MRS President’s Letter

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May 2020

2021 MRS Spring Meeting Symposium Organizers:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a symposium organizer for the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting! The Spring and Fall Meetings are critically important services offered by MRS. They provide a dynamic interactive framework in which global materials disciplines can convene, collaborate, and integrate to advance technical interdisciplinary research. The high-quality and visionary symposia at MRS meetings are key to the Society's mission and its continued success. The meetings are the main drivers for engaging members and volunteers, building our membership, and the principal forum to exchange research results.

A key to a successful MRS meeting is the opportunity for symposium organizers to define the content and tone of the meeting. I urge you to exercise your creativity, technical judgment, and entrepreneurial spirit to ensure that your symposium contributes effectively to the mission of our Society: the dissemination of interdisciplinary materials research. New ideas and emerging concepts in the field should be an important hallmark of your symposium. Please strive to provide a forum for scientific and technical discussions at the leading edge of materials research; fundamental concepts as well as ideas that could lead to technological advances are important to the materials community. We also encourage you to consider including a mix of presentations ranging from “basic” to “use-inspired” to ”device- and application-focused” research in your focal area. Presentation of a diversity of perspectives is an opportunity and a core value of the MRS meeting.

In order to be impactful beyond the technical scope, I encourage you to seek opportunities for public outreach and advocacy by connecting your topic to the national and international scene, as well as for opportunities for connections and joint activities with the exhibitors. There is still plenty of time to include new approaches to promote and enhance the exchange of materials research. Our members rate opportunities for networking and informal discussion offered by our meetings to be almost as important as symposium content. Please bear in mind that promoting opportunities for networking can enhance your symposium.

MRS is proud to have a diverse and international membership that reflects global activity in materials research, and our Society is strongly committed to ensuring that all of its activities are inclusive and offer opportunities for everyone. Therefore, as you reach out to leading materials scientists and technologists for your symposium, you are encouraged to specifically enhance the diversity in all aspects within your symposium. This may include inviting speakers from industry, from outside the U.S., especially from developing countries, and from under-represented segments of the community. In relation to the MRS vision of attracting industry back to the Spring and Fall Meetings, we encourage you to develop a balanced approach of requesting papers on fundamental and applied materials science and devices.

The entire MRS staff and the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting Chairs—Linyou Cao, Lena Kourkoutis, Andreas Lendlein, Xiaolin Li, Seung Min Han—are excited about working with you to develop the best possible technical meeting.
Pat Hastings (hastings@mrs.org), Director of Meeting Activities; and the entire MRS Headquarters staff are eager to assist you in preparing your symposium and integrating it with the myriad of Society events during the meeting. Please take advantage of the wealth of experience, help and advice the Meeting Chairs and the MRS staff can offer you. As you proceed through the stages of planning your symposium and identifying papers and specific topics to be discussed, I would like you to pay attention to three important process issues:

1. **Topical Overlap:** Often, topics covered by different symposia are related or similar in scope and would, therefore, attract the same audience. Excessive granularity is not helpful to authors or attendees. Past experience indicates that some overlap inevitably occurs, however, it can be managed. We urge you to address these conflicts to minimize the extra burden placed on meeting participants as they try to attend different sessions throughout the meeting. In this respect, it is important that you make an effort to identify symposia that may have similar scopes and take action to reduce overlap, e.g., talk to the Meeting Chairs about the idea of joint sessions with other symposia.

2. **Invited Speakers:** Sometimes a speaker gives more than one invited lecture at an MRS meeting. Meeting Chairs will be looking at the number of talks any one invited speaker may be giving across all the symposia and seek to ensure that the invited lectures will be on substantially different topics when any such duplication of invited speakers occurs. There is a delicate balance between engaging great and proven speakers with new talent. Please identify speakers to invite representing a diversity of experience and backgrounds.

