

# FLASHPOINT

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Winter 2018



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## 2019 AIChE Spring Meeting 15th Global Congress on Process Safety

March 30 - April 4, 2019

[Hilton New Orleans Riverside](#)



## Chair Corner

Hello F&PD membership,

2019 is right around the corner. How time flies.

I'm writing this article after attending the annual AIChE meeting in Pittsburgh. The state of our industry continues to be robust. While oil prices continue to fluctuate, and have dropped a bit recently, they remain at levels that promote extensive new investments and reinvestments in existing assets. We are seeing this in continued petrochemicals projects, announced upgrades to refineries and a future that looks quite bright for LNG production in North America. Somewhat behind the scenes too is a robust mid-stream industry, that is a key enabler for many of the new project announcements. Internationally, upstream and downstream project development also continues to be robust. In short, the current environment an exciting one for the fuels and petrochemicals sectors. Significant challenges remain however.



Within the past year, someone asked the F&PD leadership team what is the vision for the organization. As well organized and efficient engineers, we could quickly come up with a thorough list and descriptions of all the “tactical” things the Division supports and is involved with over the course of a year, though we didn’t have an overarching statement for what the Division truly stands for. In our F&PD Executive Session meetings this year and in Pittsburgh, we’ve tackled this question. In our discussions, we wanted to emphasize how the Division will support meeting current and future challenges in our sector along with the ever-growing international integration of our business and global economies. Our team came up with the following draft statement for the Division:

“A global advocate for chemical engineers who apply and develop current and evolving technologies for the fuels and petrochemicals industries”

We would appreciate any feedback from our membership on this statement.

In Pittsburgh, I attended several technical sessions to get a flavor of current developments in industry, academia, and government organizations. One session was the plenary session for [RAP-ID](#), the Modular Chemical Process Intensification Institute for Clean Energy Manufacturing. F&PD co-sponsored this session as part of our programming line-up. The session highlighted numerous developments across many core technology areas that are part of our industrial base, including chemical commodity processing, renewable bio products, natural gas upgrading, and more. I also attended a forum on Industry 4.0, which highlighted advances in the industrial internet of things (IIoT), big data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, advanced controls and automation, and other areas.

One of the key take-aways from these sessions is that I think we need to better communicate, especially to the next generation of chemical engineers along with the public at large, that there is a tremendous amount of truly advanced and cutting edge technologies being developed across the energy industry that will continue to improve the quality of life of people around the world, while simultaneously addressing significant environmental concerns. We should celebrate all this new technology development and leverage it to excite and motivate the next generation of chemical engineers. The application of these new tools and technologies, including algorithm and software development, new materials, artificial intelligence and machine learning, new process developments, and more will allow the next generation of chemical engineers to solve the largest challenges facing our global industry.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone on the benefits of an F&PD membership. As I highlighted in our last newsletter, the technical content available to F&PD members on [www.aiche.org/fpd](http://www.aiche.org/fpd) has been significantly expanded over the last year. New material will continue to be added in the future, including material from the Pittsburgh meeting. Please be sure to take advantage of the complimentary subscription to Hydrocarbon Processing magazine. A long-time F&PD member shared the following sentiments: "After having HP available for my 37 years at Shell, followed by a 27-year retirement hiatus, I once again look forward to having it on my desk. Congratulations; that was a great move by F&PD ". To this end, F&PD is truly grateful for the cooperation of AIChE and Gulf Publishing staff to provide this new membership benefit.

As 2019 begins, please plan to attend the Spring [meeting](#), March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 4, 2019. The overall technical program, including F&PD's planned sessions, will be online in mid-January, 2019. If you have any questions on programming, please send them along to me or our programming Chair, Dr. Frank Del Nogal, at [fpdprograming@aiche.org](mailto:fpdprograming@aiche.org)

As always, please feel free to send any concerns, comments, or ideas that you as F&PD members would like to see our leadership team address to me or any member of the leadership team posted on our website.

