Iran; Visiting Prof. at the York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Dr. Mohammad Reza Peyghami**



Early Stage Researcher at ITN, Marie Curie 7th Framework; Assistant Researcher at Institute of System Analysis and Informatics, CNR, Italy

**Dr. Maryam Salami**



Assistant Prof. in Politecnico di Milano; Developer at Fico-Xpress Optimizer Team, Birmingham, UK; Assistant Prof. at Clemson Univ., California, USA

**Dr. Pietro Belotti**



Assistant Prof. at the Dept. of Industrial Eng., Amirkabir Univ. of Technology, Tehran, Iran

**Dr. Pooya Hoseinpour**



The CEO of Farassan Manufacturing & Industrial Company, Iran

**Dr. Mohammad Reza Zahir Emami**



Assistant Prof. at the Dept. of Industrial Eng., Amirkabir Univ. of Technology, Tehran, Iran; Postdoctoral Fellow, Ontario Tech University, Canada

**Dr. Hadi Mosaddegh**



Assistant Prof. at the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Eng., University of California San Diego, USA

**Dr. Behrouz Touri**

**Webinar Link: <https://meet.iut.ac.ir/b/isc-sei-yq1-b9q>**

International@iut.ac.ir 031-33912505-6 IUT\_International isfahan university of technology

## An International Webinar and Virtual Exhibition on Scientific Interactions between Iran and Italy



The International Webinar on Scientific Interactions between Iran and Italy which was held online on December 17, 2020, promotes the mutual collaboration opportunities. The event was held simultaneous to the opening of the virtual exhibition on research and technology that was held by the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology and with the attendance and presentations of Iran's acting minister for international scientific cooperation of MSRT, Iran's ambassador to Italy, Italy's ambassador in Iran, and director-general of research and technology development of MSRT.

In this event, the UT5 member universities and the prominent capacities for international cooperation have been introduced to the Italian parties by **Dr. Shahhoseini**, Vice-chancellor for International Affairs of Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST). He presented a brief description on the scientific cooperation between these universities and Italy, and also asserted that holding joint courses and conducting scientific projects are the main priorities of UT5.

This webinar was held by the General Office of Research and Technology Development of MSRT, Iran's Leading House for Cooperation with Italy.

**Main IUT Partners in Research & Joint Projects :**  
More than 27 Projects in last 3 years

**ICTP** The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics  
IUT was ICTP Affiliation Center in Middle East in 2000 for 4 years and Collaborating Regional Center of ICTP since 2014.  
- Sandwich Training Agreement and Federation Agreement Scheme Program

Establishing the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network -ICRANET Office at IUT in 2016

**UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA**

**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE**

**SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME**

- Conducting Joint Projects
- Visiting Researchers
- Joint PhD students supervision
- Exchanging of Faculty members and graduate students
- Exchanging scientific materials and information

Isfahan University of Technology (IUT)

## IUT Awards and Honors

### Welcome to the IUT New Adjunct Professor

**Prof. Dr. Andreas Bruder** has joined IUT as an adjunct professor in 2020. He has been appointed to the Department of Natural Resources.

Dr. Bruder is an academic member at the **University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)**, Bellinzona, Switzerland. He is the head of department at the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, responsible for research in applied stream ecology and freshwater biodiversity.

The joint research of Prof. Bruder and Prof. Ebrahimi was one of the selected joint proposals for Iran-Switzerland scientific collaboration, which won the Seed Money grants in 2018.



### UNESCO Launches a New Publication on Accessible Documentary Heritage



**Dr. Alireza Darvishy**, head of the ICT Accessibility Lab at Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) and one of the IUT adjunct professors at the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, is the author of a book entitled "Accessible Digital Documentary Heritage". Marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2020, UNESCO has released a new publication aiming at assisting stakeholders in preparation of a documentary heritage in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

This publication, authored by **Dr. Alireza Darvishy** and Ms. Juliet Manning, sheds light on barriers faced people with disabilities in getting access to the digitized heritage.

According to Xing Qu, Deputy-Director General of UNESCO, this publication, researched and authored by someone living with a disability, is such a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge on how people with disabilities, governments, and other stakeholders can access and experience a documentary heritage as a key feature of sustainable development.