3. **Rejection Rate:** MRS, in an effort to maintain the high quality of its meetings, instituted a policy encouraging each symposium to target a 15% rejection rate of submitted abstracts. While I realize that it would be unreasonable to insist that each symposium should, by definition, reject a minimum of 15% of the abstracts, I would encourage you to ensure that all papers, both talks and posters, presented in your symposium are relevant and of high quality. I am sure you would agree that the work presented in your symposium should truly represent the excitement and high intellectual value of your field. I will caution against converting a subpar or misaligned oral presentation into a poster presentation.

Publishing with MRS and Springer Nature (MRS’s new publishing alliance in 2021), ensures dissemination and discoverability of your symposium’s content well beyond the meeting. For example, *MRS Advances* publishes rapid reports of work in progress, focusing on key materials topics of current interest, as identified by MRS meeting programming. *MRS Advances* is indexed in the Web of Science, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Scopus, which heightens the profile of the work published in it. In addition, the journal now includes contributions not presented at the meeting, but solicited from the MRS community for the specific topics of each meeting. This allows you, at your option, to create a focused issue on your symposium topic that incorporates the broadest reach of the society. Details are available at your request. The *MRS Advances* editorial board works with symposium organizers to ensure high-quality content and rapid peer review and publication. *MRS Advances* is free to all MRS members and by subscription to institutional libraries around the world. Together, MRS and Springer Nature advance the scope, reach and impact of all MRS publications.

Depending on the stage of research and the scope of their presentations, authors are also invited to submit to the other journals in the MRS portfolio: *MRS Bulletin, MRS Communications, MRS Energy & Sustainability,* and *Journal of Materials Research (JMR).*

In addition, MRS highlights newsworthy presentations to the scientific and general press. Please help us identify presentations from your symposia. For further information, contact Eileen Kiley (kiley@mrs.org).
Director of Communications, Anita Miller (amiller@mrs.org), Manager, Marketing and Communications, or Ellen Kracht (kracht@mrs.org), Publications Manager.

I would like to direct your attention to the Symposium Organizer Timeline contained in this handbook. The Symposium Organizer Timeline is an important tool for meeting chairs and symposium organizers. It is designed to provide optimum publicity for your symposium, enable timely input to programming, and ensure effective utilization of MRS resources. I strongly encourage you to meet the milestones and deadlines, as they are important to the overall success of the meeting.

Finally, I want to thank you again for taking on this most important job for MRS. I am sure that you will find being a symposium organizer a rewarding and exciting experience, both professionally and personally. I hope this activity will additionally inspire you to consider volunteering your skills and expertise for other critical volunteer positions in MRS, including joining our committees and the Board of Directors, since our vibrant society needs new ideas and perspectives to remain best positioned to advance technical excellence.

I look forward to your symposium and am confident that it will continue in the MRS tradition of excellence.

Best regards,

Cherie R. Kagan
2021 MRS President
SECTION 1: MRS® MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND ASPIRATION

It is beneficial to understand the governing principals of the Society. These are outlined in the MRS statements below. Attention is drawn to the importance of Meeting Quality in these statements.

MRS MISSION STATEMENT

The Materials Research Society® (MRS) is an organization of materials researchers worldwide that promotes communication for the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research and technology to improve the quality of life.

MRS VISION STATEMENT

The Materials Research Society will build a dynamic, interactive, global community of materials researchers to advance technical excellence by providing a framework in which the materials disciplines can convene, collaborate, integrate and advocate.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Materials Research Society recognizes that diversity drives innovation, excellence and new discoveries. We charge our membership and leadership to engage all demographic groups worldwide in advancing science and technology to improve the quality of life.

MRS VALUES

MRS Core Values

- Promoting technical excellence
- Being visionary and dynamic
- Being interdisciplinary
- Being broadly inclusive and egalitarian

MRS Derived Values

Membership

- Preserve equality of membership
- Maintain a diverse membership that encompasses students and professionals from all sectors of the materials community
- Encourage an active globally-diverse membership
- Offer programs, products and services that help our members build their professional identity worldwide
- Provide effective and rewarding member engagement and volunteering opportunities
Meetings
• Provide high-quality meetings that encourage networking and scientific exchange
• Facilitate meetings that are interdisciplinary and highlight cutting-edge topics in materials research and technology

Dissemination of Information
• Take a leadership role in dissemination of information on materials science and technology to the public and to governments
• Provide archival literature in the field of materials research and technology
• Advocate for materials sciences

Infrastructure
• Encourage a professional, cooperative and dedicated headquarters staff
• Be a preferred employer
• Support creative, active, responsible and dedicated volunteers
• Maintain a sound financial footing
• Lead through collaboration, including work with other societies and organizations

MRS ASPIRATION: 2027

MRS engages members across generations to advance their career and promote materials research and innovation.