Sincerely,

Bill C. Rooney, Ph.D.

[William.Rooney@honeywell.com](mailto:William.Rooney@honeywell.com)

[fpdchair@aiche.org](mailto:fpdchair@aiche.org) +1-847-391-2281

## ***Congratulations to Harry West Award Winners***

Each year, the Harry West Student Poster Award is presented during the Student Poster Competition during the AIChE Annual Student Conference. The purpose of this award is to support undergraduate research in the areas of interest to Fuels and Petrochemicals Division. The Harry West Student Poster Award was developed by F&PD in honor of Dr. Harry H West's work and awards three winners every year as part of the AIChE Student Poster Competition during the AIChE Annual Student Conference.

This year, the poster competition was held in Pittsburgh, PA as part of the 2018 AIChE Annual Meeting Student Conference. The F&PD judging team participated in judging and evaluating posters in fuels and petrochemicals, catalysis and reaction engineering and computing and process control. We would like to thank all the F&PD judges including Bill Rooney, Ian Glasgow, Meagan Lewis, Samira Abedi, Soraya Honarpavar and Paul Mathias who volunteered for this event.

The winners of the Harry West Award for 2018 are:

- 1) Jesse Hinricher from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with his poster on "Exploration of Alkaline Permanganate-Polysulfide Aqueous Redox Flow Batteries for Low-Cost Energy Storage"
- 2) Thomas George from Tufts University with his poster on "Rotating Disk Electrode Techniques for Pre-Screening Oxygen Reduction Reaction Electrocatalysts"
- 3) Michael Petrecca from Ohio State University with his poster titled "Process Simulations for Converting Ammonia to Hydrogen Using Chemical Looping"

The Harry West Student Poster Award consists of a certificate and a monetary award to the presenter. Plaques will also be presented to the department of the award winner. This year's winners are pictured below.

### **Who is Dr. Harry West:**

Dr. West died suddenly in Houston at the age 63. He was a very active member of AIChE with more than 35 years of experience in the areas of chemical process/safety analysis, environmental assessment, and regulatory compliance for the natural gas, petroleum, and chemical industries. He was founder and president of Shawnee Engineers and a faculty member at Texas A&M University, active there at the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center. He previously was a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Texas. He was a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and Texas.





From left to right: Thomas George, Michael Petrecca, Saadet Ulas Acikgoz (F&PD 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair), Jesse Hinricher

By Saadet Ulas Acikgoz, F&PD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair

### ***News: AIChE Chicago Section***

The Chicago section programming year kicked off in September. We have been quite happy to see many regulars and also new attendees at our monthly meetings, which have thus far featured excellent presentations on the chemical engineering job market (Adam Krueger from Sun Recruiting), revamp engineering (Rich Johnson from Honeywell UOP), and computational modeling and engineering of microbial systems (Jennifer Reed from the University of Wisconsin-Madison). Our Young Professionals Committee (YPC) has also been active in arranging fun socials for our members to enjoy.

As we move on from another successful year, there is much to anticipate in 2019. One major event early on our agenda next year is the 2019 Midwest Regional Conference (MRC), planned for **March 18-19, 2019** at the University of Illinois at Chicago. We are very pleased that Dennis O'Brien has taken on the role of conference chair and is leading the organization effort for the meeting. The MRC has annually attracted well over 100 attendees from industry and academia from all around the Midwest to Chicago, to partake in engaging technical presentations on a broad spectrum of topics as well as participate in networking opportunities with colleagues. Please visit the MRC website (<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/mrc11-2019>) to learn more, and check out our local section site (<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago>) for updates on our general activities.

*Bob Tsai*

*AIChE Chicago Section Chair*

## ***F&PD Nominee Requests from the Past Chair***

As the Past Chair, I have the honor to lead the division effort to select the winner of the two division awards that is provided to those who have made contributions to the fuels and petrochemical industries and to the division as volunteers. These are the F&PD Award and Distinguished Service Award. F&PD also needs nominees for the new incoming leadership that will be voted on in the election that will occur before next year's Spring Meeting that will be in New Orleans.

