



# ***PPS Newsletter***

***www.tpps.org***

***May 2025***

***Information to Polymer Processing Society Members***

## **The PPS-40 International Conference, April 22-25, 2025, a great success in Auckland, New Zealand**

The PPS-40 International Conference was held in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 22-25, 2025 (website <https://www.pps-40.org/>). The Conference was organized by Prof. Johan Verbeek and his team at the University of Auckland, who offered a unique combination of excellent technical sessions and superb food. The venue was the superb Owen G. Glenn Building/Business School of the University of Auckland (Building 260) abbreviated as OGGB.

There were registrations from 34 different countries, with 363 registrants (103 students). There were 325 contributions, out of which were 6 Plenary, 42 Keynote lectures, 210 orals and 67 posters. China (44) had the biggest list of participants, followed by Germany (43), New Zealand (30), Japan (23), Canada (20), USA (20), etc.

There were 20 general symposia. These were: Circular Economy for Plastics, Biopolymers, Additive Manufacturing, Polymer Composites, Injection Molding, Rubber and Elastomers, Fibers and Films, Industry 4.0 and AI, Rheology and Characterization, Polymer Degradation, Biodegradation and Composting, Foams and Membranes, Mixing and Compounding, Morphology and Structural Development, Polymer Blends and Alloys, Nanotechnology, Polymerization and Synthesis, Modeling and Simulation, Functional Additives and Reactive Processing, Biomedical Applications, and Extrusion.

The scientific speakers were: Dr. Andrew Somervell, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, New Zealand; Dr. Ines Kühnert, Leibniz-Institute of Polymer Research Dresden, Germany; Prof. Kim Ragaert, Dept. Circular Chem. Eng., Maastricht University, The Netherlands; Dr. Kim Thompson, Rocket Lab, Auckland, New Zealand; Prof. Peter Halley, Dept. Chem. Eng., Univ. of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

The banquet took place at the excellent Auckland War Memorial Museum. During the banquet the awardees of PPS for 2025 were given their awards by our President, Prof. Sadhan Jana. The awardees were: Prof. Chul B. Park (PPS Fellow for 2025), Prof. Grace Gu (Early Career Award for 2024, given in 2025), Prof. Zhe Qiang (Early Career Award for 2025), Prof. Mohammad Arjmand (Morand Lambla Award for 2025). Also were given awards for Dr. Liliana Joosten and Dr. Benedetta Rigatelli (Young Researcher Travel Awards) and for Roxana Moaref and Farimah Tikhani (Graduate Student Awards).

The upcoming Conferences were also presented by their corresponding organizers. Prof. Amar K. Mohanty presented the PPS-2025 Americas Regional Conference in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, September 23-25, 2025. Prof. Roberto Pantani presented the PPS-41 International Conference to be held in Paestum, near Salerno, Italy, May 31-June 4, 2026.

There were plenty of nice things to see in Auckland, the large metropolitan city in the North Island of New Zealand, including many islands. The temperature was between 16-20°C with plenty of sunshine during the days of the Conference. While Europeans continue to make up the plurality of Auckland's population, the city has become multicultural and cosmopolitan in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century, with Asians accounting for about 30% of the city's population. With its large population of Pasifika 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.



A view of the Registration Desk at the University of Auckland.



Opening ceremony at the Auditorium (main venue – OGGB).



Prof. Sadhan Jana, President of PPS, inaugurating the open ceremony of PPS-40.



Prof. Verbeek (President of PPS-40) at the Opening Ceremony



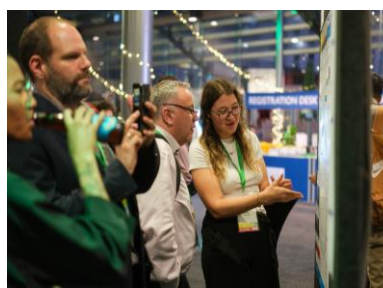
Delegates attend the opening ceremony of PPS-40 Conference.



A photo of the delegates of PPS-40 at the lobby of the Conference venue.



Ritual dance from Maori people at the lobby of the Conference venue.



Poster session at PPS-40.



PPS attendees take a picture at the banquet for PPS-40 in Auckland.



PPS attendees around the table at the banquet of the PPS-40.



One big band at the banquet swinging music themes.



PPS attendees take a picture at the banquet for PPS-40 in Auckland.





PPS attendees take a picture at the ceremony for PPS-40 in Auckland.

## **The PPS-2025 Americas Regional Conference, September 23-25, 2025, to be held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada**

The PPS-2025 Americas Regional Conference will be held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, on September 23-25 (Tue to Thu), 2025. The Conference is organized by Profs. Amar K. Mohanty and Manjusri Misra and their team from the University of Guelph (website: <http://pps2025.ca>).

The early-bird registration is May 31, 2025, and regular registration deadline is June 30, 2025. Online registration deadline is September 1, 2025. There is going to be an onsite registration only after this date.