Engaging and Inspiring Members
• Differentiate the MRS Spring and Fall Meetings.
• Utilize MRS Bulletin, webinar and evolving technologies to engage members.
• Refresh MRS governance by engaging multiple generations.

Advancing Member Careers
• Create high-quality, nimble forums to present and publish research.
• Catalyze career development.
**SECTION 2: SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZER TIMELINE**  
2021 MRS® Spring Meeting ● April 18 – 23, 2021 ● Seattle, Washington

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Program Development Subcommittee (PDSC) WebEx review call to establish the Program and Symposium Organizers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2020</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Program Development Subcommittee (PDSC) Final Review Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 2020</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>2021 MRS Spring Symposium Organizer Preliminary Planning Meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13, 2020</td>
<td>Handbook</td>
<td>Symposium Organizer Handbook posted on the MRS website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 2020</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Call for Papers. Indicate tutorial intentions by checking box in the MRS online system (Refer to Section 6A).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 2020</td>
<td>Call for Papers</td>
<td>Call for Papers finalized. Edits must be completed by Symposium Organizers of the proposal in the MRS online system – <a href="https://callforproposals.mrs.org">https://callforproposals.mrs.org</a>. Do not email edits to MRS (Refer to Section 6A).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22, 2020</td>
<td>Exhibit</td>
<td>Potential Exhibitors to Mary Kaufold (<a href="mailto:kaufold@mrs.org">kaufold@mrs.org</a>) (Refer to Section 11E).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17, 2020</td>
<td>Call for Papers</td>
<td>Call for Papers posted on the MRS website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August, 2020</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Begin soliciting corporate and government support (Refer to Section 7).</td>
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<td>Visit <a href="https://www.mrs.org/spring2021/symposium-support">https://www.mrs.org/spring2021/symposium-support</a> for information on the Symposium Support Program. Contact Mallory Starr (<a href="mailto:starr@mrs.org">starr@mrs.org</a>) for questions or historical funding information.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contact Donna Gillespie (<a href="mailto:gillespie@mrs.org">gillespie@mrs.org</a>) for sample government grant proposals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early August, 2020</td>
<td>Call for Papers</td>
<td>Call for Papers general announcements (list of all symposia and abstract deadline) to be sent by MRS HQ, Marketing via postcard and e-mail (Refer to Section 6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11, 2020</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Tutorial Proposals due to Erin Moore (<a href="mailto:moore@mrs.org">moore@mrs.org</a>) (Refer to Section 10).</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>Abstract Submission Opens</strong>: Announcement to be sent by MRS HQ, Marketing. All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS Online System; fax or e-mail submissions will not be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>All abstracts received by MRS Programming Staff viewable online for convenient review and downloading by the symposium organizers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7, 2020</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Editor Confirmations for <em>MRS Advances</em>, as indicated in the Responsibility Charts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>MRS Programming Staff sends a detailed list of important programming reminders to symposium organizers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22, 2020</td>
<td>Call for Papers</td>
<td>Abstract deadline reminder (e-mail) sent by MRS HQ, Marketing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>Abstract Submission Deadline (11:59 pm ET)</strong>: Announcement to be sent by MRS HQ, Marketing. All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS online system; fax or e-mail submissions will not be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30-November 12, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Symposium organizers create programs in the MRS online system (Refer to Section 5).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2020</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Erin Moore (<a href="mailto:moore@mrs.org">moore@mrs.org</a>) notifies Symposium Organizers of tutorial proposal status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 2020</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>Graduate Student Award Applications, including Advisor Letters of Evaluation, due to MRS HQ (Refer to Section 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>All symposium programs due to MRS Programming Staff: Marla Boots (<a href="mailto:boots@mrs.org">boots@mrs.org</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Broader Impact (BI01)</td>
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<td>Characterization and Modeling (CT01-CT08)</td>
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<td>Electronics and Optics (EL01-EL09)</td>
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<td>Karen Bartling (<a href="mailto:bartling@mrs.org">bartling@mrs.org</a>)</td>
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<td>Energy and Sustainability (EN01-EN10)</td>
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<td>Nanoscale and Quantum Materials (NM01-NM09)</td>
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<td>Erin Moore (<a href="mailto:moore@mrs.org">moore@mrs.org</a>)</td>
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<td>Soft Materials and Biomaterials (SM01-SM13)</td>
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<td>Structural Materials (ST01-ST05)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16, 2020</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>MRS sends student Graduate Student Award (GSA) application review instructions to symposium organizers to begin to evaluate for selection of finalists (Refer to Section 12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23, 2020</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>Graduate Student Award application evaluations due online by symposium organizers (Refer to Section 12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3, 2020</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>MRS Spring Symposium Organizer Program Planning Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-December, 2020</td>
