



PPS Newsletter

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May 2023

Information to Polymer Processing Society Members

The PPS-38 International Conference, May 22-26, 2023, a huge success in St. Gallen, Switzerland

The PPS-38 International Conference was held in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on May 22-26, 2023 (website <https://www.pps-38.org/>). The Conference was organized by Dr. Rudolf Hufenus and his team at EMPA (Materials Science and Technology), who offered a unique combination of excellent sessions and superb food.

There were 750 attendees (264 students). There were organized Symposia (15 general + 6 special), 7 Plenary and 81 Keynote lectures. There were 505 orals and 103 posters, coming from 41 countries. Europe (370) had the biggest list, followed by Asia/Australasia (131), North and South America (101), Africa (6), a total of 608 papers. From countries (participants), Europe (348), China (17), Japan (34), USA (49), Canada (45), etc.

The plenary speakers were: Prof. Ulrich Schubert of Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany, Prof. Jan Vermant of ETH Zurich, Switzerland, Prof. Bernd Nowack of EMPA, St Gallen, Switzerland, Prof. Alexander Bismarck of University of Vienna, Austria, Prof. Kim Ragaert of Maastricht University, the Netherlands, Prof. Chuhong Zhang of Sichuan University in Chengdu, China, and Prof. Volker Altstaedt of University of Bayreuth, Germany.

The banquet took place at the Olma Messen Conference Centre of St. Gallen. During the banquet the awardees of PPS for 2022 and 2023 were given their awards by our President Prof. Anup Ghosh. The awardees were: Prof. Phil Coates (PPS Fellow for 2022), Prof. Sam Kenig (PPS Fellow for 2022), Prof. Kiyohito Koyama (PPS Fellow for 2023), Prof. Volker Altstaedt (JL White Innovation Award for 2023), Prof. Chuhong Zhang (Lambla Award for 2023), Prof. Milad Kamkar (Early Career Award for 2023).

The upcoming Conferences were also presented by their corresponding Organizers. Prof. Ghosh presented the PPS-2023 Asia/Australia Regional Conference to be held in Kovalam, Kerala, India, Nov. 29 – Dec. 2. Prof. Medina presented the PPS-39 International Conference to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, May 19-23, 2024. Prof. Verbeek presented the PPS-40 International Conference to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, April 27-May 1, 2025.



Prof. Ghosh (President of PPS) at the opening ceremony of PPS-38 International Conference.



Dr. Hufenus (Organizer of PPS-38) at the opening ceremony greets the delegates.



Prof. Ghosh has given a PPS-2023 Fellow plaque to Prof. Koyama. Next to him are Prof. Kikutani and PPS-38 Organizer Dr. Hufenus.



PPS President Ghosh (far left), the Early Career Awardee Prof. Milad Kamkar and Organizer Dr. Hufenus during the Banquet of PPS-38 in St Gallen.



PPS President Ghosh together with the Morand Lambla Awardee Prof. Chuhong Zhang during the Banquet of PPS-38 in St Gallen.



PPS President (far left), the James L. White Innovation Awardee Prof. Volker Altstaedt, and PPS-38 Organizer Dr. Hufenus during the Banquet of PPS-38 in St Gallen.

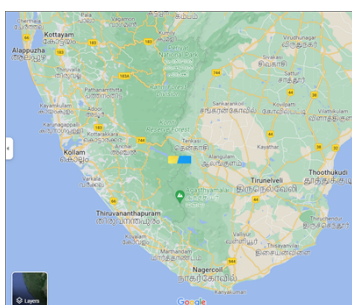
PPS-2023 Asia-Australasia Hybrid Regional Conference, November 29-December 2, 2023, to be held in Kovalam, Kerala, India

The PPS-2023 Asia-Australasia Hybrid Regional Conference of PPS will take place in Kovalam, Kerala, India, on November 29-December 2, 2023 (website <http://www.pps2023india.com/>). The organizer is Prof. Anup Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi and his team.

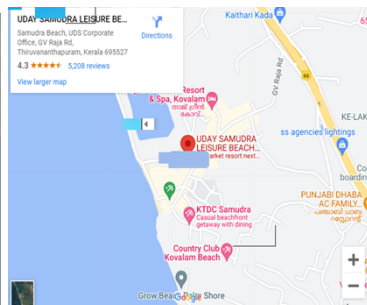
There are going to be 12 general symposia and 5 special symposia. There will be 6-8 plenary speakers, keynote, oral and poster presentations.

Registration opens on May 1st, 2023. Registration: \$450 for PPS members, \$200 for student members. Abstract submission closes at July 31st, 2023.

