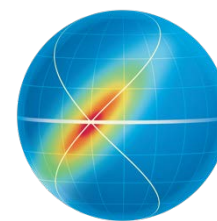


Dear DPOLY community,

Cancelled

By now, you must have learned the sad news that the APS decided to cancel its largest annual meeting in Denver, CO. While we received cancellations from many attendees (particularly from Asia) during the past two weeks, this decision came as a big surprise to many of us. We understand the reasons behind the decision (you can read more about it on the APS website at <https://www.aps.org/>). The primary reason is the worry about spreading the coronavirus COVID-19. Still, the timing of the cancellation was very awkward. While many APS members were able to cancel their travel to Denver, some people, who arrived in Denver before the decision was made, will deal with the ordeals of rebooking their flights, hotel reservations, etc.



This newsletter contains information we planned to share with the community during the DPOLY business meeting to be held on March 3, 2020.

The March APS meeting has always been the highlight of our unit activities, and this year was not supposed to be any different. In fact, during this meeting, we planned to celebrate 100 years of polymer science, and many other events. The DPOLY Program Chair, Connie Roth (Emory University), put together a terrific program and highlighted the most exciting research that many of you have carried out and wanted to share with the community. Sadly, this will not happen. We thank Connie and the many people who helped her to organize focus and invited sessions for their efforts. They have done an outstanding job collectively. We express our regret that the meeting did not take place as planned.

Based on Connie's records, we had planned for:

- 9 Invited sessions (2 co-sponsored one each with FIAP and DSOF)—45 invited speakers
- 49 DPOLY-led Contributed sessions with 63 invited speakers and 625 oral contributed talks
- 169 Posters
- Total of 794 contributed abstracts + 108 invited abstracts = 902 DPOLY abstracts
- Out of the Total 108 DPOLY Invited speakers, 34 were International (31.5%)
- 54 Additional Co-sponsored sessions with DPOLY, DSOF, DBIO, GSNP, DFD, FIAP, DCOMP, GDS, DMP, DCP, GSCCM, DAMOP, DCMP, DLS

Some of the notes below are repeats from our fall and winter DPOLY newsletters; others are new items.

Virtual Sessions

Short Course Wrap-Up

Debbie Audus (NIST) and Jon Whitmer (University of Notre Dame) organized the DPOLY short course on "*Machine Learning for Polymer Physicists*." While the Saturday session took place, the Sunday meeting was canceled by the APS. From what we have learned from the attendees, the Saturday portion of the short course went very well. Debbie and Jon have arranged for most of the short course to be completed on Wednesday March 4, 2020, in a virtual session only for short course attendees. We thank Debbie and Jon for their outstanding efforts, and we are sorry that the short course could not be completed as planned.

Padden Award Symposium

The Frank J. Padden, Jr. Award sponsored since 1997 by the College of Polymer Science and Engineering, University of Akron, consisting of a certificate and appropriate recognition, honors a graduate student for "*Excellence in Polymer Physics Research*." In light of the cancellation of the March Meeting, DPOLY will be hosting a **Virtual Session for the Padden Award Competition on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 11:15 AM (Mountain time)**. Each of the finalists will give a 12-minute (including time for questions) oral presentation. The session will be attended by the Education Committee, who will serve as judges, and by any other interested members of DPOLY or APS. The winner will be selected based on the quality of the research, the presentation, and responses to questions. If you have questions for the participants, please send them via Webex messaging tool or email to the session organizer, Ramanan Krishnamoorti (RKrishna@Central.UH.EDU). We will announce the winners of the symposium in a separate newsletter.