The F&PD Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial technological contributions to the advancement of the fuels and petrochemicals industries. The selection criteria is based on a long and recognized record in the nominee's areas of achievement. The selection committee also looks at the impact of the nominee combined contribution in the areas of technical achievement, management skills, business acumen, academic leadership, and general service to the profession.

The F&PD Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual's outstanding service specifically to F&PD. The candidate must have participated extensively in a variety of division activities demonstrating leadership, and have served the division a minimum of five years.

AIChE administers more than 60 additional awards to recognize key contributors to the overall profession of Chemical Engineering. As a result, we encourage all F&PD members to feel free to recognize and nominate worthy F&PD members to all the various AIChE institute awards which are located at <https://www.aiche.org/community/awards>.

I also request that all F&PD members feel free to provide nominations for those who should be considered to become ExCom members. Each year we need nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair (who will eventually become the F&PD Chair), Treasurer, and Directors. The election committee looks not only to those that have shown leadership in Programming, but also leadership in other F&PD activities (outreach, communications, etc.).

Please send all award and ExCom nominations to the Fuels & Petrochemicals Division Past Chair at [fpd-pastchair@aiiche.org](mailto:fpd-pastchair@aiiche.org).

***Ian Glasgow***

***F&PD Past Chair***

***Process Technologist, IAG***

### ***Fun Facts about F&PD***

In 1966, the Petroleum and Petrochemicals Division is officially formed thanks to the efforts of Dr. Irving Leibson who became the Division's first Chair.

- The Petroleum and Petrochemicals Division becomes the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division in 1974. Looking to the future, they sought a new name to reflect their interest in gas, coal, tar sands and oil shale as well as petroleum and petrochemicals.
- Patsy S. Chappellear is elected the first female chair of the Fuel & Petrochemicals Division in 1980.
- In 1994, the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division creates the Award for Distinguished Service to the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division, to be given annually. Recent winners of this award include Richard Isherwood, Ahmed Khogeer, Kristine Chin, Timothy Olsen, Steve Coleman, Syamal Poddar, James Turner, Dennis O'Brien, and Lori McDowell.

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### ***The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division High School Academic Scholarship for STEM Majors.***

The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division of AIChE (F&PD) is pleased to sponsor two \$1,000 one-time awards to exemplary high school seniors who plan on studying engineering or science from an ABET accredited college starting in 2019. F&PD is committed to introducing high school students to careers in Fuels & Petrochemicals through its programs, helping to fuel the industry's need for top talent in the future.

Details of the program, along with applications, will be available on the F&PD website:

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/divisions/fuels-and-petrochemicals/awards>

If you do have any questions or have interest in volunteering to help run this program of F&PD, please contact our Scholarship Coordinator, Professor Sheima Khatib. We kindly ask F&PD members to help spread the word on F&PD's annual high school scholarship program.

Sincerely,

Sheima Khatib - [fpdHS-scholar@aiche.org](mailto:fpdHS-scholar@aiche.org)

Bill Rooney - [fpdchair@aiche.org](mailto:fpdchair@aiche.org)

## ***Fuels and Petrochemicals Division (F&PD)***

### ***Information for Sponsors, Donors, and Advertisers***

The Fuels & Petrochemical Division (F&PD) the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) is made up of approximately 1,000 professional members who are members of the various operating, engineering/consulting, technology, service provider, and equipment vendors in the refining, petrochemical, and biofuel industries. The division is involved in organizing programming during the two major AIChE conferences each year (National Spring Meeting and Annual Meeting) and as such look to sponsors, donors, and advertisers to support the various events and awards that F&PD organizes and supports.

