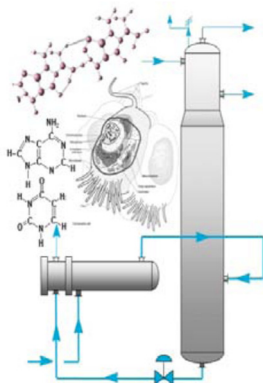


October Newsletter



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AIChE Chicago October Meeting

Mr. Kurt Thiede

EPA Region 5 Administrator

EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan



Date: ***Tuesday, October 20, 2020***

Where: Zoom

Cost: ***No Registration Fee. Voluntary Donation in link.***

Registration and Information

<https://www.cvent.com/d/77qcpv/1Q>

All attendees must register to get the passcode for the meeting.

Agenda

5:30—5:45: Zoom Meeting Opens

5:45—6:00: Section Announcements

6:00—7:30: Technical Presentation, Q&A

Chair's Corner

Our first monthly meeting of the 2020-2021 year was very successful. Dr. Said Al-Hallaj (AllCell Technologies, UIC) presented “Safety and Thermal Management of Li-ion Batteries for e-Mobility Applications”. This virtual event was well-attended, with 65 participants, and the meeting technology performed without issue. The participation level was not surprising, given the broad interest in the seminar topic and the logistical ease of joining an online meeting. Notably, however, the social/networking portion of the evening also had a flow and an energy that might have seemed difficult to achieve in a virtual meeting. These observations relate to my two of my three goals for the year that were communicated last month, which are to:



- Ensure that all virtual events maintain high levels of quality and engagement
- Judiciously deploy funds to best advance our mission
- Increase the visibility and membership of the Chicago Section

Our local section embraced digital technologies out of necessity when the pandemic disrupted the 2020 Midwest Regional Conference. However, we also wanted to ensure that any virtual events would continue to deliver high-quality presentations by respected speakers and positive environments for technical and social discussion, while also growing our reach. Monthly meetings, at least until the end of 2020, and the 2021 Midwest Regional Conference will be conducted virtually.

We hope that online meetings help people participate who might otherwise have had trouble doing so, perhaps because of work, family commitments, etc. Interesting presentations by talented speakers are a great reason to join our monthly meetings, but remember that we want to build a community of chemical engineers. The meetings provide a great opportunity to learn from chemical engineers working in different companies/industries, to catch up with old friends, and to make new ones. Current economic and corporate uncertainties highlight how important professional networking can be, especially as so many workers across different fields are seeking jobs. So, even if you've never come to a monthly meeting before, check out our October one and prepare to be warmly

welcomed!

Our volunteers are passionate about our local section and want to spread the word about our meetings and other events, so we encourage you to forward the newsletter and any announcements to your colleagues who might be interested. In fact, we are seeking people who would like to serve as liaisons by helping distribute AIChE Chicago Section information to others at their place of work/study, or to help us establish contact at new companies in the region. Contact aichechicago@gmail.com for more information. Your efforts can help our community grow and thrive...and hopefully convert some new virtual participants to become in-person ones in the future.

Jeffrey M. Zalc
AIChE Chicago Section Chair
AIChE Senior Member

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR THE ERNEST W. THIELE AWARD

The Ernest W. Thiele award is sponsored by bp and recognizes the outstanding contributions to our profession by a Midwest region chemical engineer. This award was established by the AIChE Chicago Section and is presented annually to a Midwest region AIChE member. This internationally recognized award consists of an engraved plaque and \$1,000 honorarium presented at a monthly section meeting.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from the Thiele Committee Chair.

Completed nominations are due to the committee chair no later than **April 01, 2021**.

One of the highest honors a distinguished chemical engineer can receive is our AIChE Chicago Section Thiele award. Please consider nominating a deserving engineer for this prestigious award.

