



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORLD'S PREMIER ANNUAL CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MEETING  
KICKS OFF IN NASHVILLE, HIGHLIGHTING  
ENERGY, MEDICAL ADVANCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*Special session focus on challenges of sustainable energy in Southeastern US.*

**NASHVILLE** – The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), the world's leading association for chemical engineers, is holding its Annual Meeting here this week, with a focus on the future of renewable energy, sustainability, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. More than four thousand corporate and academic leaders, engineers, and students from around the world are expected.

Throughout the week there will be more than 700 sessions, including 12 topical conferences focused on issues such as the hydrogen economy, women and minorities in engineering, solar power, and green engineering for sustainable energy.

The conference begins on Monday morning with a plenary session that will discuss recent changes in energy policy and new technology in the US. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Innovation Award and Lecture, which recognizes a company for outstanding innovation, will be presented on Thursday morning. Uma Chowdhry, senior vice president and chief science and technology officer of DuPont, will describe how new advances in technology should help improve standards of living around the world, while sustaining resources and the environment.

Most events are being held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. This year's program also includes the annual meeting of the American Electrophoresis Society.

“The conference provides a unique opportunity for our members to keep up with the latest research and information in fields that span the scope of chemical engineering,” said June Wispelwey, AIChE executive director. “Chemical engineers transform new technologies into

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new products and processes which help spur economic development – making our members a vital part of economic growth in the US and across the globe.”

## **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Many of the week's presentations will focus on energy and other critical issues. At Monday's plenary session, *Looking Forward – Energy Policy and Technology*, a panel of speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy, companies, universities and government laboratories will discuss changes in the American administration, energy policy and funding, R&D and capital projects, with special attention to clean coal technologies and biofuels.

Also on Monday, Karl Haider, innovation manager in the new technology group of Bayer MaterialScience LLC, will explain how his company aligns corporate social responsibility with sustainability to create innovative solutions that address challenges to our way of life. In his lecture, *The Innovation Equation: Corporate Social Responsibility + Sustainability = Innovation*, Haider will focus on nanotechnology and its role in sustainable energy development, buildings and construction solutions, alternative energy vehicle developments and more.

Each year, AIChE invites one distinguished chemical engineer to present a comprehensive review of his or her specialty. This year's Institute Lecturer is Norman Li, a former senior scientist at Exxon and research director of UOP and Allied Signal, who is currently president of NL Chemical Technology and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. Li will discuss the shortage of clean water and climate change as two key challenges facing the world – and how separations technologies can be part of the solution to these problems.

Other energy and environmental presentations will cover nuclear energy as a “carbon free” energy source, improvements to lithium batteries for hybrid electric vehicles, making biodiesel from algae, and how “oxycombustion” could make coal a greener source of power.

“Chemical engineers are creating new, more efficient ways to use and conserve our natural resources and evolve new sources of energy,” said Scott Fogler, AIChE president. “Innovation, with a focus on sustainability, should translate into adequate and cleaner energy supplies for generations to come.”

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE**

On Monday morning, a team of professors from the State University of New York at Buffalo will discuss “*Guided Cardiogenic Commitment of Human Embryonic Stem Cells for Heart Tissue Engineering*,” describing how cell therapies may regenerate damaged cardiac tissue and provide an alternative to heart transplants.

On Tuesday, James C. Liao, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles, will receive the James E. Bailey Award sponsored by the Society for Biological Engineering. In his lecture, entitled “A Tale of Two Energy Problems:

Fuel Shortage and Obesity,” Liao will discuss how research on metabolic agents to produce fuels may also relate to helping modulate people’s metabolisms and combat obesity.

On Wednesday, a panel on computer modeling will discuss how these technologies can help in medicine – with applications from tumor growth and controlling diabetic symptoms to more accurately predicting the spread of pandemics such as H1N1.

### **OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST**

Yesterday, the *Chem-E-Car* competition, one of the chemical engineering students’ most popular annual events took place. College and university teams raced shoebox-size cars powered by alternative fuels using carefully calculated chemical reactions. Adding to the excitement of the competition, the cars must safely transport a small payload a certain distance, but that critical information is not revealed to the teams until one hour before the race, so students must quickly calculate how much fuel to use.

For more information on all the activities surrounding the AIChE Annual Meeting, please visit [www.aiche.org/annual](http://www.aiche.org/annual).

### **About AIChE**

*AIChE is a professional society of more than 40,000 chemical engineers in 93 countries. Its members work in corporations, universities and government using their knowledge of chemical processes to develop safe and useful products for the benefit of society.*

*Through its varied programs, AIChE continues to be a focal point for information exchange on the frontier of chemical engineering research in such areas as nanotechnology, sustainability, hydrogen fuels, biological and environmental engineering, and chemical plant safety and security. More information about AIChE is available at [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org).*