You can reach out to near 1,000 chemical engineers who members in our division by becoming a sponsor, donor, or advertiser for the various events and awards we support.

#### ***AIChE Spring Meeting & Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS) – Welcome Session Keynote Coffee Break Sponsorship***

Cost: \$2,500-\$5,000 (depending on the benefits selected)

- Recognition on signage during the F&PD Welcome Session Keynote coffee break
- Cost and other benefits depend on the sponsorship package selected. Contact [sales@aiiche.org](mailto:sales@aiiche.org) for more information
  - \* Other benefits can include: recognition as a sponsor of the overall AIChE Spring Meeting & GCPS, advertisement in F&PD flashpoint publication, advertisement in AIChE Spring Meeting & [GCPS program book](#)

#### ***AIChE Spring Meeting & Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS) – Executive Panel Keynote Coffee Break Sponsorship***

Cost: \$2,500-\$5,000 (depending on the benefits selected)

- Recognition on signage during the F&PD Executive Panel Keynote coffee break
- Cost and other benefits depend on the sponsorship package selected. Contact [sales@aiiche.org](mailto:sales@aiiche.org) for more information
  - \* Other benefits can include: recognition as a sponsor of the overall AIChE Spring Meeting & GCPS, advertisement in F&PD flashpoint publication, advertisement in AIChE Spring Meeting & GCPS program book

#### ***AIChE Annual Meeting – Keynote Session Coffee Break Sponsorship***

Cost: \$2,500-\$5,000 (depending on the benefits selected)

- Recognition on signage during the F&PD Keynote Session coffee break
- Cost and other benefits depend on the sponsorship package selected. Contact [sales@aiiche.org](mailto:sales@aiiche.org) for more information
  - \* Other benefits can include: recognition as a sponsor of the overall AIChE Annual Meeting, advertisement in F&PD flashpoint publication, advertisement in AIChE Annual Meeting program [book](#)



***F&PD High School Scholarship Award Sponsor:***

Cost: \$2,000

- Company name included in name of award.
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter
  - b) One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner

***F&PD University Scholarship Award Sponsor:***

Cost: \$2,000

- Company name included in name of award.
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter
  - b) One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner

***F&PD Award Sponsor:***

Cost: \$500

- Company name included in name of award.
- One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter

***F&PD Distinguished Service Award Sponsor:***

Cost: \$500

- Company name included in name of award.
- One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter

***F&PD Best Proceeding Contribution Award(s) Sponsor (Spring and/or Annual Meeting):***

Suggested Cost: \$500

- Company name included in name of award.
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter
  - b) One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner

***AIChE Spring Meeting High School Outreach Event Sponsor:***

Cost: \$2,000

- Company name included in event name.
- Other potential benefits could include:
  - a) Half page ad in F&PD Flashpoint newsletter
  - b) One (1) complimentary invitation to the F&PD Awards Dinner

## ***Registration Form***

**Name of Company:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Primary Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Selection:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Flashpoint Advertising:</b>	Full page in 4-color	\$XXX
	Half-page Horizontal B/W	\$XXX

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature and Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

All completed Sponsorship / Exhibition Reservation  
Forms should be scanned and emailed to  
**F&PD Past Chair at: [fpdpastchair@aiiche.org](mailto:fpdpastchair@aiiche.org)**

**Questions: [fpdpastchair@aiiche.org](mailto:fpdpastchair@aiiche.org)**

All checks should be made payable to:  
**AICHE**  
and remitted (with a copy of the registra-  
tion form) to:  
**STS-AICHE**  
**P.O. Box 421373**  
**Houston, TX 77242**

A copy of the Sponsorship / Exhibition Reservation Form should accompany the check. Thank

**Cancellation Policy:** Full payment should accompany all exhibitor and sponsor registrations. All cancellations are assessed a 25% processing fee if cancelled more than 30 days prior a designated conference. No refunds will be given for cancellations received 29 days or less prior to a conference start.