<td>MRS Advances</td>
<td>Pre-meeting referee assignment deadline (optional) (Refer to Section 8E).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Final Symposium program changes due to MRS Programming Staff. Send to Programming Staff (Refer to Section 4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 2020</td>
<td>MRS Advances</td>
<td>MRS Advances prepublication pricing established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>MRS Programming Staff sends Confirmation Status via email to authors advising the status of their abstract along with their scheduled date and time for their presentation. At this time, authors will ACCEPT or DECLINE their presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2020</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>LATE NEWS—HOT TOPIC Abstract Submission Opens:</strong> Announcement to be sent by MRS HQ, Marketing. All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS online system; fax or e-mail submissions will not be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early January, 2021</td>
<td>MRS Journals</td>
<td>Publishing Opportunities information is sent by MRS HQ to Contact authors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5, 2021</td>
<td>Call for Papers</td>
<td><strong>LATE NEWS—HOT TOPIC Abstract Deadline</strong> reminder sent by MRS HQ, Marketing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8, 2021</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>Symposium Assistant recommendations from symposium organizers due to Amanda Edmiston (<a href="mailto:edmiston@mrs.org">edmiston@mrs.org</a>) (Refer to Section 12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13, 2021</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>LATE NEWS—HOT TOPIC Abstracts Submission Deadline:</strong> (11:59 pm ET): All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS online system; fax or e-mail submissions will not be accepted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-January, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Contact authors notified that the electronic submission site for <em>MRS Advances</em> is open. Open call for submissions to <em>MRS Advances</em> issued to non-attendees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14 – April 8, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Electronic paper submissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2021</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>LATE NEWS – HOT TOPIC</strong> abstracts, reviewed and placement into program are due to MRS Programming Staff (Refer to Section 4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2021</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td><strong>LATE NEWS – HOT TOPIC:</strong> MRS Programming Staff sends Confirmation Status via email to authors advising the status of their abstract along with their scheduled date and time for their presentation. At this time, authors will ACCEPT or DECLINE their presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2021</td>
<td>Science as Art</td>
<td>Submission Site Opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2021</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>Symposium Assistant General Application is posted to MRS website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2021</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Program posted on the MRS website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26, 2021</td>
<td>Student Opportunity</td>
<td>Symposium Assistant General Application deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2021</td>
<td>Publicity/Press</td>
<td>Symposium Highlights Online Submission Site Opens-- Email to Symposium Organizers by MRS HQ, Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Symposium Support Program application cutoff for inclusion in the <em>Meeting &amp; Exhibit Guide</em> and on-site signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2021</td>
<td>Science as Art</td>
<td>Submission site deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2021</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Tutorial Notes due to Erin Moore (<a href="mailto:moore@mrs.org">moore@mrs.org</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Requests for special AV and food &amp; beverage due to Mallory Starr (<a href="mailto:starr@mrs.org">starr@mrs.org</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17, 2021</td>
<td>Science as Art</td>
<td>MRS Programming Staff to notify top “50” Finalists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2021</td>
<td>Publicity/Press</td>
<td>Symposium Highlights Questionnaire deadline (Refer to Section 6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Symposium-paid preregistration and travel reimbursement list due to Mallory Starr (<a href="mailto:starr@mrs.org">starr@mrs.org</a>) (Refer to Section 7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Symposium Support Program application cutoff for inclusion in PDF program posted to MRS website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Electronic paper submission deadline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18–23, 2021</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>2021 MRS Spring Meeting, Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 2021</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>2021 MRS Spring Symposium Organizer Tie-Down (final details) Meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 2021</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>President’s Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Editor demonstration of <em>MRS Advances</em> submission website on Monday afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td>Editorial work on <em>MRS Advances</em> completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12, 2021</td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em></td>
<td><em>MRS Advances</em> issues begin to go to press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Final requests for disbursement of symposium funds due to Mallory Starr (<a href="mailto:starr@mrs.org">starr@mrs.org</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31, 2021</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Symposium accounts closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated: 4/29/2020
SECTION 3: MRS CONTACTS