The venue of the Conference is Hotel Uday Samudra Kovalam in Kerala. Trivandrum International Airport is approximately 15 km from Kovalam.



Kovalam is at the left-hand side of the Indian peninsula just before turning. The PPS-2023 Asia-Australasia Regional Conference will take place there.



Kovalam beach is 15 km away from Trivandrum, which is connected to prime Indian cities.



A view of the venue hotel Uday Samudra.

The PPS-39 International Conference, May 19-23, 2024, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

The PPS-39 International Conference will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on May 19-23, 2024. The Conference is organized by Prof. Medina and his team at the Universidad de los Andes (website <http://pps39.uniandes.edu.co>). The venue is going to be the Hilton Hotel.

Call for abstracts: September 1, 2023. Regular registration deadline: April 30, 2024. Regular PPS members: \$600.

There are 18 general symposia and 4 special symposia. There will be 8 plenaries in which the corresponding Morand Lambla and James L. White Innovation Awards are included. The Conference will also include 4 Industrial Keynote lectures. There will be 63 Academic Keynote lectures and 333 parallel talks. At the end of the day (Monday and Tuesday) a Poster Session will take place with approximately 100 different posters each day.

Plenary speakers: Profs. Ica Manas-Zloczower, Tim Osswald, Alejandro Müller, Cyrille Boyer, Marcello Calderón.

The Conference will take place at Cartagena de Indias, a city of about 1,000,000 inhabitants and one of the major ports on the northern coast of Colombia in the Caribbean Coast Region, bordering the Caribbean sea. The city was founded on June 1, 1533 by the Spaniards. During the Spanish colonial period Cartagena had a key role in administration and expansion of the Spanish empire. It was a center of political, ecclesiastical, and economic activity. In 1984, Cartagena's colonial walled city and fortress were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Cartagena, Colombia, the place for PPS-39 International Conference.



Cartagena's walled city and fortress were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



A view of one of the many catholic churches in Cartagena.

The PPS-40 International Conference, April 28-May 1, 2025, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand

The PPS-40 International Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 28-May 1, 2025. The Conference is organized by Prof. Verbeek and his team at the University of Auckland.

The Conference will take place at Auckland, a large metropolitan city in the North Island of New Zealand. The most populous urban area in the country and the fifth largest city in Oceania, Auckland has an urban population of about 1,440,300 (June 2022). While Europeans continue to make up the plurality of Auckland's population, the city became multicultural and cosmopolitan in the late-20th century, with Asians accounting for 31% of the city's population in 2018. With its large population of Pasifica New Zealanders, the city is also home to the biggest ethnic Polynesian population in the world. The Maori-language name for Auckland is *Tāmaki Makaurau*, meaning "Tāmaki desired by many", in reference to the desirability of its natural resources and geography.



Auckland, New Zealand, the place for PPS-40 International Conference.

Auckland is a large metropolitan city in the North Island of New Zealand.

A view of the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Upcoming Conferences of Interest to PPS Members

ICR2023

XIXth International Congress on Rheology

Athens, Greece

July 29th to August 4th, 2023.

<https://www.icr2023.com>

AIChE

2023 AIChE Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Orlando

Orlando, FL, USA

November 5-10, 2023

<https://www.aiche.org/conferences/aiche-annual-meeting/2023>

Prof. Kiyohito Koyama, Yamagata University, Japan, Elected PPS Fellow for 2023

Kiyohito Koyama elected PPS Fellow for 2023.



Kiyohito Koyama, Professor Emeritus from Yamagata University in Japan, is an accomplished scientist with a long and illustrious career. He earned his Bachelor's (1972) and Master's (1974) degrees in Engineering from Yamagata University, and then he received his PhD in Engineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1982. Throughout his professional journey, Prof. Koyama has held a variety of academic and administrative positions, including Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Director of the Venture Business Laboratory and Plamedia Corporation, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Vice President, and President of Yamagata University.

In addition to his duties at the University, Prof. Koyama has made significant contributions to the scientific community through his involvement with various scientific societies and journals. He has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Rheology, Journal of Polymer Engineering, Rheologica Acta, and the Society of Materials Science, Japan, among others. He has also held leadership positions such as President of the Japan Society of Polymer Processing and the Society of Rheology, Japan.

His research interests encompass a wide range of topics in polymer rheology and processing, including the elongational viscosity of non-reactive and reactive blends and nanocomposites, constitutive equations and CAE analysis of viscoelastic fluids, polymer foaming, blow molding, electro-spinning, flow-induced crystallization, flow instabilities, electro and magnetic rheology, and sonochemistry, among others.

