



SPRING MEETING AND GLOBAL CONGRESS ON PROCESS SAFETY WILL CONVENE IN SAN ANTONIO, APR. 28 – MAY 2

New topical conferences devoted to clean energy and chemical manufacturing, a special session about P.E. licensure, and a dual-format poster session will be only some of the opportunities to learn and network at AIChE's 2013 Spring Meeting and 9th Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS). The conference, to be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX, Apr. 28 – May 2, will explore a wide range of topics of interest to practicing engineers across a spectrum of industry sectors. The complete program and registration information are available at www.aiche.org/conferences/spring.

With the embracing of new technologies becoming more crucial each year, the Spring Meeting and GCPS continue to grow in stature and impact. Some 2,700 practitioners from around the world, representing industry, academia, and government agencies, attended last year's conference. In addition to the meeting's influential topical conferences and the Global Congress, the meeting's organizers strive to meet the needs of practicing engineers, with innovative events like a process-safety-management mentoring track. Meeting attendees can hone their skills at short courses, and young professionals will find sessions designed to help them develop professional connections. Networking receptions, social events, and exhibits will round out the experience.

Topical conferences

The 2013 Spring Meeting contains nearly 150 sessions across seven topical conferences and special program tracks.

This year, a new topical conference will address **Emerging Technologies**



in Clean Energy in the 21st Century

— covering developments in sustainable and renewable fuels production. On Monday, Apr. 29, Sunita Satyapal, Director of the Fuel Cell Technologies Office at the U.S. Dept. of Energy, will launch this event with a keynote talk entitled “Progress and Challenges in Emerging Clean Energy Technology: A Case Study in Hydrogen and Fuel Cells from the U.S. Dept. of Energy.”

Another new topical conference, **Chemical Manufacturing for the 21st Century**, will examine changes in unit operations, equipment, and system design, as well as practices that lead to operating excellence.

Also new in 2013 is the **Kister Distillation Symposium** (named for the renowned “Tower Doctor” Henry Kister), where attendees will learn about design improvements and troubleshooting of distillation columns, and methods that lead to greener processes.

This year marks the **25th Ethylene Producers' Conference (EPC)** — featuring a look back at the past 25 years in the ethylene industry, including the EPC's contributions to process safety and a review of critical issues for today's ethylene producers. The Ethylene Conference kicks off on Monday, Apr. 29, with a keynote presentation by Martin Bruce, Vice President of Engineering and Projects at Nova Chemicals, whose talk is entitled “Ethylene: Past, Present, and Future.”

Another track, the **13th Topical Conference on Gas Utilization**, will

include a Shale Oil and Gas Panel Discussion and Q&A (Monday afternoon, Apr. 29). At the Gas Utilization Luncheon on Wednesday, May 1, Yu-Nan Liu, LNG Technical Director at Air Products, will give a keynote talk on his company's LNG technology development.

Added attractions

The **Fuels and Petrochemicals Div. Welcome Session** on Monday morning, Apr. 29, will open with a keynote address by Dan Romasko, Executive Vice President of Operations at Tesoro Corp., on the rebirth of manufacturing in the U.S. and its implications for chemical engineers — such as the improved competitiveness of the U.S. in the global oil and gas market, and the growing need for skilled engineers to support that growth.

The **Process Development Div.'s Plenary Session** (also on Monday morning) will feature two speakers: Richard Palluzi, Sr. Engineering Associate at ExxonMobil, will speak on “Pilot Plants: Past, Present, and Future,” and Joseph Powell, Chief Scientist at Shell Global, will discuss “Process Development: Managing Risk and Expectations.”

Also, a **Spring Meeting Networking Luncheon** (Monday, Apr. 29), will



▲ Remember ... the AIChE Spring Meeting and Global Congress on Process Safety, Apr. 28 – May 2. Photo © Richard A. McMillin

MeetingPreview

allow attendees with diverse backgrounds to network. Tables will be labeled by engineering specialization, and guests can choose where they sit.

Yet another special event is a **P.E. Licensure Session** (Tuesday afternoon, Apr. 30), where attendees will learn about professional engineering licensure from the point of view of the engineer, the employer, and the public, as well as the educational requirements, exams, and critical issues connected with P.E. licensure.

Rounding out the program will be events targeted at a variety of interests — including a Speed Networking Social for Young Professionals (Sunday evening, Apr. 28), a panel discussion on work-life balance sponsored by the Women's Initiatives Committee (Monday, Apr. 29), and a program for undergraduate students.

Global Congress on Process Safety

Each year, AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and Safety and Health Div. organize the Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS; www.aiche.org/gcps) — the world's largest gathering of process safety professionals. At the GCPS, participants explore new ways to avoid incidents, manage risk, ensure plant safety, and strengthen process-safety-management programs.

The GCPS integrates the sessions of three major conferences. At the **28th CCPS International Conference**, attendees will examine topics such as hazard identification and risk assessment, human factors in risk management, and case histories and lessons learned —

including how to make the transition from “lesson” to “learned.” The **47th Loss Prevention Symposium** will bring together practitioners from industry, academia, and government agencies, with a focus on fire and explosion hazards, including an exploration of technical advances and best practices in the field. At the **15th Process Plant Safety Symposium**, attendees will consider the future of process safety, regulatory impacts, and lessons learned from incidents and near-misses.

Two recently launched special tracks return to the GCPS program. The **International Perspectives on Process Safety** sessions will feature presentations by Latin American authors (in Spanish and Portuguese) and by authors from India and Japan (in English). During the **Process Safety Management Mentoring (PSM²)** track on Monday and Tues-



day, process safety professionals at all levels can share their experiences. This year, PSM² is focused on bringing young professionals into the process safety field.

The GCPS will also feature highly regarded luncheon

speakers from India, Canada, and Colombia. At the Monday, Apr. 29, luncheon, V. V. SuryaRau, President of Group Manufacturing Services at Reliance Industries Ltd., will deliver a talk entitled “Taking the Religion of Process Safety to the Land of Ancient Religions.” On Tuesday, Fred Henselwood, Process Safety Leader at Nova Chemical Corp., will discuss “Risk: Science and Perceptions, and Why We Fail.” Wednesday's luncheon will feature Néstor Fernando Saavedra, Vice President of Innovation and Technology at Ecopetrol, who will talk about his company's strategy for meeting the challenges in process safety.

The GCPS will also offer short courses (in both English and Spanish) on Sunday, Apr. 28, and a new dual-format poster session on Monday, Apr. 29 (see sidebar).

Follow the activities online

AIChE will post updates on its social media channels throughout the Spring Meeting. News, photos, videos, and coverage of special events and keynote speakers will be available at ChEnected, AIChE's online community blog: www.chenected.com/spring; on Facebook: www.facebook.com/chenected; and via Twitter feeds: @chenected. The hashtags are #AIChESpring and #GCPS.

CEP

ELECTRONIC POSTERS AT THE SPRING MEETING AND GCPS

Traditional paper poster presentations are about to go modern, with the debut of dual-format poster presentations. More than 100 posters will be presented at the Spring Meeting and GCPS Poster Session and Reception, on Monday, Apr. 29, 5:00–7:00 p.m. In addition to displaying the familiar poster boards, a selection of authors will also discuss their work via PowerPoint presentations on electronic flat screens. These PowerPoint posters will be scheduled throughout the two-hour session, and attendees will be able to view posters in the format of their choice. The electronic posters will also be available for examination and more detailed discussion in the traditional manner.



REGISTER NOW

Register online for the Spring Meeting and Global Congress at www.aiche.org/conferences/spring.