Prof. Lauro Snidaro is an Associate Professor at the Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, Univ. of Udine. His main interests include Data/Information Fusion, Computer Vision, Machine Learning and Multimedia. He has co-authored more than 100 papers in international journals and conference. He has been the appointed Italian member of several NATO Research Task Groups on Information Fusion continuously from 2003 to 2021. He has been involved in international projects on artificial intelligence and multi-sensor data fusion with numerous industries and research centres. He is "Fusion for Signal/Image Processing and Understanding" Area Editor of the Information Fusion journal (Elsevier) and High-level fusion Area Editor of the ISIF "Journal of Advances in Information Fusion". He was lead editor of the volume "Context-Enhanced Information Fusion - Boosting Real-World Performance with Domain Knowledge", Springer, 2016. In 2011 he was Program co-Chair of the 16th International Conference on Image Analysis and Processing (ICIAP) and Workshops and Competitions co-Chair of ICIAP 2023. He was Program co-Chair of the 22nd FUSION conference in 2019, and most notably, he served as **co-General Chair** of the highly successful **FUSION 2024** in Venice (Italy). He has co-organized special sessions at the FUSION conference since 2011, and serves as Special Session Chair for the 2025 edition.

Position statement

I have had the privilege of actively participating in the Fusion community for more than 20 years, and I am deeply committed to its continued growth and success. If elected to the ISIF board of directors, I would focus on the following key areas:

• **Fusion and AI:** The recent breakthroughs in AI and machine learning are reshaping numerous domains, including Information Fusion. Neural networks and Deep Learning are now central to multi-source data integration and decision-making processes. While these developments are gaining prominence at other major conferences, the Fusion community has long been a pioneer in these areas. I strongly believe that the FUSION conference should reclaim its leadership by further developing, expanding, and promoting AI-related themes. My goal is to position the conference as a prime destination for AI researchers working on multi-source information fusion and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

• **Improve impact factor and ratings:** Many researchers, especially early-career scientists, are evaluated based on the ranking of the venues where they publish. I am committed to working toward improving the impact factor and reputation of both the FUSION conference and ISIF journals. By strengthening the quality, reach, and visibility of ISIF publications, we can further elevate the recognition of our field, and ensure long-term community growth.

• **FUSION2FUSION:** A key challenge in organizing conferences like FUSION is ensuring continuity between consecutive editions. I propose establishing a structured mechanism to facilitate knowledge transfer between organizing committees. This initiative would transmit best practices, highlight potential pitfalls, and provide guidance to new organizers. Similar practices have proven beneficial in other leading conferences, enhancing operational efficiency and sustaining high-quality events year after year.

Serving on the ISIF Board would be an honour, and I am eager to serve to help the community grow and thrive, increasing its visibility and long-term standing. Given my experience, I would be honoured to serve as VP for Conferences. I am also open to contributing as VP Social Media or VP Communications if needed.