In recognition of his outstanding research contributions, Prof. Koyama has received several awards and honors, including the 2006 Research Award from the Society of Rheology, Japan, the 2012 Science and Technology Award from the Yamagata Prefecture, the 1983 YUKO Medal from the Society of Rheology, Japan, and the 1983 SAKURADA Medal from the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan.

Prof. Koyama has played a significant role in expanding the scope and reach of the Polymer Processing Society (PPS). As a technical program co-chairman and organizer of the PPS-14 annual meeting in Yokohama, Japan, he helped to ensure the success of that important international event. He has also served as an International Representative within the PPS, and as Chairman of the organizing committee of the PPS-22 annual meeting in Yamagata, Japan. Additionally, Prof. Koyama has been actively involved in the PPS as a member of the Morand Lambla Award Committee and the J.L. White Innovation Award Committee. His service in these committees and as an International Representative demonstrate his commitment to advancing the field of Polymer Processing and his dedication to promote collaboration and exchange among polymer scientists and engineers worldwide.

Prof. Koyama also supervised a large number of researchers: 41 researchers obtained their PhD in engineering under the research supervision of Prof. Koyama. Among them, 10 are currently working as university professors in Japan and other Asian countries, conducting research and education in polymer processing with his research spirit.

According to SCOPUS, the total number of peer-reviewed scientific publications of Prof. Koyama is 318, the number of citations is 4589, and the h-index is 35.

Prof. Koyama was a full Professor at Yamagata University from 1992-2020, and its President from 2014-2020. He is now an Emeritus Professor at Yamagata University.

Lambla Award winner for 2023 is Chuhong Zhang of Sichuan University, China

The Lambla Award was given at PPS-38 in St Gallen, Switzerland, to Prof. Chuhong Zhang.



Prof. Chuhong Zhang is a senior professor of the State Key Laboratory of Polymer Materials Engineering, Polymer Research Institute, Sichuan University, China.

Prof. Zhang's research focuses on unconventional processing of polymer functional composite materials and functional devices for mechanical-to-electric energy harvesting and electrochemical energy storage to advance the development of green energy. She has developed a series of innovative polymer processing technologies such as 3D printing, solid-state mechanochemistry, supercritical fluid controllable foaming and electrospinning for scalable preparation of polymer micro-nano functional composites and high performance three-dimensional energy conversion and

storage devices with customized complex, flexible and lightweight structures.

Prof. Zhang is the Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, UK), one of the first winners of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) for Excellent Young Scholars, and honored national accolades including the first National Thousand Youth Talents of China, the New Century Excellent Talents in China Universities.

She has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed research papers as the corresponding or first author in leading chemistry or material journals such as *Nat. Mater.*, *Adv. Mater.*, *Adv. Energy Mater.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, and is the inventor/co-inventor of 27 patents with 16 authorized. She has won the China Young Women Scientist Team Award (the team leader) and the First Prize of the Sichuan Science & Technology Invention Award (the 1st inventor), etc.

She also serves as the Executive Editor of the journal *SusMat* (Sustainable Materials), International Advisory Board Member of the journal *Macromolecular Materials and Engineering*, Director Board Member for several national/regional academic organizations such as the Polymer Division of the Chinese Chemical Society and the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Society, as well as the Vice-President of the Sichuan Province Women Scientists Association of China.

JLWhite Innovation Award for 2023 Goes to Prof. Volker Altstaedt, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany

The James L White Award was given at PPS-38 in St Gallen, Switzerland, to Volker Altstaedt.



Prof. Volker Altstaedt after his university studies in Physics and Dr.-Ing. in 1987 with Prof. Dr.-Ing. G. W. Ehrenstein at the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Kassel, he worked for 8 years at last as group leader in the Department of Polymer Physics under the Polymer Research Division of BASF AG in Ludwigshafen. Since 1995 he has been a Full Professor for Polymers in Mechanical Engineering and head of the Department of Polymers and Polymer Composites at the Technical University Hamburg-Harburg, Germany. Since 1st October 2000, Professor Dr.-Ing. Volker Altstädt is Full Professor at the Department of Polymer Engineering at the Faculty of Applied Natural Sciences (FAN) of the University of Bayreuth.

