

Preface: Proceedings of PPS2019, Europe-Africa Regional Conference of the Polymer Processing Society

On behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the local organizing committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the **PPS Europe-Africa 2019 Regional Conference (PPS2019)** at the **CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa on November 18-21, 2019**. The theme of the conference is, “*Advanced Plastics as an enabling technology for the **Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0)***”.

The PPS Meeting is a leading conference on polymer processing and attracts internationally renowned scientists, engineers and designers in the field of polymer research and development. The goals of the International Polymer Processing Society as embodied in its constitution are to foster scientific understanding and technical innovation in polymer processing by providing a discussion forum for the worldwide community of engineers and scientists in the field. The thematic range of the polymer processing encompasses all formulation, conversion and shaping operations applied to polymeric systems in the transformation from their monomeric forms to commercial products. An important ingredient for the success of the PPS2019 has been the participation of all professionals in all aspects of Polymer Science and Technology from all around the world at this unique African city of Pretoria.

Pretoria was officially founded in 1855 by Marthinus Pretorius who was a leader of the Voortrekkers. The city is also popularly known as The Jacaranda City due to the thousands of Jacaranda trees planted in its streets, parks and gardens. It is one of South Africa’s three capital cities and a popular tourist destination among tourists from abroad and South Africa. The average November temperature is in between 15 (night) to 28°C (day).

With a total of 257 abstracts submitted from more than 30 countries globally, the PPS2019 scientific program includes short course lectures by well-known experts in this field, distinguished plenary and keynote speakers, special lectures, contributed oral presentations by both senior and younger scientists and engineers as well as oral and poster presentations by young postdoctoral fellows, doctoral and master students and engineers working in academia and industry. During this conference, a substantial participation of industry will initiate a strong collaboration between Universities, Research Institutes & Centres and Industry which is key for technological advancement.

Though the intense scientific and technological discussion is the focus of this conference, the social and cultural part of this beautiful country should not be missed.

The organizing committee put together its best effort to make the PPS2019 memorable.

Finally, we would like to thank the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), University of Johannesburg, and Mintek (DSI-Mintek NIC) for financial support. We would also like to thank our sponsors: NetZsch, Xplore, TA Instruments, Advanced Laboratory Solutions, Anton Paar, and Perkin Elmer for their generous financial support and active participation of the conference. We would like to thank the CSIR CEO and Executive management of CSIR, DSI and Chemicals Cluster for their continued support and encouragement to my team. Finally, I would like thank PPS2019 organizing committee, Scatterlings team (particularly Caro and Tanys), and CSIR ICC staff members. Last but not least to my family members (my wife and son) for their support.

I hope that you will have a meaningful and enjoyable time at Pretoria, South Africa.

Sincerely yours,

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PPS2019 Chairperson

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