A. MRS MEETING CHAIRS

Linyou Cao
Atomix Inc (DBA 2D Layer)
linyoucao@gmail.com

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Cornell University
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Andreas Lendlein
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B. MRS STAFF (PRINCIPAL HQ CONTACTS)

Patricia (Pat) A. Hastings, Director of Meeting Activities
hastings@mrs.org; 724-779-2721
Oversees policies and procedures for the technical meeting, exhibits, associated tutorials and special meeting activities.

TBD, Meetings Manager
Pat Hastings: hastings@mrs.org; 724-779-2721 or Brooke Baker: bbaker@mrs.org; 724-779-2723
Serves as principal headquarters contact and as the general source of information and communication for meeting chairs and symposium organizers. Manages the preparation of the symposium organizer and meeting chair handbooks, Call for Papers, Meeting and Exhibit Guide. Can provide information on ways to develop and promote your symposium and how MRS can support you in those efforts. Also manages the MRS Symposium Tutorial and “Science as Art” programs.

Karen Bartling, Program Development Administrator
bartling@mrs.org; 724-779-2730
Oversees Symposium EN01-EN11 and NM01-NM09 procedures for receiving abstracts via the website, entering information into the abstract database, and using the database to produce author correspondence (such as acknowledgement, acceptance and rejection letters) and the program pages for the Meeting and Exhibit Guide.
Marla Boots, Senior Technical Program Administrator
boots@mrs.org; 724-779-2726
Oversees Symposium BI01, CT01-CT08, EL01-EL09 and Symposium X procedures for receiving abstracts via the website, entering information into the abstract database, and using the database to produce author correspondence (such as acknowledgement, acceptance and rejection letters) and the program pages for the Meeting and Exhibit Guide.

Amanda Edmiston, Meetings Administrative Assistant
edmiston@mrs.org; 724-779-2729
Oversees and coordinates the production of the Call for Papers. Oversees and coordinates the meeting endorsement/co-sponsorship program. Updates and posts the Symposium Organizer and Meeting Chair Handbooks. Assists the Meetings Manager in coordinating RSVP rosters for planning meeting announcements to symposium organizers and meeting chairs. Coordinates the Symposium Assistant program.

Erin Moore, Technical Program Associate
moore@mrs.org; 724-779-2731
Oversees Symposium SM01-SM13 and ST01-ST05 procedures for receiving abstracts via the website, entering information into the abstract database, and using the database to produce author correspondence (such as acknowledgement, acceptance and rejection letters) and the program pages for the Meeting and Exhibit Guide. Oversees the Science as Art program. Assists the Meetings Manager with tutorial program projects.

Mary E. Kaufold, Manager, Advertising and Exhibits
kaufold@mrs.org; 724-779-2755
Responsible for promotion and operation of the meeting exhibit and advertising in MRS Bulletin and Meeting and Exhibit Guide, and coordinates literature displays at the Meetings. Manages the production of organizer-requested mailing labels (for individual-symposium call for papers announcements).

