

# AIChE Process Development Division Spring Newsletter 2025



**SPRING25  
+21<sup>ST</sup> GCPS**  
A Joint AIChE and CCPS Meeting



For more information, visit

<http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/divisions/process-development>

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## Spring Newsletter Outline:



Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Process Development Division Newsletter. As usual, our spring edition centers around activities planned at the Spring Meeting, scheduled for April 06 – 10 in Dallas, TX this year. You will find information on division specific activities as well as some general programming information. We hope you are planning to attend and that we'll see you there at the PDD events.

You will also find information about other division highlights. We are seeking volunteers to serve on the PDD award committee. We invite you to get further engaged in the division by attending one of the division meetings or getting in touch with PDD leadership team or with area specific leaders. If you are not a member, please consider joining our group.

Have a great spring, and we hope to see you in Dallas or at the Annual meeting in Boston this November.

### **Please Join: Process Development Division (PDD)**

The Process Development Division promotes networking and communication amongst engineers and scientists interested in process development. The division sponsors meetings, dinners, seminars, technical programming, and publications. The division provides a forum for the engineer and educator to exchange information and ideas related to process development. Please join or encourage your colleagues to join if they are not already members.

**Chartered 2000, Annual Dues: \$10**

## Message from the Chair

Dear PDD Members:

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2025! As we kickstart the new year I am excited about all the activities we have in store for you. To begin with, thank you for ratifying the proposed changes in our by-laws. The revised by laws have been approved by Chemical Technology Operating Council (CTOC) and uploaded on the division website. This revision was long overdue since 2002, and I would like to thank you for working with me to update it. Special thanks to Mary T amEnde, Rob Nunley, and Ray Rooks for their constructive feedback to ensure that the document is comprehensive and accurate. Also, thanks to Julie Liu and Reginald Rogers from CTOC for their continued support.

On another note, our second “Meet the Industry Candidate” poster session, in collaboration with Pharmaceutical Discovery, Development and Manufacturing (PD2M) division, at the last Annual Conference in San Diego continued to garner interest and support from students and industry sponsors alike. We had over 100 poster entries covering the entire gamut of process development challenges. Given the success, we plan to continue the event this year at the Annual meeting in Boston. So please stay tuned!

Recently I came across an article on key trends in chemical industry with emphasis on (a) safe and sustainable by design chemicals, (b) carbon reduction and circularity, (c) intelligent R&D and (d) continuous processing for reducing energy and capital footprint. The article also cited the exciting research in these areas which made me realize the pace at which the field is moving ahead and its potential impact on the chemical industry at large. Against this backdrop, I believe the process development division serves as an excellent platform to share latest developments in the field and promote networking and communication among engineers and scientists interested in the field. Our last webinar on March 13<sup>th</sup> by Prof. Qiang Xu on Cost-Effective Solutions for Emission Reduction in the Chemical Process Industry was aligned with this objective. We hope you enjoyed the insights and will continue to join us for future sessions.

To continue with all these activities, we are always looking for volunteers! Please feel free to reach out to me or anyone in leadership team if you want to get involved or just get connected.

Looking forward to our continued dialogue!

Best wishes,

**Kishori Deshpande, Ph.D.**

Dow

Phone: (979) 238-5868

[kdeshpande@dow.com](mailto:kdeshpande@dow.com)



## 2024 PDD Spring Meeting Events

### **PDD General Meeting**

Sunday, April 06, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Hilton Anatole (Morocco)

<https://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s25/meetingapp.cgi/Session/56973>

### **PDD Programming Meeting**

Monday, April 07, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Hilton Anatole (Morocco)

<https://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s25/meetingapp.cgi/Session/56974>

### **PDD Dinner (Ticketed Event)**

Tuesday, April 08

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille (Prime Room) –

<https://perryssteakhouse.com/locations/tx/dallas/park-district/#rooms>

See more information on the following page

Division meetings are great places to get involved in division activities. Please attend or reach out to PDD leadership listed at the end of this newsletter if you are looking for opportunities to become more involved.

## Process Development Division Dinner



**Perry's Steakhouse**  
(Prime Dining Room)  
2100 Olive St Suite #100  
Dallas, TX 75201



Photo Credits: [perryssteakhouse.com](http://perryssteakhouse.com)

**Tuesday, April 08**

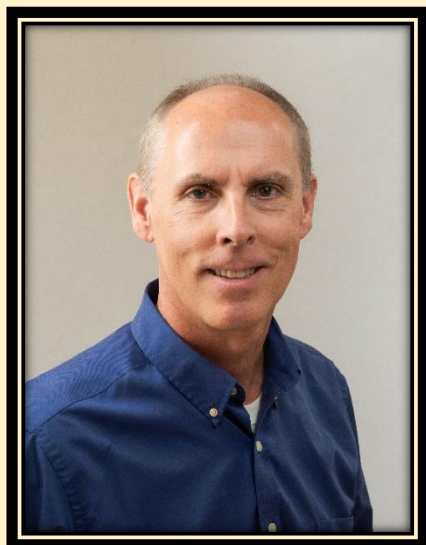
**Dinner 7:30 PM: Ticketed Event: \$85**

**Free Reception for PDD Members 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Please join us for an evening of dining and conversation within walking distance of the Convention Center. The dinner is always a PDD highlight of the AIChE meetings and is a great time to meet fellow members. This is a ticketed event. Tickets can be purchased through AIChE up until the event or at the registration desk upon arrival. Seating is limited to 30, so get your tickets early.

