

Dr. X. Rong Li

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Biographical Information

X. Rong Li is a well-recognized expert in information fusion and target tracking and, in a U.S. National Science Foundation panel of experts' words, "has made a groundbreaking contribution" in these areas. He served as General Chair for several international conferences, Editor for the *IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems*, and Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of New Orleans; delivered keynote speeches in several international conferences and more than 150 invited seminars worldwide; and published four books, ten book chapters, and more than 350 journal and conference proceedings papers. He is an IEEE Fellow since 2004.

Dr. Li has been playing a significant role in the information fusion community. He was one of the three key persons who launched the FUSION conferences (the other two, not being fusion researchers, have since left our community), and served as the Steering Chair for the first FUSION conference and General Vice Chair for the second FUSION conference. He was also a key person for establishing the International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF). He was elected to ISIF's President in 2003, served as General Chair for FUSION 2002 and General Co-Chair for FUSION 2017, and was on ISIF's Board of Directors for more than ten years.

Mission Statement

Having experienced the Age of Agriculture and the Age of Industry, mankind is now well into the Age of Information. This Age is characterized by the dominance of information and along with it the explosion of information. In response, information fusion has emerged, which is purposely combining information contained in multiple entities. It has received great attention in recent years and has the potential of a tremendous impact in a large variety of disciplines in science, engineering, humanities, and many other areas of human endeavors. It is our community's duty to tap this potential to the full positively.

ISIF will celebrate its 20th anniversary soon. As a "founding son" (not "founding father") who has "grown" with ISIF, I am gratified to see ISIF pass the notorious "rebellious teen" age. We should do our best to make sure that these 20 years are only the end of the beginning for fusion research. Towards this end, **if elected to the ISIF Board, I will endeavor to make ISIF (a) grow significantly, (b) more international, (c) more representative of the fusion community, (d) encourage better/more collaboration, and (e) have more new blood, especially young people, in its Board and the organization of FUSION conferences.**