Donna Watterson, Exhibit Marketing Manager
watterson@mrs.org; 724-779-2757
Responsible for promotion and operation of the meeting exhibit, advertising and sponsorships along with Mary Kaufold. Manages the Meetings and Exhibits Assistant.

Brooke Baker, Meetings Project Manager
bbaker@mrs.org; 724-779-2723
Responsible for coordinating the production of the Meeting and Exhibit Guide for Spring and Fall meetings. Responsible for physical arrangements and on-site management at select MRS meetings and housing management. Also assists with meeting chair and symposium organizer guidance, and technical program development for select MRS Meetings.

Debbie Kriss, Meetings Project Manager
kriss@mrs.org; 724-779-2725
Responsible for all physical arrangements and on-site management of operations at MRS Fall Meetings.
Niccole Reichel, Meetings Project Manager
reichel@mrs.org; 724-779-2741
Responsible for all physical arrangements and on-site management of operations at MRS Spring Meetings.

Eileen Kiley, Director of Communications
kiley@mrs.org; 724-779-2742
Responsible for MRS publications, marketing, public relations, website, and digital media activities. Oversees the content and production of MRS’s scientific journals including MRS Bulletin, MRS Advances, Journal of Materials Research, MRS Communications and MRS Energy & Sustainability.

Ellen Kracht, Publications Manager
kracht@mrs.org; 724-779-2766

Susan Dittrich, Editorial Associate, MRS Advances
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Assists editors and authors with submissions, peer review, and publication of articles in MRS Advances and MRS Energy & Sustainability.

Gopal Rao, Editor, MRS Bulletin
rao@mrs.org; 724-779-2750

Lori Wilson, Managing Editor, MRS Bulletin
lwilson@mrs.org; 724-779-2749
Manages MRS Bulletin operations. Works with the MRS News Editor for scheduling pre- and post-meeting publicity and coverage in MRS Bulletin.

Judy Meiksin, News Editor
meiksin@mrs.org; 724-779-2747
Responsible for MRS Bulletin news content. Manages Meeting Scene coverage at MRS meetings. Serves as the meeting’s website reporter, adding information as it occurs for real-time meeting updates.

Anita Miller, Manager, Marketing and Communications
amiller@mrs.org; 724-779-2754
Responsible for promotion and marketing of MRS meetings and meeting activities including calls for papers, registration, publications, special events, press relations, signage, and design/layout of the Meeting and Exhibit Guide. On-site activities include management of Publications Sales area and press relations.
Bob Braughler, Digital Media Manager  
braughler@mrs.org; 724-779-2752  
Responsible for planning, execution, delivery, and hosting of online digital events.

Erin Hasinger, Web Communications Manager  
hasinger@mrs.org; 724-779-2739  
Responsible for management of the MRS website and MRS Meeting App, including posting, marketing, and communication of meeting-related content and activities.

J. Ardie (Butch) Dillen, Director of Finance and Administration  
dillen@mrs.org; 724-779-2711  
Responsible for overseeing all MRS financial operations. Sets the policies and procedures for symposium funding and is the headquarters staff person for ensuring that symposium funds are expended and accounted for properly.

Mallory Starr, Accounting Manager  
starr@mrs.org; 724-779-2713  
Oversees accounting records, supervises day-to-day accounting and on-site meeting accounting operations, is responsible for financial report preparation, and coordinates research and preparation of project reports. Principal contact person at MRS Headquarters for symposium organizers on symposium funding and budget issues. Contact person for preparing the symposium budget, obtaining the most current status of symposium funding, spending symposium funds and ordering special audio-visual equipment and/or food & beverage functions on site.

Michele Feder, Associate Director of Engagement  
feder@mrs.org; 724-779-2738  
Manages volunteerism within MRS, including recruitment, retention and recognition programs. Promotes volunteerism, engagement and inclusion within MRS, assessing needs and developing programs to meet those needs through the recruitment, placement, and retention of volunteers. Serves as a central point person for volunteer opportunities. Develops and manages professional development, career resources, iMatSci, MRS Foundation and volunteer benefit and recognition programs including oversight of MRS Awards and University Chapters.

