

EMNLP 2020

**Search-Oriented Conversational AI (SCAI)**

**Proceedings of the 5th International Workshop  
on Search-Oriented Conversational AI (SCAI):**

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Online

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to the the 5th International Workshop on Search-Oriented Conversational AI. Following the success of the previous four installments, the workshop is coming back to EMNLP this year. Like the rest of the conference, the workshop will be run fully online this year.

This year we received six valid submissions for the main workshop track and accepted three of them. That yields an acceptance rate of 50%, similar to those of previous years (59% in 2018 and 57% in 2019). We also considered several topically relevant EMNLP Findings papers for non-archival oral presentation and accepted at least two of them (see online program for the full list).

In additon, this year we have hosted a new edition of Conversational Intelligence Challenge on Clarifying Questions for Open-Domain Dialogue Systems (ClariQ), where we have 8 active teams who participated.

Jeff Dalton, Aleksandr Chuklin, Julia Kiseleva, and Mikhail Burtsev



**Organizers:**

Jeff Dalton, University of Glasgow  
Aleksandr Chuklin, Google Research  
Julia Kiseleva, Microsoft Research  
Mikhail Burtsev, MIPT

**Conversational Challenge:**

Mohammad Aliannejadi, University of Amsterdam (Challenge Chair)  
Gustavo Penha, TU Delft

**Program Committee:**

Damiano Spina, RMIT University (Australia)  
Igor Shalyminov, Heriot-Watt University (UK)  
Jaap Kamps, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  
Tom Kenter, Google (UK)  
Scott Roy, Google (USA)

**Invited Speakers:**

Y-Lan Boureau, Facebook AI Research  
Thomas Wolf, Hugging Face  
Verena Rieser, Heriot Watt University  
Ivan Vulic, PolyAI  
Sungjin Lee, Amazon  
Jason Weston, Facebook AI Research  
Jian-Yun Nie, Université de Montréal



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# Conference Program

*Slice-Aware Neural Ranking*

Gustavo Penha and Claudia Hauff

*A Wrong Answer or a Wrong Question? An Intricate Relationship between Question Reformulation and Answer Selection in Conversational Question Answering*

Svitlana Vakulenko, Shayne Longpre, Zhucheng Tu and Raviteja Anantha

*Multi-Task Learning using Dynamic Task Weighting for Conversational Question Answering*

Sarawoot Kongyoung, Craig Macdonald and Iadh Ounis

**EMNLP Findings Presentations:**

*Semantically Driven Sentence Fusion: Modeling and Evaluation*

Eyal Ben-David, Orgad Keller, Eric Malmi, Idan Szpektor and Roi Reichart

*Toward Stance-based Personas for Opinionated Dialogues*

Thomas Scialom, Serra Sinem Tekiroğlu, Jacopo Staiano and Marco Guerini

\* The list above was compiled on October 15, 2020 and may be incomplete. Please refer to the workshop website <https://scai.info/2020/> for a complete program.