Jeffrey Zalc
bp Solutions, P&O
phone: 630.881.5478
email: jeffrey.zalc@bp.com

October Meeting Information

Speaker's Bio:

Kurt Thiede

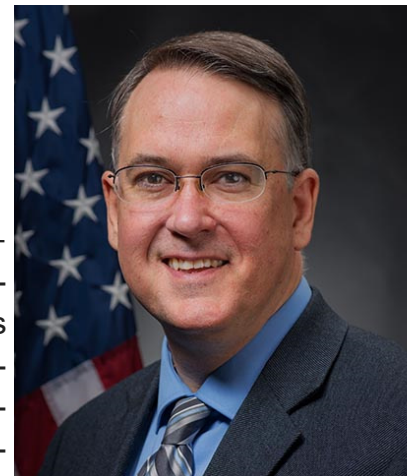
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5 Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager

Kurt Thiede serves as the Regional Administrator for EPA Region 5. His responsibilities include overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal governments. One of his roles is manager of EPA's Great Lakes National Program, in which he leads restoration and protection of the largest freshwater system in the world. Previously, he was the chief of staff for the Region, fostering strong partnerships to promote collaborative environmental protection efforts.

Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Thiede served as deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 2015 to 2017. As deputy, he served as the chief operations officer for the agency, overseeing a \$500 million annual operating budget and providing leadership and direction to the agency's 2,400 full-time employees. He served on the Governor's Management Cabinet and oversaw the agency's organizational realignment, and biennial budget setting process. He is an 18-year veteran of WDNR, and previously spent four years as the administrator for the Land Division, where he was responsible for Wisconsin's state parks and trails programs, wildlife management, endangered resources, public land management, land acquisitions, capitol de-

velopment, and land use and recreational planning programs.

Throughout his 20-year state and federal career he has promoted the concepts of collaboration, creative problem-solving, common-sense decision-making, and active stakeholder engagement. Mr. Thiede has a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management and biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and in 2016 he received an outstanding alumnus award from their school of natural resources



Abstract:

EPA Region 5 Administrator Kurt Thiede will discuss agency and regional priorities. A major focus for the administration is emerging contaminants – with a significant national focus on PFAS. Mr. Thiede will highlight EPA's PFAS Action Plan and the actions Region 5 and its partner states are taking to implement the plan. Although new and emerging contaminants are one of the pressing issues of our day, pollution prevention on a broader scale continues to be a priority for the administration through tools like the Toxic Release Inventory helping curb pollutants from entering communities. Beyond specific program initiatives, Mr. Thiede will share some of the ways he and Administrator Wheeler are working to improve the way EPA interacts with the regulated community and the people it serves.

To Register:

<https://www.cvent.com/d/77qcpv/1Q>

***Congratulations to Chicago
Area members
Winner of 2020 AIChE
35 under 35***

The AIChE 35 Under 35 Award honors engineers under the age of 35 who have made significant contributions to the Institute and to the chemical engineering profession.

Sarika Goel

Senior R&D Scientist

Honeywell UOP

Goel works in hydroprocessing, where she develops next-generation catalysts for hydrocracking technology, petrochemical applications, and clean fuel production that improves air quality. She highly values education and volunteers at the nonprofit Asha for Education to support the education of underprivileged children in India. Goel is particularly interested in outreach for young girls. She is always in the mood for a cup of traditional, homemade Indian tea.



Charles Sing

Associate Professor,

Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sing's research group studies computational and theoretical polymer physics, and his current projects focus on molecular



and sequence properties of polyelectrolyte solutions, out-of-equilibrium rheology of semidilute polymers, and polymers with nonlinear architectures. He was recognized as one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 in Science in 2015. Sing and his wife have two cats that sit on his notes, books, and laptop while he works from home.

Kushal Sinha

Engineer

AbbVie

Sinha leads an advanced modeling and simulation group to enhance model-driven process development, and he has guided AbbVie's journey to incorporating cloud computing, machine learning, and AI. He believes that traditional engineering is far from reaching its full potential in terms of computational tools. He also loves experimental cooking, though his wife occasionally scolds him for ruining recipes.



