



The 2012 Spring Meeting and 8th Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS) was one for the record books. Held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX, the conference was attended by 2,700 people from 30 countries — a 43% increase over the 2011 Spring Meeting in Chicago. Conference organizers attribute this success to many factors, including the popularity of Houston as a chemical engineering hub; a GCPS that continues to grow in content and impact; expanded topical conferences such as the 24th Ethylene Producers' Conference and 12th Natural Gas Utilization Conference; and a variety of first-time offerings, including the 1st International Conference on Upstream Engineering and Flow Assurance, and a Small Business Innovation Showcase co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Further contributing to the meeting's diverse appeal were International Perspectives sessions presented in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as presentations by authors from China.



▲ AIChE's 2012 President David Rosenthal (left) presented a thank-you plaque to John Middleton, General Arrangements Chair for the Spring Meeting, at a Mar. 31 Board of Directors' reception.



▲ AIChE leaders reconnected at the Board of Directors' reception. From left: John Cirucci, AIChE Director; Christi Patton Luks, Chair of the Societal Impact Operating Council; Annette Johnston, Chicago Local Section leader and Chair of AIChE's Research and New Technology Committee.

► Gregory Yeo (left), the Spring Meeting Program Chair, greeted Michael Dolan, Senior Vice President at ExxonMobil Corp., who presented a much-anticipated Spring Meeting/Global Congress on Process Safety joint Keynote address on Apr. 2. Dolan's talk, on process safety and corporate responsibility, kicked off the conference, and attracted a standing-room-only audience of nearly 1,200 people.



▲ A typically well-attended session, this GCPS Conference panel discussion was entitled "Great Process Safety Management: What Will it Look Like and Feel Like?"

Presented by AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and the Safety and Health Div., the 8th Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS), held Apr. 2–4, incorporated the 46th Loss Prevention Symposium, the 14th Process Plant Safety Symposium, and the 27th CCPS International Conference. The GCPS added new program tracks on Process Safety Management Mentoring (PSM<sup>2</sup>); Safety of Human Systems; and International Perspectives on Process Safety. The GCPS saw record attendance, with more than 900 participants and 54 exhibitors. The Global Congress concluded with a well-attended session entitled "Case Histories and Lessons Learned," including a presentation by Steve Flynn, Vice President of Health, Safety, Security and Environment at BP Global, London, about the Deepwater Horizon Incident and Response.



▲ On Apr. 2, CCPS Executive Director Scott Berger (right), along with GCPS chair Trey Morrison (seated), welcomed attendees to the 2012 Global Congress on Process Safety.

▼ GCPS Conference session co-chairs Jack McCavit (left) and Dawn Wurst solicited ideas from the floor during a discussion.



◀ Peter Lodal of Eastman Chemical spoke about "Applying Process Safety Management at a Major Chemical Company" during an Apr. 2 presentation.

► Daily luncheon speakers were highlights of the GCPS. Clockwise from near right: The Honorable Jessie Hill Roberson, Vice Chair of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, talked about process safety at U.S. defense nuclear facilities. Patrick F. Loughlin, Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety at Air Products, spoke about the history of process safety at his company. T. J. Larkin, President of Larkin Consulting, gave a lively talk on how to communicate process safety to operators.





▲ The Ethylene Producers' Topical Conference attracted some 350 attendees for events like this panel discussion devoted to ethylene plant transformation in the petrochemical industry.

▶ Young AIChE members attended the Spring Meeting Welcome Reception on Mar. 31. Various sessions tailored to the needs of young professionals were presented throughout the week.



▲ Marco Medrano Gonzalez explained his research at an Apr. 3 poster session and mixer sponsored by the Global Congress on Process Safety. More than 70 posters were presented.



▲ Dan Lambert (left), Chair of AIChE's Virtual Section and a member of the Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC), meets Phillip Westmoreland, AIChE's President-Elect, at the Volunteer Recognition Reception, Apr. 2.