There are 20 general symposia. These are: Injection Molding and Mold Design, Extrusion, Mixing and Compounding, Additive Manufacturing, Modeling and Simulation, Polymer Composites, Polymer Blending, Polymers and Environment, Biopolymers, Polymer Films, Fibers, Membranes and Coatings, Morphology and Structure Development, Rheology, Sustainable Materials and Processing, Foams and Other Porous Materials, Artificial Intelligence in Polymers and Composites Design, Sustainable Polymers, Composites, and Circular Economy, Functional Polymer Systems, Nanocomposites, Waste Plastic and Polymer Recycling.

The Conference will take place in Guelph, a city of 144,000 people, in the Province of Ontario, in Canada. Guelph is a vibrant city located in Southern Ontario, a short drive from Toronto, Niagara Falls, and Detroit. Guelph has a picturesque downtown featuring unique and locally owned stores, cafes and restaurants, and is home to the University of Guelph, one of Canada's top comprehensive, research-intensive Universities.

The PPS-2025 conference will be held at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre located at 50 Stone Road, West Guelph, Ontario. The conference center features a 1300 square meters meeting and banquet space. A separate entrance from the main hotel doors allows for easy access from the parking area.

With five function rooms and three boardrooms, the conference center offers flexibility in planning events. These well-equipped and functional rooms feature lighting controls, remote screens and ceiling installed data projectors to facilitate conference needs.

Accommodations for the conference located near the University of Guelph are available at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre as well as several other hotels in the area. Affordable accommodations are also available at Western Hotel & Executive Suites on 72 MacDonnell Street. Guests attending PPS-2025 may use a reservation link to book online using a special group rate at Delta Hotels Guelph Conference Centre.



Guelph, near Toronto in Ontario, Canada, the place for PPS-2025 Americas Regional Conference.



The conference center features a 1300 m<sup>2</sup> meeting and banquet space.



The Conference is located near the University of Guelph at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Center..

## **The PPS-41 International Conference, will be held May 31-June 4, 2026, in Paestum, Salerno, Italy**

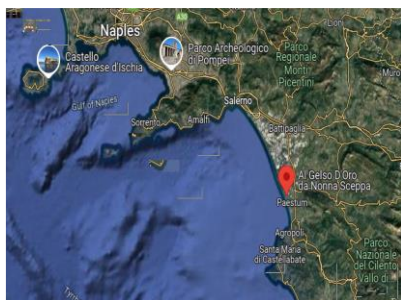
The PPS-41 International Conference will be held in Paestum, Salerno, Italy, on May 31-June 4, 2026 (website <https://www.pps-41.org/>). The Conference is organized by Prof. Roberto Pantani and his team at the University of Salerno. The venue will be the excellent Hotel Ariston Paestum (website <https://hotelaristonpaestum.com/>).

Abstract submission is December 31, 2025; Abstract acceptance will be February 28, 2026; and Early-Bird registration will be on March 31, 2026.

The early-bird registration is €750 for members, and regular registration is €860. Onsite registration is €1000. For students, the equivalent registration is €250, €300, and €330. About 750 participants are expected in the Conference.

There will be 18 general symposia. These are: Additive Manufacturing of Polymers, Aeronautical and Aerospace Applications, Biomedical Applications, Composites, Blends and Alloys, Extrusion, Mixing and Compounding, Fibers and Films, Foams and Membranes, Injection Molding, Micromolding and Molds, Machine Learning in Polymer Processing, Modeling and Simulation, Morphology and Structure Development, Nanotechnology and Nanocomposites, Rheology and Characterization, Rubber, Elastomers and Thermosets, Smart Polymers and Special Applications, Soft Robotics, Surfaces and Interfaces, Sustainability (Recycling, LCA, Environmental Impact, Biodegradation).

Paestum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most important remains of Magna Graecia, the ancient Greek colonies in Southern Italy. Famous for the well-preserved Doric temples, Paestum offers a unique glimpse into classical antiquity.



The bay of Naples with Salerno and Paestum, where the PPS-41 will take place.



The hotel and conference center features a unique meeting and banquet space.



Ancient Greek Temple of Hera, Paestum, built in the Doric order around 460-450 BC.

## Upcoming Conferences of Interest to PPS Members

**Live Virtual Short Course, sponsored by the Golden Gate Polymer Forum**

**Introduction to Polymer Characterization: Molecular Architecture, Morphology, and Thermomechanical Response**

June 10-11, 2025

<https://ggpf.org/events/?ee=327>

### **HSR 2025**

11<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Society of Rheology Conference

Syros, Cyclades, Greece

June 11-14, 2025

<https://mathweb.aegean.gr/hsr2025/>

### **SOR 2025**

96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Rheology

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

October 19-23, 2025

[https://www.rheology.org/sor/Annual\\_Meeting/Default.aspx](https://www.rheology.org/sor/Annual_Meeting/Default.aspx)

### **2025 AIChE Annual Meeting**

Back Bay, Boston, MA, USA

November 2-6, 2025

<https://www.aiche.org/conferences/aiche-annual-meeting/2025>

---

## Next Newsletter – November 2025

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 2025.