JOIN WEBEX MEETING Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 11.15 AM (mountain time)

<https://uhenergy.my.webex.com/uhenergy.my/j.php?MTID=maba244f0cc54199f1da0e9e7b4265026>

Meeting number (access code): 625 494 553

Meeting password: 2NruFrwgS23

JOIN BY PHONE

+1-510-338-9438 USA Toll

Tap here to call (mobile phones only, hosts not supported): [tel:%2B1-510-338-9438,,*01*625494553%23%23*01*](tel:%2B1-510-338-9438,%2A01*625494553%23%23*01*)

Global call-in numbers:

<https://uhenergy.my.webex.com/uhenergy.my/globalcallin.php?MTID=me217b19c1046e267a4775e1990e296cd>

JOIN FROM A VIDEO SYSTEM OR APPLICATION

Dial [sip:625494553@uhenergy.my.webex.com](tel:sip:625494553@uhenergy.my.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial [sip:625494553.uhenergy.my@lync.webex.com](tel:sip:625494553.uhenergy.my@lync.webex.com)

Hosting Other Virtual Sessions

To host other virtual sessions, please see <https://march.aps.org/about/sharing-your-research/> and submit your info https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScyaXG5zdDiGT1fVAJAM4CAbkckjoMT_2-vmUdVR6ShNUDMAQ/viewform Thank you!!

Jeffrey Ethier is hosting his session titled "Dynamics of Polymers and Soft Materials: Nano- to Meso-Scale" in the DSOFTE Virtual Meeting. It will be held this Friday at 11am EST. If you are interested in giving a talk at this session, please add your talk through the google doc.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YyVkhbnvB5JEH99Vn-BeutdAWIabmE6QKLB5kSiiJ0w/htmlview?sle=true#gid=0> Thanks!

Awards

During the meeting, we planned to celebrate the winners of the DPOLY prizes during special symposia on 3/3/2020. The 2020 winner of the Polymer Physics Prize is **Kurt Binder** of the University of Mainz, Germany "for outstanding contributions to statistical physics of polymers, in particular phase transitions and critical phenomena, and for demonstrating the role of polymers as key systems to study central concepts of modern condensed matter physics." The Dow Chemical Company has sponsored this

award. The 2020 winner of the John H. Dillon Medal is **Rodney Priestley** of the Princeton University, which recognizes his *“impactful experiments illuminating the glass transition, and for novel processes for the controlled formation of polymer thin films and structured nanocolloids,”* as a young polymer physicist. Elsevier has sponsored this early career award. Congratulations to both winners!

Unfortunately, due to the cancelation of the meeting, the two prize sessions could not take place. Other divisions that organize prize sessions are also affected. At the Executive Committee meeting conference call on Sunday (March 1, 2020) night, we decided to wait for the APS to let us know how they plan to handle the prize sessions. We will keep the community updated once we receive further information from the APS leadership.

As noted above, we will announce the Padden Award winner soon!

The APS approved the recommendation of the DPOLY for new APS Fellows. They are (alphabetically): **Michael Chabiny**c (University of California at Santa Barbara), **Connie Roth** (Emory University), **Dimitris Vlassopoulos** (University of Crete, Greece), **Bryan Vogt** (Pennsylvania State University), and **Ting Xu** (University of California at Berkeley). We congratulate the new APS Fellows for their election.

Leadership and Member Participation

The DPOLY has approved the new bylaws, <https://www.aps.org/units/dpoly/governance/bylaws.cfm>

The DPOLY elected Mahesh Mahanthappa (University of Minnesota) and Zahra Fakhraai (University of Pennsylvania) as the new Vice-Chair and the Member at Large of DPOLY, respectively. We thank Venkat Ganesan (UT Austin) and Keiji Tanaka (Kyushu University) for standing for the election.

The DPOLY Executive Committee elected Thomas O'Connor (Sandia) as a new Early Career/Student Member of DPOLY's Executive Committee. We thank Ryan Poling-Skutvik (University of Pennsylvania) for standing for the election.

Starting in 2020, the DPOLY community will select the Early Career/Student Member of DPOLY's Executive Committee (just like the position of the Vice-Chair and the Member at Large). Please send suggestions about potential candidates to Steve Hudson (steven.hudson@nist.gov), Amalie Frischknecht (alfrisc@sandia.gov), and Chinedum Osuji (cosuji@seas.upenn.edu), the chair of the DPOLY nominating committee.

Darrin Pochan and Arthi Jayaraman (both University of Delaware) "retire" from their current positions as the Past Chair of DPOLY and the Member at Large of DPOLY, respectively. We thank Darrin and Arthi for their great service to DPOLY.