## ***AIChE Fellow Frances Arnold Is One of Three Winners of 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry***

***“For the directed evolution of enzymes.”***

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded one half of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2018 to AIChE Fellow Frances H. Arnold, Professor of Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, and Biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) for her work in the directed evolution of enzymes.



In 1993, Arnold conducted the first directed evolution of enzymes—proteins that catalyze chemical reactions. She has since developed methods now routinely used to create new catalysts. Arnold's method of directed evolution emulates natural selection through iterative application of random mutagenesis and rapid

mutant screening in order to accumulate beneficial mutations. This technology allows Arnold's laboratory to breed proteins with desirable traits that would have otherwise been difficult or impossible to design, leading to the creation of new and useful enzymes with applications in pharmaceuticals, sustainable biofuels, and other environmentally friendly products.

[Arnold shares the Nobel Prize](#) with the team of George P. Smith of the University of Missouri, Columbia, and Sir Gregory P. Winter of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK, who collaborated on the phage display of peptides and antibodies.

In 2017, AIChE presented Frances Arnold with the [inaugural Margaret Hutchinson Rousseau Pioneer Award for Lifetime Achievement by a Woman Chemical Engineer](#). The award is presented to a woman member of AIChE who has made significant contributions to chemical engineering research or practice over the course of her career and who has helped pave the way for other women to have a greater impact in chemical engineering.

Learn more about Frances' journey in a recent [AIChE Doing a World of Good Podcast](#).

Join us in congratulating Frances Arnold by commenting below or sharing this link on your favorite social media sites with the hashtags #womeninengineering and #AIChE.

## ***News: AIChE Strategic Plans***

The AIChE Board of Directors recently approved an update to AIChE's Strategic plan. The goal is to start implementing the plan through the operating councils in 2019. The goal is intended to further AIChE's vision of being the Global Home for Chemical Engineers. The objectives also address the key issues and concerns identified through the recent, large-scale member survey conducted by AIChE. The six strategic objectives of the new plan are:

- Enable the success of all members and stakeholders as the *leader* in advancing the chemical and related engineering professions
- Strengthen existing and create new, relevant *communities*
- Enhance the academic curriculum and promote lifelong learning across the profession by developing trusted *content*
- Expand the *diversity and inclusivity* of the profession
- Address important *societal* issues by utilizing the expertise of the profession
- Proactively innovate and deliver products and services through *transformational technologies*

Along with these six strategic objectives, the Board and the Strategic Plan committee have put together a set of guidelines, which further expand on each of the objectives. These guidelines can be used by the Operative Councils, Divisions, Forums, local sections and AIChE members as they develop a road map to implement the new Strategic Plan. If you have questions about the plan or want to be involved in helping to implement the plan, please contact Lori McDowell ([lmcdowell@mathesonogas.com](mailto:lmcdowell@mathesonogas.com)) or Tim Olsen ([tim.olsen@emerson.com](mailto:tim.olsen@emerson.com)).

## ***Congratulation to New Elected Officer***

### **Sharon Maydak**

Senior Key Account Manager  
Pentair Filtration Solutions

Sharon Maydak is the Senior Key Account Manager for Strategic Accounts in the Energy Group in Pentair's Filtration & Process Global Business Unit. Prior to her current role, she held a number of leadership roles in the organization one of which was Director of Capital Projects. She currently supports the US sales team in developing and working with strategic accounts.



Pentair is a Fortune 500 firm (NYSE: PNR). Pentair delivers industry-leading products, services and solutions for its customers' diverse needs. As a global leader in water and fluid solutions, valves and controls, equipment protection and thermal management, Pentair is an industrial growth company; generating revenues of approximately \$4 billion USD and employing more than 30,000 people worldwide.

