

# NISHANT MOHAN

Vice President, Product, Notal Vision Inc

## Education

PhD in Biomedical Engineering, Boston University

B. Tech Electronics & Communication Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology

## Technical Activities/Interests

- Product development and management
- Biomedical optics and imaging
- Optical coherence tomography, contact lens and intraocular lens development, spectroscopy, and adaptive optics
- Image and signal processing, algorithms, and software development

## Services to the Technical Community

- Several technical leadership positions as Chief Technology Officer, Chief Product Officer, and Vice President.
- National Institute of Health (NIH), Scientific Review Committee, Small Businesses: Aging, Auditory, Vision and Low Vision Technologies - NV (12)
- Program Committee OSA, CLEO A&T1 Biomedical Applications (2020 - present)
- Advisor, Virginia Tech, College of Engineering (2020-2022)
- Advisor Central Carolina Community College (2017-present)
- Reviewer for optics journals: Optics Express, Optics Letters, Applied Optics. (2012-present)
- Reviewer for Ophthalmology Science and Pattern Recognition (2018-present)
- President New England Section of Optical Society of America (2011-2012)
- Outreach programs and judge: Cambridge Science Fair, NC State Fair, others
- Judge of community college science demonstration competitions
- Webinars on application of artificial intelligence in ophthalmology and optical coherence tomography angiography.

## Service to SPIE

- SPIE Corporate and Exhibitor Membership (2018-2022)
- SPIE ESTeP Committee (2013-2017)
- SPIE Membership Committee (2019-2022)
- SPIE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (2018-2021)
- SPIE Early Career Professional Committee (2011-2014)
- SPIE Task Force on Exhibitor Engagement (2020-2021)
- President, SPIE Student Chapter Boston University (2008-2009)
- Judge for Prism Awards (2015-present)
- SPIE Career Lab Leader
- Facilitator, SPIE Student Chapter workshops
- Career Panelist for SPIE

## Professional Honors

- Early Career Achievement Award SPIE
- Fellow and Senior Member of SPIE
- Community Champion SPIE (2019 and 2020)
- Member of Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
- Member of American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)
- Finalist Prism Awards for MicroAngio
- Dean's Fellowship Boston University
- National Talent Search Scholarship, Govt. of India

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## Election Statement

I was fascinated by science from my early school days. As a kid growing up in India in the 80s and 90s, we didn't have many luxuries around us, but I considered myself lucky to get a good science-based education. I saw science as an objective way of understanding our universe, something we all can agree and build upon. Although, I quickly realized that the scientific approach wasn't universally accepted and was actually often contested. Even more so not everyone in the world had access to relevant education and information around it. A society like SPIE gave me a community of like-minded professionals, who even if didn't agree on everything, shared and felt a common bond around scientific approach. Ultimately SPIE gives me and many others a sense of belonging and community, staying true to its mission of connecting minds.

The most impactful contribution that SPIE makes in my view is providing an opportunity to give back. I have always been grateful for the support of many others around myself, and have always felt an urge to give back. Through SPIE I was able to participate in outreach programs spreading the message of science to young minds. And make congressional visits to bring the importance of the same to our policy makers, often not so young minds! I have been able to participate in several SPIE committees trying to improve experience for other members, corporate participants and those exhibiting at SPIE conferences. I have been able to participate in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and experience firsthand the challenges we face in building an environment of equal opportunity. Probably the most rewarding of all has been interacting with SPIE student members and sharing my experiences from the field, and also feeling energized by their enthusiasm and optimism.

As we look at efforts of bringing the optics and photonics community together, giving a sense of community and belonging to the next generation, we must realize that we are entering a new era with new challenges. This era is defined by information channels that have never existed before. Many of them have led to a surprising attack on scientific ways of thinking. I believe the onus is on professional societies like ours that are a source for scientific information, to adapt to this new era of information dissemination. We have certainly fallen behind on that front and we can make it right by focusing back on the fundamental mission of connecting minds.

We are also in an era where genuine efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion are often being hijacked by hollow slogans for personal benefits. Having spent nearly all my professional life in the United States after being born, raised, and educated in India, I have and continue to live through challenges of implicit and explicit biases minorities face at workplaces. I have also learned solutions to challenges around diversity are not just more committees or corporate taglines. Diversity begins at "home", with a mindset for open communication, acceptance of different viewpoints, and a willingness to understand our own biases. We certainly have a long way to go in addressing this challenge, and the stakes are too high to not keep working together towards creating more equity in our field.

The sense of belonging that SPIE has given me, my urge to give back, and given the unique challenges and opportunities we face as a scientific society, has made me wholeheartedly accept the nomination to be on the ballot for SPIE Director. If elected as a director, I will look forward to bringing in the voices of SPIE members on how SPIE can adapt to the fast-changing landscape of information dissemination. I would focus the society in a direction that all its members can feel tangible benefits. And ensure genuine efforts to make SPIE a society where everyone in the community feels a sense of belonging, because that's the only way we can carry on the mission of connecting minds.