Amalie Frischknecht (Sandia) will become the new Chair of DPOLY, Ramanan Krishamoorti (University of Houston) will become the Chair-Elect of DPOLY, and Jan Genzer (NC State) will become the Past Chair of DPOLY. Amalie, Ramanan, Mahesh, Jan, and Steve Hudson, the division secretary/treasurer, will continue working together with the Program Committee to rectify the current situation and prepare the community for the March 2021 meeting.

Our DPOLY councilor, Muthu, has nothing major to report.

Nominations for the Frank J. Padden Jr. Award will be due sometime in October 2020. We will inform you about the actual date. Please email the nominations to Mahesh Mahanthappa (maheshkm@umn.edu) using the subject line "Padden_name of the student".

We encourage everyone to submit ideas for new program sessions for the March 2021 meeting. The Program Chair for the March 2021 meeting is Pinar Akcora (pakcora@stevens.edu). We will try to hold the missed session on "100 years of polymer science" (well, it will be "101 years of polymer science", as Connie and Pinar call it), and feature sessions on other emerging topics. We will also hold a focus session for the UKPPG/DPOLY lecture exchange. Please contact Pinar with ideas about possible focus and invited sessions.

Please contact Mahesh with ideas about the March 2021 short course by the end of May 2020. Mahesh's email is maheshkm@umn.edu.

Please consider nominating our colleagues for the Polymer Physics Prize, the John H. Dillon Award, and the APS Fellowship. The deadline is June 1, 2020. The rules for the nomination are posted at the DPOLY website <https://www.aps.org/units/dpoly/awards/index.cfm>. Please send nominations for the UKPPG/DPOLY lecturer to Amalie (alfrisc@sandia.gov) by December 31, 2020.

Some APS members have inadvertently let their DPOLY membership lapse. Please make sure that your DPOLY membership is active. You may even consider signing up for life membership <https://www.aps.org/membership/life.cfm>.

The DPOLY membership has reached a low in 2019. In October DPOLY membership was 1682, then it plunged to 1459 in December. We need more members to sign up. Please continue advertising the DPOLY to your constituencies.

Communication

Have you asked, for example, "When is DPOLY going to tell us about the reception?" You may not be getting DPOLY emails (sent from the APS)...

In 2019 the APS adopted the new communication system. It is not without flaws. Some of us have experienced hiccups, being automatically unsubscribed! Please go to your personal APS account (aps.org) and make sure that in your profile "My communication preferences" you uncheck the "All Email Opt Out" option. Some IT systems automatically activate the link "unsubscribe from all APS emails". We have communicated with the APS about this glitch. If this continues to be a problem, and "All Email Opt Out" is checked (yes, it may trigger several times), there are two solutions: 1) Contact your IT department to request an exception for aps.org/unsubscribe, and then after that is implemented uncheck "All Email Opt Out". Or 2) Switch to your personal email account (change your settings in your APS profile). We apologize for this extra burden. We recognize that this message will not go to all DPOLY members. Please inform your DPOLY colleagues about this hiccup (if you can). We will post the DPOLY newsletter on our website (<https://www.aps.org/units/dpoly/index.cfm>).

Gordon Research Conference on Polymer Physics

Sanat Kumar (Columbia University) is the chair of the upcoming Polymer Physics GRC (July 26-31, 2020) and GRS (July 25-26, 2020) that will be held at Mt Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. The GRC program (which is available at <https://www.grc.org/polymer-physics-conference/2020/>) emphasizes block copolymers, nanocomposites, charged polymers, networks in addition to new areas in polymer physics

(big data, membranes, coacervates, polymers for sustainability). Please note that the workshop attendance is capped at 200. We currently have 185 applicants. So please apply ASAP and include a poster title if you would like to participate in that forum. The Polymer Physics GRS (<https://www.grc.org/polymer-physics-grs-conference/2020/>), which precedes the GRC, will select 12 speakers from applicants. We currently have 60 applicants, and registration is capped at 70. Please contact Whitney Loo (wloo@berkeley.edu) and Konane Bay (konane@mail.pse.umass.edu) to be considered for a GRS talk or poster. Please also send an abstract and include your advisor's name. Sanat's email is sk2794@columbia.edu.

The DPOLY Executive Committee