



# PPS Newsletter

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April 2020

Information to Polymer Processing Society Members

## Unprecedented! Postponed due to corona virus PPS-36 International Conference, May 31-June 4, 2020, in Montreal, Canada

The PPS-36 International Conference of PPS was to take place in Montreal, Canada, on May 31-June 4 2020 (website <http://www.pps36.ca/>). Unfortunately, due to the severe corona virus pandemic, the Conference was postponed by the PPS-36 Organizers, Prof. Abdellah Ajji of Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal and his team. There were 675 abstracts accepted for the Conference, 7 plenary and 7 industrial keynotes. So this gave a total of about 690 presentations. About 170 were planned to be given as posters and about 500 as oral.

The following message is to be found on the website by the organizers.

### Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Due to the worldwide situation about the COVID-19 that is causing travel restrictions, limitation on public gathering and many other issues, the organizing committee of PPS-36 and the Polymer Processing Society decided to postpone the dates of the conference planned for May 31 - June 4 in Montreal, Canada. Hopefully, as soon as the peak of COVID-19 will be over in most countries and the travel restrictions released, it will be possible to finalize new dates for the PPS-36 conference (for example, fall 2020). We will keep you informed.

It is suggested to keep all the proposed abstracts and process of evaluation as it was initially planned. The date for paper submission, registration and hotel reservations will be changed and posted in the website once new dates decided.

For those who already registered, thank you for your support, we will keep the registrations for the new dates unless you want to cancel your participation and get reimbursed. We will post the reimbursement policy in the website soon.

Once it will be possible to define new dates in agreement with the PPS executive committee, an email will be sent to all those who sent an abstract and we will ask you to confirm your interest in participating in the conference planned for the new dates.

Thank you for your support

### The Organizing Committee



## Postponed also PPS-2020 Asia-Australasia Regional Conference, November 4-7, 2020, to be held in Bengaluru, India

The PPS-2020 Asia-Australasia Regional Conference of PPS was to take place in Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore), Karnataka, India, on November 4-7, 2020 ([website http://www.pps2020india.com/](http://www.pps2020india.com/)). However, due to the severe corona virus pandemic, the Conference was postponed by the PPS-2020 Organizers, Prof. Anup K. Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi and his team. *The new dates may be chosen for February/March 2021.* The exact timing of the Indian conference will depend on the rescheduling of PPS-36 as well as keeping in view the dates for PPS-37 to be held in Japan.

The Conference will eventually take place in Bengaluru, India. It is the capital city in the Indian province of Karnataka and is nicknamed the Garden City. It is located on the Deccan Plateau in the south-eastern part of Karnataka. Bengaluru is home to many of the most well-organized colleges and research institutions in India.



Bengaluru is the capital city of Karnataka, in India. The PPS-2020 Asia-Australasia Regional Conference will take place there.

Bengaluru has the beautiful state legislature building Vidhan Soudha near the city center.

A view of Bengaluru's downtown area.

## Lambla Award winner for 2020 is Luyi Sun of the University of Connecticut, USA

The Lambla Award will be given at PPS-36 in Montreal, Canada, to Prof. Luyi Sun.



**Dr. Luyi Sun** is a Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, as well as the director of the Polymer Program, Institute of Materials Science at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Sun's current research focuses on the design and synthesis of polymer based hybrids for various applications, with a focus on microstructure control via novel processing.

Dr. Sun has published more than one hundred eighty (180) peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Sun is the inventor/co-inventor of nineteen (19) US patents and over twenty (20) US patent applications. Many of his patents have been licensed or commercialized.

The scientific results by Dr. Sun's group have been reported by major media including *Chemical & Engineering News* of the American Chemical Society,

*Plastics Engineering* magazine of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), *New Scientist*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Yahoo, MSN, etc.

## **JLWhite Innovation Award for 2020 Goes to Prof. Amar Mohanty, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada**

The James L White Award will be given at PPS-36 in Montreal, Canada, to Amar Mohanty.



**Dr. Amar Mohanty** is recognized with this prestigious award for his innovation and commercialization of bio-based sustainable materials. His innovative research has led to five commercial bio-based products being released into the marketplace, including the most publicized single-use coffee pods by Club Coffee Inc. company that are made from renewable materials and are 100% compostable. The ultimate success of the innovation was the wide adoption by coffee brand names and distribution by Loblaws and McDonalds, in Canada, USA, Mexico and South America. His patented technology; on biocarbon for durable biocomposites uses has recently been commercialized by Ford Motor Company for manufacturing lightweight head-lamp housing auto-parts in their Lincoln Continental model. In addition to meeting the performance standards, the biocarbon filled biocomposite part is 20% lighter and performs better in injection moulding, resulting in processing energy savings of 25%.

Dr. Amar Mohanty is currently a Professor and OAC Distinguished Research Chair in Sustainable Biomaterials at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. He also serves as the Director of the *Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre* and University Research Leadership Chair Professor at the university. Prior to his move to Ontario, he worked as a professor in Michigan State University. He was recruited by the University of Guelph to take up the prestigious Ontario Premier's Research Chair in Biomaterials and Transportation position in 2008.