Sharon joined Pentair in 2007 as part of Pentair's acquisition of Porous Media Corporation. Sharon Maydak worked for Porous Media in account management and business development roles since 1992. Sharon Maydak has an extensive background in process optimization through advanced separations systems. She has worked in sales and business development in all areas of the energy business: oil & gas production, petroleum refining, petrochemical and specialty chemical manufacturing.

Sharon began her career at Daniel Industries where she worked in the systems division. She has worked for several large distributors in the Houston market before joining Pentair.

Today, Sharon leads the growing strategic account business unit in Conroe, TX, bringing a track record of success in the oil & gas, industrial. Her disciplines of expertise include business development & sales effectiveness, product development and portfolio management.

Sharon graduated from Austin College. She served as communication director of the AIChE Fuels & Petrochemicals Division (F&PD) for the last three years and was recently elected as a Director in the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division (F&PD).



## ***F&PD Programming Contributor Highlight***

“Dr. Yoshitsugi Kikkawa is a long-standing contributor to F&PD technical programming in the LNG technology area. We asked Dr. Kikkawa to highlight his activities in the chemical engineering profession. F&PD is grateful to Dr. Kikkawa’s many years of expertise in hosting F&PD technical sessions” – Bill Rooney, F&PD Chair



### ***Dr. Yoshitsugi Kikkawa***

Dr. Yoshitsugi Kikkawa’s activities in AIChE, F&PD, and with AIChE professional activities.

Dr. Kikkawa has joined AIChE in 1996. Regarding F&PD, he has been a session chair and/or session co-chair for T6 Topical Conference on Natural Gas Utilization from year 2000 to 2017.

He has been a Luncheon Speaker for AIChE Spring 2011. He has been presenting papers from year 1999 to 2018, counting 10 papers. He has presented a keynote speech at Third Joint China/USA Chemical Engineering Conference(CUCHE-3) September, 2000, Friendship Hotel, Beijing, China.

He has been elected as a Fellow Member in 2013, which would be supported by the contributions to AIChE, especially F&PD.

He has been a session chair for LNG Conference (LNG13) and World Congress of Chemical Engineering (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>).

His professions in chemical engineering are process engineering for gas processing, natural gas liquefaction, propylene purification and vapor-liquid phase equilibria estimation.

His experience is mostly on NGL and LNG project such as Qatar NGL-2, Arun LNG, Adgas 3rd Train, Qatargas I, Rasgas I Feed, Tangguh Feed, Qatargas II in Chiyoda Corporation.

He and his colleague have got 1999 PMI International Project of the Year Award from Project management Institute. Established in 1969 and headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, PMI is the world’s leading not - for profit project management professional association with over 50,000 members worldwide.

## F&PD Officers Contact Information

POSITION	ALIASES ADDRESS	Name
Chair	<a href="mailto:fpdchair@aiche.org">fpdchair@aiche.org</a>	Bill Rooney
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:fpd1vchair@aiche.org">fpd1vchair@aiche.org</a>	Saadet Ulas Acikgoz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:fpd2vchair@aiche.org">fpd2vchair@aiche.org</a>	Ahmed Khogeer
Past Chair	<a href="mailto:fpdpastchair@aiche.org">fpdpastchair@aiche.org</a>	Ian Glasgow
Secretary	<a href="mailto:fpdsec@aiche.org">fpdsec@aiche.org</a>	Clayton Sadler
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:fpdtreasurer@aiche.org">fpdtreasurer@aiche.org</a>	Lori McDowell
Communications Director	<a href="mailto:fpdcommdir@aiche.org">fpdcommdir@aiche.org</a>	Ellen Arnold
Webmaster	<a href="mailto:fpdweb@aiche.org">fpdweb@aiche.org</a>	Abyar Aejaaz
Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:fpdnewsletter@aiche.org">fpdnewsletter@aiche.org</a>	Azita Ahmadzadeh
Director – YP Liaison	<a href="mailto:fpdypliaison@aiche.org">fpdypliaison@aiche.org</a>	Sharon Maydak
Programming Chair	<a href="mailto:fpdprograming@aiche.org">fpdprograming@aiche.org</a>	Frank Del Nogal
Director – HS Scholarship	<a href="mailto:fpdHS-scholar@aiche.org">fpdHS-scholar@aiche.org</a>	Sheima Khatib
Director – University Scholarship	<a href="mailto:fpduniv-scholar@aiche.org">fpduniv-scholar@aiche.org</a>	Sheima Khatib