## Process Development Division Awards

### Process Development Practice Award Sponsored by Zeton



#### **Dr. Thomas W Karjala**

Principal Research Scientist

Packaging & Specialty Plastics and Hydrocarbons R&D  
Dow Inc

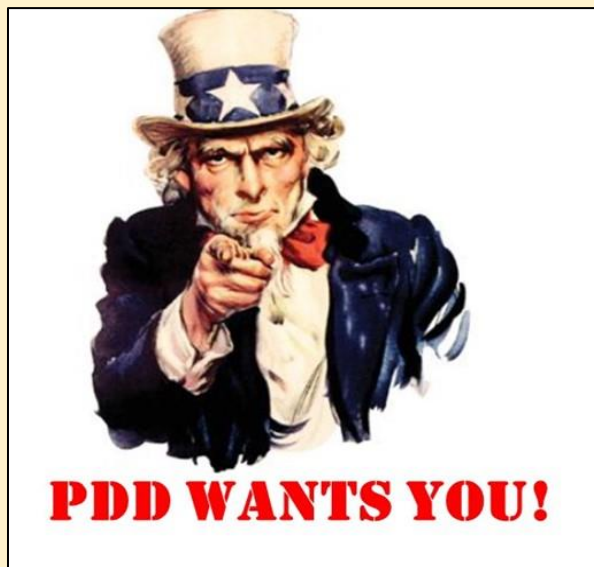
Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Karjala for being the recipient of the 2025 Process Development Practice Award. This award recognizes long-term contributions in the field of applied, commercial process development. Dr. Chen will be honored at the Spring PDD Dinner in Dallas.

Dr. Karjala has made significant contributions to the process development and commercialization of many polyolefin products in various markets including NORDEL™ EPDM, INDEX™ styrene interpolymers, VERSIFY™ polypropylene elastomers, INFUSE™ and INTUNE™ olefin block copolymers, and ENGAGE™ PV polyolefin elastomers. In particular he has applied polymer reaction engineering principles to scale up new catalysts and products from small scale batch reactors to pilot plants and to full commercial plants of up to 600 kt/y in size. He is one of the pioneers in commercializing polyolefin chain shuttling technology for which Dow won the 2015 Kirkpatrick Chemical Engineering Achievement Award. Dr Karjala received a MS and PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Michigan Technological University. During his career Thomas has authored over 218 internal reports, 77 patent disclosures, 24 patent applications, and 12 unique granted patents. He has also presented at major conferences and published 17 journal articles and several conference papers.



# Process Development Division Awards

## Call for Volunteers



Have you always wanted to volunteer for the division but did not know how? Here's an excellent opportunity. Process development division is seeking 3-5 volunteers as members of awards committee to help with the process. These awards represent the division's commitment to recognize and celebrate individuals who have made significant technical contributions to the advancement of process development. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who can help us in this endeavor. Time commitment is up to 5 hours total during the year. What better way to encourage and cheer fellow practitioners for their distinguished service? Come and be a part of PDD. Please respond to [jay.f.miller@gmail.com](mailto:jay.f.miller@gmail.com) by April 15, 2025.

### Interested in nominating yourself or a colleague for the following categories?

- Excellence in Process Development Research Award
- Process Development Practice Award
- Process Development Division Student Paper Award

Please fill out the Division Award nomination form at the address below and send it to

[Jay.F.Miller@gmail.com](mailto:Jay.F.Miller@gmail.com)

<https://www.aiche.org/awards/awards-provisions-eligibility#division-forum-nomination>



# Process Development Division

## 2025 Spring Meeting Technical Programming / Sessions

<https://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s25/meetingapp.cgi/Program/3507>



Photo Credits: hilton.com

All times are Dallas local time.

### **Monday, April 07**

Digital Procedures – Next Generation Procedures: Best Practices, Mobility, and AI

9:30 – 11:00 AM: Coral (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

Process Development Division Plenary

1:30 – 3:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

Low Carbon Industrial Technologies

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

Poster Session: Process Development Division

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Trinity Exhibit Hall (Trinity Complex, Hilton Anatole)





## **Tuesday, April 08**

### Process Intensification and Scale-up Challenges

8:00 – 09:30 AM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Engineering around Uncertainty in 2025 and Beyond

8:00 – 09:30 AM: Coral (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Process Intensification and Scale-up Challenges II

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Modeling Tools and Techniques for Process R&D I

1:30 – 3:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Modeling Tools and Techniques for Process R&D II

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

## **Wednesday, April 09**

### Advances in Process Design and Development

8:00 – 09:30 AM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Overcoming Manufacturing Challenges in Future Economy

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Cost-Effective Commercialization of New Processes or Products I

1:30 – 3:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

### Cost-Effective Commercialization of New Processes or Products II

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Morocco (Tower, Hilton Anatole)

## 2025 Annual Meeting

**November 02 – 06, 2025**

**John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center,  
Marriott Copley Place, Sheraton Boston**



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The upcoming Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts in November 2025. Mark your calendars and join us for another chance to meet and share ideas.