◀ Frank van Lier, Operations Manager at Lubrizol, presented "Musings on Management" at the Industrial Leadership Keynote Luncheon, sponsored by the Management Div., Apr. 3.



▲▲ ... and a great time was had by all.



▶ Joseph Powell, the Spring Meeting Program Co-Chair, was also the featured speaker at the Fuels and Petrochemicals Div. Welcome Session on Apr. 2. His presentation was entitled "Future Fuels and Chemicals: Grand Challenges and Opportunities."



▲ At the inaugural Upstream Engineering and Flow Assurance Topical Conference, Geoffrey Hewitt of Imperial College, London, presented his talk on horizons in multiphase flow.



▲ In the exhibit area, Wendy Young, representing Chemstations, discussed her company's products with Spring Meeting Program Co-Chair Joseph Powell during an intercession break.



Photos by Jeff Fittow

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# Institute News

## Laurencin Recognized by *National Geographic*

Cato T. Laurencin, director of the Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the Univ. of Connecticut Health Center, has been recognized by *National Geographic* in a special issue of its magazine devoted to “100 Scientific Discoveries that Changed the World.” Laurencin, who is also chief executive officer of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, and the Van Dusen Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery, was cited for his research breakthroughs that may revolutionize the treatment of tears of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL)—one of the most common knee injuries.

Laurencin’s research includes a new approach to ACL regeneration that incorporates the use of a biocompatible and degradable synthetic braided scaffold



that would be surgically implanted to create ligament tissue. The scaffold would stabilize the knee and facilitate the creation of ligament tissue.

According to the *National Geographic* article, “The burgeoning field of regenerative medicine seeks nothing less than to provide patients with replacement body parts.” The article further states that Laurencin and his team have shown “the promotion of

new blood vessel and collagen growth within 12 weeks.”

Along with tissue engineering, Laurencin’s research has focused on biomaterials, drug delivery systems, nanotechnology, and stem cell science.

Laurencin was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2011, and is also a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2009, he received the Pierre Galletti Award, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering’s highest honor.

He was previously recognized by *Scientific American* magazine as one of the top 50 innovators for his work in tissue regeneration. In 2008, AIChE named Laurencin among “100 Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era.”

## Sheldon Isakoff, AIChE Past President and Director of DuPont R&D

Sheldon E. Isakoff, a former director of Engineering Research and Development at DuPont and a past president of AIChE, died on Jan. 29, 2012, in Chadds Ford, PA, at age 86.

In his 40-year career at DuPont, as both research director of the engineering materials laboratory and director of the engineering physics laboratory, Isakoff was instrumental in developing DuPont’s nylon and Dacron processes, improving the company’s Mylar and Cronar processes, and launching the world’s first Lycra plant.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Isakoff received his chemical engineering education at Columbia Univ., earning his PhD in 1947. During this period, he also served in the U.S. Navy as an engineering officer aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. In 1951, after serving as a Guest Fellow at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Isakoff joined DuPont’s research center in Wilmington, DE. There, he led

projects on chemical process dynamics, polymer processing technology, and the early application of analog and digital computers to technical problems. As head of Engineering R&D, he helped to create new businesses in life sciences, electronics, and advanced materials. He retired from DuPont in 1990.

A Fellow of AIChE, Isakoff was a founder of the Institute’s Materials Engineering and Sciences Div. (MESD). He served on AIChE’s Board of Directors in the 1980s, and was elected Institute President for 1990. He received numerous honors from AIChE, including the Founders Award for Contributions to the Profession (1980), the Institute Lectureship (1984), the MESD’s Stine Award (1986), the Chilton Award from the Wilmington Local Section (1994), the Management Div. Award (1996), and the Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute (1997).

