



## Join Us in Salt Lake City for the Annual Meeting

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Images of pristine snowcapped mountains are what come to mind when I think of Salt Lake City (SLC). It's hard not to think that when SLC was the 2002 host of the Winter Olympics. So why is AIChE holding its Annual Meeting there? Scratch beneath the surface, and you'll see that Salt Lake City is bustling with chemical engineering activity. It's home to two major universities with vibrant chemical engineering departments — the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. In fact, the University of Utah was recently ranked within the top 100 engineering programs by *U.S. News and World Report*. Furthermore, SLC is the headquarters for Huntsman, which had over \$13 billion in revenue in 2006 and employs over 14,000 professionals. It is also the home of several other companies in the chemical process industries, including Dyno Nobel, Nevada Chemicals and the Thatcher Co.

Similar to past years, this year's Annual Meeting is packed with information — the combined core programming and 16 topical conferences comprise nearly 700 technical sessions. The topics of discussion are diverse, including: new frontiers in energy research; sustainable biorefineries; nanomaterials for energy applications; and pharmaceutical engineering for the 21st century. Two special events that should generate a great deal of discussion among the attendees are:

**Challenges and Opportunities for Chemical Engineers in a Changing Global Energy Economy** • Monday, Nov. 5 • 3:30–5:30pm • Grand Ballroom G/E (Salt Palace Convention Center). Listen to experts discuss key energy issues, such as feedstocks and new technologies, as well as sustainability and global warming. Moderated by Adel. F. Sarofim, Presidential Professor at the Univ. of Utah, the panel includes: W. F. Banholzer, CTO of Dow; J. R. Katzer, Executive Director of the MIT Coal Study; M. P. Ramage retired EVP at ExxonMobil R&E; and J. J. Siirola, Technology Fellow at Eastman Chemical.

**International Benchmarking of Chemical Engineering Research.** Tuesday, Nov. 6 • 11:00am–12:30pm • Grand Ballroom A/B/C/D (Salt Palace Convention Center). The U.S. has been the leader in innovation, but with other developing nations rapidly catching up, how will the U.S. keep its edge? This event will answer the questions: "How well does chemical engineering research in the U.S. compare with that in other countries?" and "What are the implications for future competitiveness?" The National Academies charged a high level panel of academic and industrial leaders to benchmark this issue. In this special session, members of that panel, led by its chair, Prof. George Stephanopoulos, will present data and conclusions from that study. Representatives from NSF, NIH and DOE will comment on the implications and potential responses with regard to future research.

For those who are looking for a change, visit the AIChE Career Fair on Monday, Nov. 5 (10:00am–4:00pm). Or, if you're interested in learning about the latest products and services for the chemical process industries, come to the AIChE Expo from Nov. 6–8. Both events take place at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

There's a lot more going on at the Annual Meeting that can't possibly fit into this brief column. So please, peruse through the preliminary program in this issue found on the specially marked pages from T1–T72.

Kristine Chin,  
Editor-in-Chief