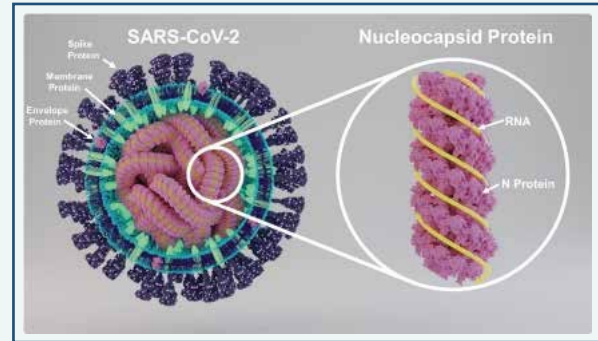
**Read more**

<https://en.unesco.org/news>



## Production of Recombinant Forms of Coronavirus Proteins by a Researcher from IUT

A faculty member at Isfahan University of Technology has produced recombinant forms of nucleocapsid (N) protein and a part of the spike protein (S) from virus SARS-CoV-2 (the agent of COVID 19) in engineered bacteria.



**Dr. Azar Shahpiri**, an Associate Professor from the Biotechnology Department of the College of Agricultural Engineering, stated that the nucleocapsid is a protein located on the virus genome and one of the best virus antigens for diagnosing the disease due to its high immunogenicity and abundance. Spike protein (S) is also on the surface of the virus and plays an important role in identifying the receptor and penetration of the virus into cells.

This success has been achieved with the cooperation of **Ms. Negar Azizi**, MSc graduated in Biotechnology, and the support of the "Innovation and Technology Commercialization Center" of Isfahan University of Technology, and the results can be exploited in the field of health.

[Read more](#)



**Ms. Negar Azizi**



**Prof. Dr. Azar Shahpiri**



## The National Top Scientists in Cooperation with Society and Industry

**Prof. Dr. Mohammad Reza Forouzan**, a Professor from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, **Prof. Dr. Vahid Ghaffarinia**, from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and **Prof. Dr. Azadeh Ahmadi**, from the Department of Civil Engineering at Isfahan University of Technology, have been selected by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology as top scientists in cooperation with society and industry.

Participating in national and regional activities, designing and implementing demand-driven research contracts, representing key achievements in solving the country's problems, cooperating with the country's institutions and industries to improve productivity and efficiency, and also playing effective role in creation and operation of effective scientific networks and specialty organizations in social and economic affairs are among the criteria laid down to identify top faculty members in cooperation with society and industry.



Dr. M. R. Forouzan



Dr. Vahid Ghaffarinia



Dr. Azadeh Ahmadi

## IUT Faculty Members among the National Top Young Academics in 2020

In the fifth round of selection of the country's top scientific academics, the Federation of Iranian Scientific Top Academics, affiliated to the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, selected 3 faculty members from Isfahan University of Technology as the country's top young academics in 2020.

According to the indices of articles in prestigious scientific journals, **Prof. Dr. Meisam Akbarzadeh**, from the Department of Transportation Engineering, and two faculty members of the Department of Physics, **Prof. Dr. Hossein Ahmadvand** and **Prof. Dr. Seyed Javad Hashemifar** from IUT, have been selected to be among the 25 top young scientists in the country who are under the age of 45. This institute has announced that the top young scientists of the country will benefit from a research fund reward, credits for using laboratory network services, and the privilege of having a postdoctoral researcher.



Dr. Meisam Akbarzadeh



Dr. Hossein Ahmadvand



Dr. Javad Hashemifar

## An Interview with IUT Alumna Sanaz Afzali, as One of IUT Elites and Honorees



As we read in the previous number, **Ms. Sanaz Sadat Afzali** is one of the outstanding IUT graduates and one of the DAAD Award winners for international students with outstanding academic achievements. Ms. Afzali is one of the elite and distinguished graduates of IUT who studied simultaneously in two fields of Electrical Engineering – Telecommunications, and Computer Engineering – Software. She has also been involved in a lot of cultural and artistic activities during her studies. Ms. Afzali was selected by MSRT as a National Exemplary Student in 2016,



### **Please tell us about your scientific and extracurricular activities.**

I always like to work in areas that interest me and take every opportunity to discover and experience more. It has been the same in my scientific field; activities that started from membership in Isfahan Mathematics House, activities in the field of ACM, Android learning, free programming work experience, various studies and research, and TA at the university, that continued with participating in various seminars and programs in and out of the university. In Germany, I have a student programming job, which is how I earn my living. I recently finished an article on an academic project and my first project is also in progress.

In the field of art, I have already had experiences in the University Music Association and Darwish Khan Music School, and I am still continuing my musical and literary activities in various fields, both in Iran and in Germany.