Isakoff was a member of the

National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and served as an advisor to the National Science



Foundation and other institutions. He was also a president of the United Engineering Trustees and a chairman of the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

He maintained close ties with Columbia Univ., where he was an adjunct professor and an advisor to the chemical engineering department. He received the Columbia Alumni Association’s Egleston Medal for Distinguished Engineering Achievement in 1993. In 1996, he established the Sheldon E. Isakoff Scholarship at Columbia.

Isakoff’s wife, Anita, passed away in 2011. He is survived by his son, Peter, and his family.

## Revamped Instructor-Led Training will Debut this Fall

In September, AIChE Education will introduce the latest component of its expanding educational offerings with a new slate of Instructor-Led Training courses. These courses will also be available for customized, in-company presentation.

This relaunch of traditional continuing education classes marks the return of such sessions under the Institute's direct supervision. The management of AIChE's continuing education program had been transferred to AIChE's sister technical society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), in 2004, as part of AIChE's restructuring.

A dozen sessions are planned for Fall 2012, with the first two courses — on heat exchanger design, and conceptual design and capital cost estimating — to be held in San Francisco, CA, and New Orleans, LA, respectively, Sept. 10–12. Subsequent courses in 2012 will be held in Houston, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and Orlando, FL. The courses will cover project evaluation, process safety, solids flow, distillation, and bioengineering fundamentals. Some four-dozen additional Instructor-Led Training courses are expected in 2013.

According to Bette Lawler, AIChE's Director of Operations, "AIChE members say that providing continuing professional education is a vital part of the Institute's mission. AIChE has responded to that need with the launch of ChemE on Demand webinars in 2009 and the eLearning Center in 2011. Bringing back Instructor-Led Training represents the latest step in addressing member needs."

Leading the relaunch of Instructor-Led Training is AIChE's new Director of Education, Anne Schaeffer, who built a successful education program for the Direct Marketing Association. "AIChE's goal is to create the best overall continuing education program for chemical engineers," says Schaeffer. "With all the offerings back under one roof, we'll be able to provide chemical engineers with consistent, quality continuing education and let them decide the best way to access it — online or onsite." She added that some courses, such as Essentials of Chemical Engineering for Non-Engineers, are designed for nonmembers, as well.

AIChE is also planning to re-establish its tradition of providing in-company training. The program currently includes recent innovations, like "Process Safety Boot Camp," developed by AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS).

For more than 50 years, AIChE has provided chemical engineers with technical training courses — at its major conferences; through expert-led in-house continuing education classes; and, more recently, online.

For more information about AIChE's Instructor-Led Training courses, as well as all the offerings of AIChE Education, visit <http://aiche.learn.com>.

### Instructor-Led Training Schedule — Fall 2012

Date	City	Course Title
Sept. 10–12	San Francisco, CA	Heat Exchanger Design and Operations
Sept. 10–12	New Orleans, LA	Conceptual Development and Capital Cost Estimating
Sept. 12–13	New Orleans, LA	Project Evaluation: Operating Cost Estimating and Financial Analysis
Sept. 12–14	Houston, TX	Chemical and Bioengineering Fundamentals for Technical and Scientific Professionals
Oct. 1–3	Las Vegas, NV	CCPS's HAZOP Studies and Other PHA Techniques for Process Safety and Risk Management
Oct. 4–5	Las Vegas, NV	CCPS's Advanced Concepts for Process Hazard Analysis
Nov. 28–30	Orlando, FL	Essentials of Chemical Engineering for Non-Chemical Engineers
Dec. 3–5	Orlando, FL	Distillation in Practice
Dec. 4–5	Orlando, FL	Flow of Solids in Bins, Hoppers, Chutes, and Feeders
Dec. 5–7	Orlando, FL	Emergency Relief System (ERS) Design Using DIERS Technology
Dec. 5–7	Orlando, FL	CCPS's The OSHA Regulatory Approach to Process Safety Management
Dec. 6	Orlando, FL	Pneumatic Conveying of Bulk Solids

## Slate of Candidates Finalized for AIChE Election

AIChE's Nominating Committee has confirmed the slate of candidates for the positions of Institute president, secretary, and director for 2013.