Dr. Mohanty is an internationally recognized leader in the field of bioplastics and biobased materials with a focus on engineering novel sustainable materials. His current research interests encompass renewable-resource-derived materials, biocarbon-based biocomposites, natural fiber composites, green composites, bioplastics, nano-structure bioplastic blends, value-added biomaterials from the byproducts and coproducts of the biofuel and food Industries, recyclability, durability and biodegradability studies, pyrolysis of waste biomass and food-industry waste streams, 3D Printed biobased materials and circular bioeconomy. His R&D has resulted in outstanding scientific accomplishments and transformative commercial applications of biomaterials, while reducing the environmental impact of plastics.

Dr. Mohanty's research has had a major impact in the field and he is one of the most cited researchers in advanced biomaterial science and engineering. He has more than 800 publications to his credit, including 385 peer-reviewed journal papers, 66 patents (awarded and applied), 5 edited books, 21 book chapters, and 300+ conference papers and 127 plenary, keynote and

invited presentations. He has a Google-Scholar citation count of 32,995 and h-index of 83. His ResearchGate score is 46.83, which is higher than those of 97.5% of all its members worldwide.

Prof. Mohanty's achievement has been recognized with many awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award and Jim Hammar Memorial Award from the BioEnvironmental Polymer Society (BEPS) of the USA, Andrew Chase Forest Products Division Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) Alumni Distinguished Researcher Award. He was also the holder of the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany.

In 2016, Dr. Mohanty and his research team were awarded the University of Guelph's Innovation of the Year Award for the creation of the 100% compostable biocomposite resin using coffee chaff. He received the top researcher award; the Synergy Award for Innovation of 2018 from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Prof. Mohanty is Fellow of American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society of Plastic Engineers and Royal Society of Chemistry. He is also the *Editor-in-Chief* of Sustainable Composites of *Composites Part C - Open Access*; an ELSEVIER journal.

## Early Career Award for 2020 goes to Prof. Reza Nofar of Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

The Early Career Award will be given at PPS-36 in Montreal, Canada, to Prof. Reza Nofar.



**Dr. M. Reza Nofar** obtained his BSc in Materials Science and Engineering from Sharif University of Technology (Tehran-Iran) in 2005 and received his MSc and PhD from Concordia University (Montreal, Canada) and University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada), respectively, in 2008 and 2013 both in Mechanical Engineering. Between his MSc and PhD during 2008-2009, Dr. Nofar worked as a researcher at Canada National Research Council (Montreal, Canada). During 2013-2015, he was a postdoctoral fellow jointly at the Chemical Engineering Departments at Polytechnique Montreal and McGill University (Montreal, Canada). Meanwhile, he was a part-time faculty lecturer in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Concordia University. In August 2015, Dr. M. Reza Nofar joined the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

Department at Istanbul Technical University as an Assistant Professor and has launched the *Polymers and Nanocomposites* Laboratory.

Dr. Reza Nofar has been the recipient of several international and institutional awards and scholarships. He was awarded Turkey's 2017 Young Scientist Award for his achievements in advanced biopolymeric microcellular systems. He was awarded Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Nature et les Technologies (FQRNT) in 2015 from the Quebec government for his postdoctoral studies. He had also been awarded three prestigious scholarships for his doctoral program, namely Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) - Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship, Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Nature et les Technologies (FQRNT), and Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology. He was also awarded the PPS 2017 young researcher travel award in PPS 33,

Cancun, Mexico. His paper received the best paper award in the Society of Plastic Engineers Annual Technical (SPE-ANTEC) Conference in 2011, Boston, USA.

Dr. Nofar's research interests are polymer processing and rheology, biopolymers and polylactide, polymer blends and nanocomposites, and microcellular polymer foams. Right now, Dr. Reza Nofar is the direct thesis supervisor of 12 MSc and 5 PhD students, while within the last 4 years, he supervised and graduated 12 MSc students and 20 undergraduate students. Dr. Nofar has contributed his research output as one authored book entitled "Polylactide Foams: Fundamentals, Manufacturing, and Applications" that was published by Elsevier, 3 book chapters, 3 patents, 55 refereed journal articles, 4 of which are comprehensive review articles on PLA foaming, PLA blends, Rheology of PLA-based systems, and PLA cellulose nanocomposites, and over 80 refereed conference papers. Links to Dr. Nofar's publications could be accessed through: <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?hl=en&user=LxNEcP8AAAAJ>

## **Polymer Processing Pioneer James M. McKelvey died, November 13, 2019 at 94**



James M. McKelvey was a member of the DuPont team that included Carley, Strub, Mallouk, Jepson and Gore, who presented at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Atlantic City, N.J., seven papers on the theory of extrusion, published in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry in 1953. In 1954 he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University and in 1957, Washington University in St. Louis. His "Polymer Processing", Wiley (1962) is one of the first books ever published using rigorous analysis based on the equations of conservation of mass, momentum and energy for extrusion, calendaring, crystallization, mixing and injection molding. McKelvey was the Dean

of Engineering at Washington University from 1964 to 1991. His serial entrepreneur son, James M. McKelvey, Jr, donated \$15 Million for the construction of the James M. McKelvey, Sr. Hall at Washington University, to be completed in 2020.

## **Next Newsletter – November 2020**

If you have comments on how to improve this newsletter or want to share some information in the next one, please contact the Newsletter Editor Prof. Evan Mitsoulis at [mitsouli@metal.ntua.gr](mailto:mitsouli@metal.ntua.gr). The next issue of the Newsletter is due in November 2020.