### **What role has IUT played in your achievements?**

Many of the professors I have had at this university have been knowledgeable, enlightening, and compassionate. And I have learned a lot from those professors both as scientific professors and as models and influential people in my life. On the other hand, the possibility of studying two majors at the same time, which happened to me at this university, helped me a lot. I think if I had not studied any of these fields, I would have missed something in my life. In culture, working and just being in art requires a lot of effort and maximum willpower. I look at the experience of my cultural activities at this university as a great life experience in which I have become a better person and have progressed.

### **Do you think the university environment can help the growth and flourishing of talents or is it an obstacle to progress?**

It can fall into both forms. A university that holds classrooms just to fill hours and make repetitive and time-consuming assignments while students take difficult exams and get grades according to which they are judged, will be a talent-killer university. But when we reach the point where we can step forward together to gain knowledge and experience and give every student the freedom to find their own way, a university becomes an environment for growth and prosperity so that not only can it be the best in science, but also can nurture wise, free, and powerful human beings for society.

We would like to thank Ms. Afzali for having this interview with IUT International.

## An Overview on IUT International Activities - Swiss Desk



Due to established and long-term academic cooperation between Isfahan University of Technology (IUT) and top universities and research institutes in Switzerland, the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology mandated IUT as "The Leading House for

Science and Technology Cooperation with Switzerland" in January 2017.

Intending to develop its academic relations with Switzerland and following its mission as the leading house, Isfahan University of Technology established the "Swiss Desk" at the International Scientific Cooperation Center (ISCC), headed by Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran in February 2017.

Swiss Desk's mission includes facilitating and consolidating academic collaboration with Switzerland through gathering practical information, contacting the Iranian Embassy in Bern, the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, and top Swiss Universities and research institutes.

Swiss Desk is in close cooperation with the Leading House for South Asia and Iran at Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). The two leading houses defined different joint support grants to facilitate research and academic cooperation between Iran and Switzerland.

Organizing joint seminars/webinars and workshops, organizing scientific visits, and defining joint research projects between Iran and Switzerland are among the Swiss Desk activities.

For the latest news and information about Iran and Switzerland's scientific cooperation and available joint research opportunities, please visit the Swiss Desk Website at <https://english.iut.ac.ir/swiss-desk>.

Five types of support instruments were defined for joint research activities with consultation and close collaboration with the Leading House for South Asia and Iran in Switzerland including:



Prepared by: M. Tajvari  
Assistant Officer for International Scientific Cooperation

## Opportunities

### Islamic Development Bank Scholarship 2021 (Fully Funded)



The Islamic Development Bank Scholarship 2021 (Fully Funded) is now open. Highly Paid Fully Funded Scholarships are available for Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, & Postdoctoral Degree programs as well as Vocational Training in every academic field. Participants from all countries are eligible with any nationality. Monthly Stipend, Tuition Fee, Medical Insurance, Economy Class Airfare Tickets, Allowances, Thesis Grants are the merits of this scholarship. Deadline: February 28, 2021

[Read more](#)

### Iran-China Mutual Scholarship Announcement for the Academic Year 2021-2022



According to the announcement of the Student Affairs Organization and with regard to the program of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of China and following the negotiations between the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education with Chinese counterparts, an opportunity for mutual scholarships in various fields of study in graduate programs for the academic year 2021-2022 has been provided.

The applications should be sent by the end of office hours on January 9, 2021. This is an initial registration, and the final evaluation and approval of the admission will be announced later.

**More information on:** <https://international.iut.ac.ir/en/node/952>

## Call of the Sister Cities Meeting - Facilitator Citizens are Invited to Strengthen Isfahan's Relations with its Sister Cities

It is reported that the General Directorate of Communications and International Affairs of Isfahan Municipality intends to create a platform for the expansion of urban diplomacy with the help of Citizen Diplomacy.

In this regard, this initiative seeks to facilitate sisterhood relationships for those citizen facilitators, including academics (professors, students and academic staff), businessmen, athletes, cultural and media activists, and Iranians abroad who have suitable and authorized platforms and channels to introduce and strengthen the position, brand and capacities of Isfahan in the sister cities and their countries, to be able to take actions in strengthening the cultural, artistic, economic and scientific relations of the two sides.

The initial call for this initiative will be open for one month, after which the call for each of the 13 sister cities will be announced before each meeting.

It should be mentioned that the International Scientific Cooperation Center of IUT together with other members of the consortium of the leading universities of the province, as well as Isfahan Science and Technology Town, forming the IUN group, will actively participate in this project and meetings with Isfahan Municipality and other future events.