While you're at it, please consider submitting an abstract to present at one of the technical sessions. New submissions must be entered by Monday, April 7, 2025. <https://www.aiche.org/conferences/aiche-annual-meeting/2025/2025-call-abstracts-information>

## Process Development Division Leadership Team

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|    | <b>Chair</b><br>Kishori Deshpande<br>Dow<br>(979) 238-5868<br>KDeshpande@dow.com                                    |    | <b>Chair Elect</b><br>Rob Nunley<br>AVN Corp<br>(304) 720-6707<br>Rob.Nunley@avncorp.com          |
|    | <b>Fall Program Chair</b><br>Vinod Kumar Venkatakrishnan<br>Shell<br>(281) 544-7567<br>v.venkatakrishnan2@shell.com |    | <b>Spring Program Chair</b><br>Juben Chheda<br>Shell<br>(281) 544-8232<br>Juben.chheda@shell.com  |
|   | <b>Membership Chair</b><br>Johnathan Lekse<br>NETL<br>(412) 386-7312<br>Jonathan.Lekse@NETL.DOE                     |   | <b>Awards Chair</b><br>Jay Miller<br>Arkema<br>(610) 359-2092<br>Jay.f.miller@gmail.com           |
|  | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Ida Chen<br>Dow<br>(979) 238-4634<br>chen2c7ab2@dow.com   |  | <b>Webmaster</b><br>Pat Heider<br>Dow<br>(989) 636-1923<br>plheider@dow.com                       |
|  | <b>Past Chair</b><br>Qiang Xu<br>Lamar University<br>(409) 880-7818<br>Qiang.xu@lamar.edu                           |  | <b>Newsletter Editor</b><br>Pranav Karanjkar<br>Dow<br>(989) 496-1359<br>pranav.karanjkar@dow.com |

## 2024 PDD Area Leadership

| Name  | Position               | Email Address                  |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>12A Process Research and Innovation</b>                        |                        |                                |
| Ben Yang  | 12A Chair              | xyang116@umd.edu               |
| Mo Jiang  | 12A Chair Elect        | mjiang3@vcu.edu                |
| Patricia Gillenwater  | 12A Area Coordinator   | patricia.gillenwater@gmail.com |
| Ray Jian  | 12A Past Chair         | rjian@sabic.com                |
| <b>12B Process Research and Innovation</b>                        |                        |                                |
| Pratik Bhishikar  | 12B Chair              | pbbhishikar@zeton.com          |
| Ida (Xue) Chen  | 12B Chair Elect        | chen2c7ab2@dow.com             |
| Adam Boyle  | 12B Area Coordinator   | aboyle@zeton.com               |
| Madhav Ghanta   | 12B Past Chair         | mghanta2003@gmail.com          |
| <b>12C/D Tech Transfer and Commercialization</b>                  |                        |                                |
| Michael Telgenhoff  | 12C/D Chair            | michael.telgenhoff@dow.com     |
| Mrunmayi Kumbhalkar   | 12C/D Chair Elect      | mkumbhalkar@dow.com            |
| Abe Shuitman  | 12C/D Area Coordinator | abraham.schuitman@corteva.com  |
| Ha Dinh   | 12C/D Past Chair       | ha.dinh@honeywell.com          |
| <b>12E/F Process Intensification and Microprocess Engineering</b> |                        |                                |
| Patrick Heider  | 12E/F Chair            | plheider@dow.com               |
| Jing Luo  | 12E/F Chair Elect      | jluo2@dow.com                  |
| Sweta Somasi  | 12E/F Area Coordinator | sweta.somasi@corteva.com       |
| Robert Broekhuis  | 12E/F Past Chair       | rbroekhuis@sabic.com           |
| <b>12G Product Design</b>   |                        |                                |
| Shaibal Roy   | 12G Chair              | shaibal.roy@momentive.com      |
| Pranav Karanjkar  | 12G Chair Elect        | pranav.karanjkar@dow.com       |
| Ying Yu   | 12G Area Coordinator   | yyu4@dow.com                   |
| Mu Wang   | 12G Past Chair         | wang.m.13@pg.com               |

If you are interested in getting involved in any particular subdivision and want to know more information, please reach out to Vinod Kumar Venkatakrishnan (v.venkatakrishnan2@shell.com).

## 2024 PDD Liaisons

|                 |              |                                    |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Ahmed Youssef   | YP Liaison   | ahmed.youssef@sabic.com            |
| Rob Broekhuis   | PDS Liaison  | rbroekhuis@sabic.com               |
| Mary T. am Ende | CTOC Liaison | mary.t.amende@nalasengineering.com |