2020-2021 Meeting Schedule and Speakers

Month	Date	Speaker Name	Speaker Affiliation	Topic
September	Monday 28 th	Dr. Said Al-Hallaj	AllCell/UIC	Safety and thermal management of Li-ion batteries
October	Tuesday 20 th	Mr. Kurt Thiede	EPA	National PFAS plan
November	Thursday 12 th	Prof. Lars Grabow	Houston	Computational Catalysis
January	TBD	TBD	Joint with Chicago ACS	
February	Wednesday 17 th	Assoc. Prof. Ah-Hyung (Alissa) Park	Columbia	Energy Conversion / CO ₂ sequestration
March	TBD Week of 15 th	Prof. Sohail Murad	IIT	Process Synthesis; joint with MRC
April	Tuesday 13 th	Dr. Ted Krause	Argonne	H ₂ generation and utilization
May	TBD	TBD		

Volunteers Needed for Chicago Local Section

How many opportunities can you find to learn project management, delegation and leadership skills for free? Volunteering with the Chicago Section of AIChE is such an opportunity. While you're learning new skills, your local network grows.

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Programming – arrange speakers for monthly meetings, and arrange catering and venues
- Logistics – arrange catering and venues
- Newsletter Editor – prepare and publish ten monthly newsletters
- Newsletter Contributions – write meeting summaries, contribute photos, and more
- Engineering Outreach – coordinate three annual K-12 outreach events with high schools and colleges
- Professional Development and Sponsorship – arrange companies to sponsor pre-meeting talks to help fund student dinners
- Awards and Scholarship Committees – Review applications for local Section award and scholarships
- Midwest Regional Conference – many opportunities including programming, logistics, website, advertising, sponsorship, high school outreach, poster session and more!
- Young Professionals – plan socials and programming for young professionals (under 35)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact us aichechicago@gmail.com.

Why Renew Your AIChE Membership?

Renew your membership now to keep learning and growing.

Renew Membership



Stay Connected to 40,000+ international members who take advantage of:

- Subscription to AIChE's flagship publication: CEP*
- Education—Access to e-learning courses and instructor-led training, offering Continuing Education Units and PDHs
- Access to CareerEngineer—a comprehensive job site tailored to chemical engineers
- Access to the AIChE eLibrary—a wealth of information from Knovel Life Sciences and the McGraw-Hill AccessEngineering Library collections

[View COMPLETE benefits](#)

[Connect with members & participate in discussions on Engage!](#)

Check out AIChE's member benefit, AIChE Engage. Use the robust directory search to find and connect with members. Participate in technical, career, and academic discussions about chemical engineering.

Officers and Contact Information

Chair	Jeff Zalc
Chair Elect	Ha Dinh
Chair Programming	<i>Christopher Nicholas</i>
Secretary	Ignasi Palou-Rivera
Treasurer	McKay Rytting
Directors at Large	Robert Tsai
	Pat Shannon
	Olha Zvarych
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We are on the web
www.aiche.org/Chicago

We want you for AICHe-Chicago!

We need your help!

How many opportunities can you find to learn project management, delegation and leadership skills for free? Becoming an officer in the Chicago Section of AICHe is such an opportunity. While you're learning new skills, your local network grows. Just about all of us are either undergoing a career change, contemplating a career change, or are wondering if our career will be changed for us. Volunteering with AICHe is a way to add skills and accomplishments to your resume.

aichechicago@gmail.com

<http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/announcements/volunteerism>

Submitting Articles to AICHe Columns

We welcome email submissions for our monthly newsletter. Commercial announcements are subject to the fee schedule below. News stories, editorials, technical or career related non-commercial contributions are always welcome with no charge. We consider job postings, announcements of for-fee training courses, expositions, conferences as commercial. Categorization of announcements is at the sole discretion of the Chicago AICHe Board of Directors. Chicago AICHe may publicize activities of interest to our members by cooperating professional societies and other non-profits without charge.

Please submit your material to aichechicago@gmail.com with "newsletter article" as a subject line.

