



A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SPRING MEETING AND GLOBAL CONGRESS ON PROCESS SAFETY

Organizers are putting the finishing touches on the schedule of events for AIChE's 2014 Spring Meeting and 10th Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS), to be held Mar. 30 – Apr. 3 at the Hilton New Orleans – Riverside, in New Orleans, LA. Registration information and the complete program of events are available at www.aiche.org/spring.

AIChE's Spring Meeting and GCPS continue to grow in popularity and impact, as they strive to fulfill the educational and career advancement needs of the increasingly diverse audience of practitioners in the global chemical process industries (CPI). Indeed, a factor that distinguishes AIChE's conferences for many chemical engineers is the breadth of subject matter that they cover. This spring in New Orleans, long-established conferences on topics such as loss prevention, ethylene production, and gas utilization will be complemented by programs that address topics of emerging importance to CPI personnel, such as new trends in manufacturing in the 21st century, clean energy, and — perhaps the hottest topic of all — the rapid and revolutionary developments in shale gas and tight oil resources.

Meeting programmers are also working to fulfill the professional development needs of chemical engineers. Career skills workshops, poster sessions, networking luncheons, and other career development opportunities supplement the meeting's technical offerings. To top it off, New Orleans' nearby French Quarter will add to attendees' enjoyment.

Woven into the meeting's tapestry is the debut of AIChE's first Shale Gas and Tight Oil Topical Conference, which will explore the techniques, design challenges, and operating procedures involved in the handling of light tight oil (LTO) and shale gas reserves. A highlight will be a panel discussion on Tuesday morning, Apr. 1, dedicated to the recent growth and development of LTO and shale gas. Moderated by Joseph Powell, Chief Scientist at Shell, the panel of experts will examine process safety considerations and the challenges involved in the safe extraction, transport, and processing of shale resources into fuels and petrochemicals. The panelists will include Brian Kelly, Process Safety Consultant; Larry Kremer, Senior Technology Advisor at Baker Hughes; Robert Loughney, Senior Consultant at Blue Marble Risk Solutions; and Charles McConnell, Executive Director of the Energy and Environment Initiative at Rice Univ.

The topical conference on Emerging Technologies in Clean Energy in the 21st Century will offer additional areas for exploration, highlighted by a keynote address by Ramon Gonzalez, Program Director at the U.S. Advanced Research Project Agency for Energy (ARPA-E), on Tuesday evening,

Apr. 1. In his talk, "New Learning Curves for Industrial Biotechnology," Gonzalez will discuss bioconversion and bioelectrosynthesis techniques for the production of liquid fuels, spotlighting two ARPA-E programs: REMOTE (Reducing Emissions using Methanotrophic Organisms for Transportation Energy), which focuses on advanced bioconversion technologies to produce liquid transportation fuels from methane; and the Electrofuels program, which involves development of non-photosynthetic autotrophic organisms for the conversion of CO₂ and electricity to liquid fuels.

The Global Congress on Process Safety (www.aiche.org/gcps) integrates the sessions of the 29th Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) International Conference, the 48th Loss Prevention Symposium, and the 16th Process Plant Safety Symposium. To mark the tenth anniversary of the GCPS, organizers will survey the past decade of process safety advancements with retrospective Process Safety Spotlight sessions on Wednesday, Apr. 2, featuring key papers from past GCPSs. Presentations include:

- "Overview of Inherently Safer Technology," Dennis Hendershot (CCPS)
- "More Lessons 'Re-Learned' from Corrosion Under Insulation," Kenan Stevick (Dow Chemical)
- "Vinyl Chloride Monomer Explosion," Lisa Long (OSHA)
- "Combustible Dust Explosion Venting," Erdem Ural (Loss Prevention Science and Technologies)
- "Emergency Response Leadership: Out of the Frying Pan and into the Fire," Peter Lodol (Eastman Chemical)
- "Safety Culture in the CCPS Risk-Based Process Safety Model," Walter Frank (Frank Risk Solutions).

Attendees can also hone their skills with a slate of career development workshops and coaching sessions on Tuesday, Apr. 1. Conducted by engineering career consultant Alaina Levine, the day will begin with a panel discussion on maximizing career opportunities, followed by hour-long workshops devoted to topics such as interviewing, presentation skills, using social media to fuel job searches, and the importance of self-marketing to promote one's ideas and contributions in the workplace.

Young engineers will benefit from those career workshops as well as from other tailor-made programs. In addition to the GCPS's Process Safety Management Mentoring (PSM²) Forum, through which process safety management experts share their knowledge with young professionals, several topical conferences contain sessions targeted to the interests of young engineers, including sessions on environmental engineering and project management.

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