## ***Rising Stars Shine at AIChE Workshop to Empower Women in Engineering***



### ***Associated AIChE gala raised funds to strengthen STEM education for girls and improve retention of women engineers in the workforce***

More than fifty exceptional women from companies around the world participated at a Leadership Workshop for Rising Star Women in Engineering, December 11, 2018, in New York City.

The workshop — sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and held in advance of AIChE's 2018 fundraising gala devoted to inspiring women in engineering — convened at the New York City headquarters of global biopharmaceuticals company Pfizer Inc, a top employer of women in executive leadership roles and one of the gala honorees.

In welcoming the Rising Star attendees, June Wispelwey, AIChE Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, remarked on the progress women have made within the engineering profession — a field that many women leave in their early or mid-careers, often due to the dynamics within their organizations. Wispelwey noted that the 2018 AIChE gala had raised approximately \$570,000 to support efforts to expand women's leadership programs, improve the retention of women engineers at all stages in their careers, and strengthen pre-college science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for girls — all aimed at creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce where everyone is recognized for their talents and contributions.

“Through our gala and supporting programs, like today’s Rising Star workshop, we can inspire more women to be formidable advocates for themselves and their colleagues,” Wispelwey added.

At the Rising Star workshop, Susan Dunlap, an executive coach and communication trainer, examined the dynamics of gender communication norms and the differing communication styles of men and women in the workplace. Dunlap explained how gender stereotypes and implicit biases can potentially impede career progress — with attendees learning how to circumvent those roadblocks.

The workshop included an executive panel discussion featuring leaders from industry, who offered advice on how women can find their authentic voices, navigate workplace hierarchies, and communicate effectively. Panelists included Karen Carter, Chief Inclusion Officer and the Chief Human Resources Officer, The Dow Chemical Company; Bruce Chinn, President of Chevron Oronite; Erin Kane, President and Chief Executive Officer of AdvanSix Inc., and an organizer of the workshop; Patricia Rossman, Chief Diversity Officer, BASF Corporation; and Pamela Siwik, Vice President, Pfizer Global Supply, Pfizer Inc.

Organizations represented at the workshop included AdvanSix; AIChE; Air Liquide; Air Products; Arnold & Porter; Arsenal Capital Partners; BASF Corporation; Bechtel; Chemours; Chevron Corporation; Covestro LLC; The Dow Chemical Company; Honeywell; Innophos, Inc.; LyondellBasell; Pfizer Inc; Praxair; and WACKER Chemical Corporation.

That evening, the associated AIChE gala honored Pfizer Inc and Covestro LLC, along with those companies’ leaders, for their dedication to inspiring and empowering women in engineering. Pfizer Inc was recognized for “leadership in advancing women in the biopharmaceuticals sector,” and Covestro LLC was recognized for “championing women in manufacturing, corporate leadership, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.” The gala also honored Nance Dicciani, Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of medical-device company RTM Vital Signs LLC, who received the AIChE Foundation’s Doing a World of Good Medal, a prize that salutes the achievements of an individual who has advanced the societal contributions of engineers.

The annual gala supports initiatives of the AIChE Foundation and its Doing a World of Good campaign, which focus on advancing chemical engineering and bringing that expertise to bear for the good of society.

[See photos of the workshop on Flickr.](#)

For more information about AIChE’s [2018 Annual Gala](#) and the activities of the AIChE Foundation, visit [www.aiche.org/gala](http://www.aiche.org/gala).