FLUOROPOLYMER 2020 – *Denver, June 2020*

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Fluoropolymers are enabling materials which find applications in critical technologies from energy conversion, to microelectronics and photonics, to extreme environment applications to biomaterials. Traditional fluoropolymer technology is nearly 65 years old and it maintains a growth rate above the US GNP. In addition to perfluoropolymers, partially fluorinated polymers will continue to impact a wide range of technologies as better control of their unique optical, electronic, processing, extreme environment stability, and surface properties is achieved. This will be the 11th biennial FLUOROPOLYMER conference hosted by the Division of Polymer Chemistry.

BUDGET

With the help of the POLY Business Office, the budget will be submitted based on conference facility fees and speaker/session chair requirements once the contracts are signed. It is anticipated that registrations for approximately 10 speakers will need to be partially waived (registration reduced to $375) to attract the appropriate speakers. Academia and government are expected to be well-represented. We expect industrial contributions to help aid in enhancing the attendee experience through social functions and awards. Below are the estimated workshop registration fees.

$795 Member Registration
$845 Non-Member Registration
$375 Member Student Registration
$425 Non-Member Student Registration

LOCATION AND TIMING

Denver is proposed for this event in summer, June 2020. Traditionally, this event has been held on the east coast in the fall up until 2010. In 2010, with the assistance of Bruno Ameduri, the event was moved to Meze, France with great success. Now, to cater to the mostly US attendees, the event has moved back to the US as is the desire of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry to better control finances. For 2014 the event was held on the west coast an effort to draw in more of a Pacific Rim audience. The decision has been successful with more than 125 in attendance in 2012 (Las Vegas) and 95 in 2014 (San Diego). The Chairs believed that the timing is right to move the event back closer to the central US and Denver is an ideal city in the summer to de-conflict with many conferences programmed in the fall and spring. This meeting drew 110 attendees and was the most internationally diverse based on historical records.

Denver is ideal for many reasons: large airport, low-cost public transportation, middle of US (makes East/West coast travelers happy), and, we hope, is a cost-effective city with plenty of curb appeal. The Polymer Division Business Office has good relations with FP18 hotel and this is one of the key motivators to retain the Denver location.

PROGRAMMING, SESSION TOPICS, AND MEETING MATERIALS

Proposed format (based on average of 48 speakers):

Sun late-afternoon – Registration (12-1 pm), Welcome Remarks & Program (1-6 pm), Reception (6-7:30 pm)

Mon – Full day of programming and networking reception (if enough sponsor money)

Tue – Full day of programming with extended afternoon break for site seeing/networking and evening Poster Session/Networking Reception

Wed – Half day of programming and evening Networking Reception
Session Topics:

Fundamental and advanced technology tutorials
Monomer and polymer synthesis and mechanisms
Structure / property relationships
Coatings and surfaces
Biological and biomedical applications
Membrane and filtration
Energy applications (storage, conversion, transmission)
Photonic, optical, and electronic applications
Industrial elastomers and plastics
Composites, hybrids, and interphases
Semi-fluorinated polymers for emerging applications
Environmental impact and regulatory status
Reactive and energetic materials (very popular since started at FP2012)
Advanced manufacturing such as additive manufacturing
Recycling

Fluoropolymer 2014 opted to take advantage of the newly developed e-Workshop Website to provide attendees their meeting materials as developed by the POLY Business Office, rather than in printed form. The response was overwhelmingly positive and plans are to utilize this again as appropriate. This will save attendees money and allow for last-minute updates as the program develops.

OBJECTIVES

1. Bring together leading research scientists and engineers in this field from around the world to give state-of-the-art presentations on advances in fluoropolymers and future needs in this field;
2. Establish a constructive dialogue among government, academic, and industrial representatives in order to discuss scientific problems, to network, and to foster collaborations;
3. Promote better awareness of the versatility of fluorine chemistry in polymer science;
4. Provide training to graduate students, postdocs and younger professionals.

VISION

To conduct a conference in fluoropolymers in a desirable location with reasonable cost, beginning on Sunday afternoon and ending on Wednesday morning. The activities include authoritative lectures from academic, government, and industrial scientists and engineers, poster presentations, informal discussions, networking, and social interactions. Programming the 11th installment in the series, this workshop seems to have already created a community of fluoropolymer scientists and engineers.