Volker Altstädt is a member of the DFG Collaborative Research Centres (SFB 481) and Microplastics (SFB1357), and the Bayreuth Institute of Macromolecular Research (BIMF). Since 2004, he is a DFG peer reviewer and vice-spokesperson for the field Macromolecular Research. Volker Altstädt is a member of the IUPAC sub-committee “Structure and Properties of Commercial Polymers” since 1988, and a member of the association “Wissenschaftlicher Arbeitskreis Kunststoff-technik” (WAK) since 2005. Furthermore, he is the managing director of Neue Materialien Bayreuth GmbH since 2009, a member of the executive board of the “Elite Study Program Macromolecular Science” at the University of Bayreuth and the “Elite Study Program Advanced Materials and Processes” at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. Moreover, since 2006 he is a member of the advisory board in the Cluster New Materials within the context of the Alliance Bavaria Innovative.

The research group of Volker Altstädt is dedicated to *scientific and industrial oriented research in the area of polymeric materials*, establishing a connection between the natural sciences and engineering technology. Emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary cooperation among the scientists, bringing together the disciplines of chemistry, physics, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering. Research activities of Altstädt's group focus on *Polymer Foams, Resin Systems, Polymer Blends, Nanocomposites, Fatigue Behaviour of Polymers, Fracture Mechanics and Additive Assembly* with the primary goal of determining the structure-properties relationships and tailoring polymeric materials for specific requirements at the border line to engineering applications.

Early Career Award for 2023 goes to Prof. Milad Kamkar of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

The Early Career Award was given at PPS-38 in St Gallen, Switzerland, to Prof. Milad Kamkar.



Milad Kamkar is Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Waterloo. His work is focused on structure property relationship of polymeric soft materials.

Dr. Kamkar's research is internationally known for its interdisciplinarity and problem-oriented approach. The results of his research in the past 5 years were presented in a total of 142 dissemination activities, including 2 Theses, 41 Journal Articles (1 Featured Journal Article, 2 Editor's Pick Papers, 1 letter, 4 Review Papers), 4 Cover Photos, 9 Conference Proceedings, 83 Peer-reviewed and Panel-reviewed Conference Presentations, and 4 Industrial reports.

The most noteworthy publications are in the Progress in Polymer Science (IF=32), Journal of Colloid Interface Science (IF=11), Small (IF=15.5), Macromolecules (IF=6), Biomacromolecules (IF=7), Soft Matter (IF=4), Coordination Chemistry Reviews (IF=25), and Carbon (IF=11). Dr. Kamkar was also honored with more than 25 institutional, provincial, national, and international awards. He is also a guest editor in the journal of Water and Review Editor in the Journal of Frontiers in Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Kamkar's research has been important in the advancement of the science and technology of Polymer and Materials Science, and he has achieved recognition in the area of nonlinear rheological characterization of polymeric systems and in devising novel soft materials. Altogether, since 2018, Dr. Kamkar has had a great impact, measured by his h-factor (16, Google Scholar) and accumulating 720 citations, which continue to grow exponentially. Some examples of his work are: (1) development of new processing technique, coined "Liquid Streaming", for the fabrication of novel types of soft materials and aerogels by interfacial co-assembly of nanomaterials and

polymeric ligands, published in Small (IF=15.5), and (2) 3D printing of advanced conductive polymeric hydrogels for ultra-light electronics (Carbon, IF=11).

Dr. Kamkar received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees (1st and 2nd in his class, respectively) in Polymer Engineering from Amirkabir University, a top and widely acknowledged Polymer Engineering school in Iran. Dr. Kamkar received his Ph.D. at the University of Calgary in three and a half years (Sep 2016-Feb 2020), publishing ca. 20 papers and involving research exchanges with Stanford University and others.

Dr. Kamkar has been effective in securing research funds in the form of several projects, all involving very creative ideas, stemming from his interdisciplinary background in the fields of synthetic and sustainable polymeric materials. The large number of institutional, provincial, national, and international awards and nominations bestowed to Dr. Kamkar highlight the quality of his research at an international level.

Dr. Kamkar has been a dedicated volunteer and has been involved in service activities for professional societies, students' associations, his community and university. He founded the Chemical Engineering Graduate Club in 2018 at the University of Calgary, bringing him twice the Province-wide Alberta Citizenship Award.

Graduate and Young Research Travel Award Winners for 2023

AWARD - \$1500 USD travel award for graduate students and young researchers to travel to the PPS International Conference

- Graduate Travel Award Winners 2023
 - **And Bakane** – Riga Technical University, Latvia
 - **Majed Amini** – University of British Columbia, Canada
 - **Shahab Amirabadi** – University of Toronto, Canada
 - **Shiva Singh** – IIT Roorkee, India
- Young Research Travel Award Winners 2023
 - **Dr. Patchiya Panthong** – Fukuoka University, Japan
 - **Dr. Majid Mohseni** – University of Calgary, Canada

Next Newsletter – November 2023

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. The next issue of the Newsletter is due in November 2023.