**Speaker Bio**

Emanuel Istrate received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto in 2005, studying photonic crystals. After a brief post-doctoral fellowship working on the nonlinear optical properties of quantum dots he joined the Institute for Optical Sciences as the Academic Programs Coordinator where he set up a number of courses and training programs for students studying optics at all levels of the University, including a popular holography course. More recently, he has contributed to the IOS' and Impact Centre’s entrepreneurship and industry collaboration programs, as well as the VicOne program at Victoria College. He has delivered a number of projects for industrial collaborators, using his expertise in optical and electronic systems.

**Abstract**

This presentation will start by giving an overview of the IEEE, including its technical achievements, its structure and affiliated organizations in Canada. Then it will discuss what international professional organizations have to offer and how today’s interconnected world changes and shapes the way professionals connect with each other and to the resources they need.