Facilitators can register their details at: <http://intaffairs.isfahan.ir>



### Read more

## Call for the Michel Batis Award 2021

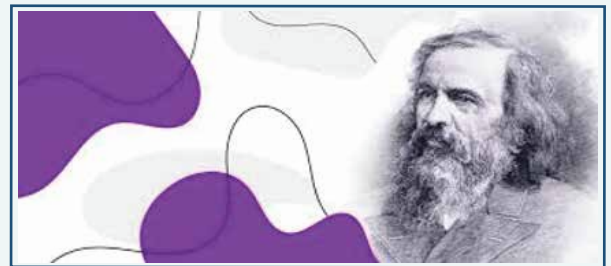


The Michel Batis Award for Biosphere Reserve Management will be presented in memory of Dr. Michel Batis, who has been influential in the management of biosphere reserves, to someone who has done valuable research in this area. The prize is \$12,000 and is awarded to projects in biosphere reserves. Applicants should send the completed form and the required documents to the email of the Science Group of the National Commission for UNESCO-Iran ([science@irunesco.org](mailto:science@irunesco.org)) until January 20, 2021.

[Read more](#)

## Call for UNESCO International Award – Mendeleev of Russia in Basic Sciences

The purpose of UNESCO International Award - Mendeleev of Russia in Basic Sciences is to identify and tribute the great achievements of scientists in terms of development, dissemination, as well as international cooperation in basic sciences that have significant impacts at regional or international scale.



This prize is \$250,000 and includes chemistry, physics, math and biology which is awarded annually to two persons.

Applicants can register online until March 5, 2021.

More information and how to register online can be found at the link below:

<https://en.unesco.org/stem/basic-sciences-prize>

[Read more](#)

## Call for "Cross-cultural Perception of Urban and Rural Landscapes and Cultural Heritage" on the Third Year of the Iran - Germany Joint Project with Supports of DAAD and Technical University of Dortmund



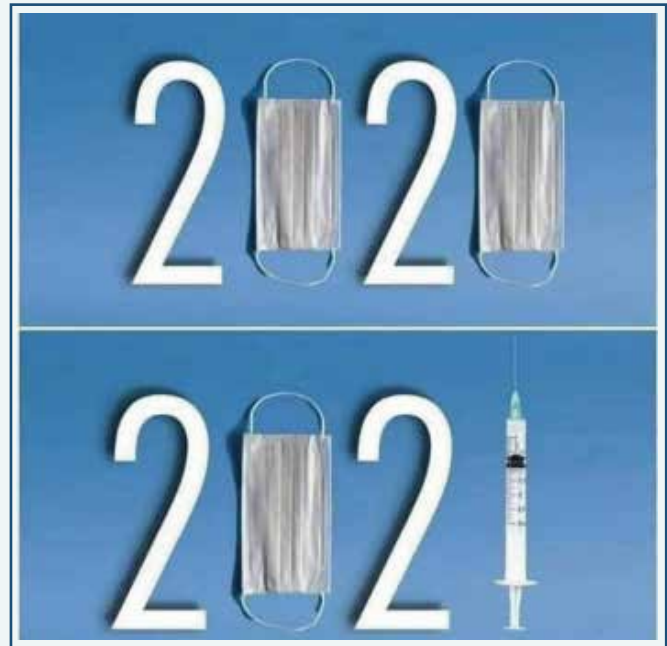
Professors and students interested in participating in research in this field are invited to send the required documents to [DHTU@daneshpajooan.ac.ir](mailto:DHTU@daneshpajooan.ac.ir) until January 16, 2021.



## New Year's Resolutions

A year full of challenges is coming to an end. A year that has shown us just how important science is. And a year during which we have worked at IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center to keep up and promote international activities as optimally as possible, despite the Coronavirus crisis. It is time to learn from the past year and welcome the new one with an exact road map, deep thoughts, and achievable resolutions.

Just remember: **"You are never too old to reinvent yourself."**



### New Year 2021 Resolutions!

Live healthier

Get more quality  
Sleep

Stop  
procrastinating

Volunteer  
and give  
more to charity

Read More

Never Give up

In order to expand the university's international scientific interactions with overseas academic institutions, the IUT International is publishing this electronic Newsletter on international relations and in line with the IUT mission towards a Green University.

You are invited to register your email **here** to receive the new issue of the newsletter upon its publication. You can also correspond with the editorial board from **here** to convey your valuable comments and suggestions or to send materials related to IUT to be published in future issues of the newsletter.

To see the previous issues and more information on the newsletter, please click **here**.

In addition to being distributed via social networks, this newsletter will also be available through the following QR code. Your constructive participation in this path will guide us toward our goals.



### **Volume 2, Issue No. 3 December 2020**

IUT International Newsletter is a periodic E-newsletter to be distributed among IUT students and staff.

Your constructive comments and suggestions are most welcomed.

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