### For President-Elect

- Otis A. Shelton, *Praxair, Inc.*
- John C. Tao, *O-Innovation Advisors LLC*

### For Secretary

- James C. Hill, *Iowa State Univ.*
- Christine B. Seymour, *Pfizer, Inc.*

### For Director (four to be elected)

- Tim Anderson, *Univ. of Florida*
- Raymond A. Cocco, *Particulate Solid Research, Inc.*
- Thomas F. Degnan, *ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Co.*
- L. S. Fan, *Ohio State Univ.*
- Paula T. Hammond, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Annette A. Johnston, *Abbott Laboratories*
- Michael R. Poirier, *Savannah River National Laboratory*
- Subhas Sikdar, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Election ballots will be mailed, and electronic proxy voting will begin, on July 25, 2012. Ballots will be due on Sept. 12, and the election results will be announced on Oct. 29 at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

Candidate platforms will be published in the July 2012 issue of *CEP*.

## In Memoriam

- Alfred G. Comolli, 82, Yardley, PA  
 Desmond J. Cousens, 67, St. Johns, NL  
 Wayne E. Hall, 78, Shreveport, LA  
 Robert Merims, 88, Colrain, MA  
 Anthony Pengidore, 51, Beaver, PA  
 Michael A. Piazza\*, 81, Kingsport, TN  
 Michael B. Ringley, 70, Moore, SC  
 J. Albert Rolston\*, 92, Delaware, OH  
 Frank B. Showalter, 73, Guntersville, AL  
 Robert E. Wright, 94, Bristol, VA

\* AIChE Fellow

# AIChE Calendar

## Conferences



For information and registration details, visit [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-203-702-7660 (outside the U.S.)

JUNE 5–7, 2012	<b>AIChE Process Development Symposium</b> HYATT house • King of Prussia, PA
JUNE 18–22, 2012	<b>International Congress on Sustainability Science and Engineering (ICOSSE) – Organized by AIChE's Institute for Sustainability (IfS) in association with ACHEMA 2012</b> Frankfurt am Main • Germany
JUNE 24–27, 2012	<b>Society for Biological Engineering's (SBE) 6th International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology</b> Univ. of California • Berkeley, CA
JULY 3–5, 2012	<b>4th Latin American Conference on Process Safety</b> Hotel Sofitel Rio de Janeiro Copacabana • Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
SEPT. 9–13, 2012	<b>57th Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium</b> Hyatt Regency Chicago • Chicago, IL
OCT. 4–5, 2012	<b>AIChE Regional Process Technology Conference</b> Southshore Harbour Conference Center • League City, TX
OCT. 28 – NOV. 2, 2012	<b>AIChE Annual Meeting and Student Conference</b> The David L. Lawrence Convention Center • Pittsburgh, PA
NOV. 11–14, 2012	<b>AIChE-A&amp;WMA Joint Workshop: Shale Oil and Gas E&amp;P – Water Challenges and Opportunities</b> The David L. Lawrence Convention Center • Pittsburgh, PA
NOV. 11–14, 2012	<b>Society for Biological Engineering's (SBE) and Institute for Sustainability's (IfS) Sustainability in (Bio)Pharmaceuticals Conference</b> Sheraton Old San Juan • San Juan, PR



## Webinars

Register and view live and archived webinars at <http://www.aiche.org/webinars/>

MAY 9, 2012 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Patents and the America Invents Act: Strategies in View of Patent Law Reform</b> Presented by Heath Briggs
MAY 23, 2012 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Energy Storage: Research Directions, Applications, and Limitations</b> Presented by Dr. Tim Mueller, Dr. Leon Shaw, and Dr. Trung Nan Nguyen; Moderated by Anita Luong
JUNE 20, 2012 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Chemical Product Design</b> Presented by Dr. Edward L. Cussler