Lorri Smiley, Career Services and Awards Administrator  
smiley@mrs.org; 724-779-2733  
Manages the MRS Awards programs, including Graduate Student Awards. Manages the MRS Career Fair at each MRS Meeting and is the HQ Liaison for the MRS University Chapters program; oversees the Women in Materials Science & Engineering Breakfast and Workshop events.

Donna Gillespie, Government Affairs Coordinator  
gillespie@mrs.org; 724-779-2732  
Contact person for preparing government grant proposals. Backup responsibility for symposium funding and grant administration.
C. 2020 MRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Date following name indicates end of term on the Board)

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D. MRS COMMITTEES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS

Graduate Student Awards Subcommittee of the Awards Committee
One of the functions of this committee is to solicit and coordinate symposium organizer rankings of Graduate Student Award applications (refer to Section 12). These rankings help determine the finalists who will compete for the Gold and Silver Awards, and special GSA awards such as the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award at the MRS Spring and Fall Meetings. The participation of symposium organizers in the ranking is a critical and important part of their responsibilities. (Refer to Section 7H, Responsibility Chart. The “Graduate Student Awards - Evaluation of Applications” section must be completed for all symposia.) The Awards Committee also provides the financial support for the Gold and Silver Awards. (Refer to: http://www.mrs.org/awards-committee/)

Meetings Committee (MTGC)
The Meetings Committee is responsible for planning, executing, and evaluating program content of all Meetings in which the Society participates. This includes technical symposia and broader impact content, tutorials, workshops, experiments in new meetings, as well as co-sponsored, co-located or other partnered programming. Meetings Committee subcommittees are Meetings Assessment, New Meetings and Program Development. MTGC recommends candidates for future Meeting Chairs and solicits and develops suggestions for new symposia, evaluates current and previous symposia for timeliness and relevance, and assesses meeting quality. (Refer to: http://www.mrs.org/committees)
**Program Development Subcommittee (PDSC)**
The Program Development Subcommittee assists the Meetings Committee in developing a balanced program by planning and overseeing the major multi-symposium Society meeting programs—Fall, Spring, and IMRC. PDSC works with the Meeting Chairs and suggests new symposium topics and organizers, so that the diverse interdisciplinary environment of symposium-based meetings continues to be preserved and enhanced. This Subcommittee is also responsible for overseeing the tutorial program, in coordination with the Meeting Chairs and the Tutorial Review Group, to enhance the meetings. Refer to Section 10 for more details about planning and submitting your tutorial proposal.

(Refer to: [http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/](http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/))

PDSC oversees broader impact programming through proposals submitted to the Broader Impact Program Development Working Group (BIPDWG). BIPDWG oversees Fall and Spring Meeting programming outside of the technical content of the meeting with a view to optimizing non-technical or broader impact activities as an integral part of the meetings; it reviews and approves scheduling of non-symposium events and broader-impact events, and serves as the point of contact for non-technical meetings to be held outside of the Spring and Fall meetings as well. (Refer to: [www.mrs.org/broader-impact-programming/](http://www.mrs.org/broader-impact-programming/))

**Meetings Assessment Subcommittee (MASC)**
The Meetings Assessment Subcommittee reviews all major MRS meeting activities (Spring/Fall Meetings, co-sponsored events, workshops, and non-technical activity integration) to ensure quality is maintained across the MRS meeting event spectrum. MASC will actively participate in the Symposium Organizer Thank You Reception/Meeting Wrap-up Discussion and Meeting Chair debriefing sessions for the Spring, Fall, IMRC and other regular MRS meeting activities as they develop. In addition, the Subcommittee shall survey meeting attendees, evaluate meeting success including broader-impact peripheral meeting enhancements, and provide benchmarking. MASC will develop a set of general metrics and an archive to serve as a Society resource in this area. (Refer to: [http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/](http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/))

**New Meetings Subcommittee (NMSC)**
The New Meetings Subcommittee is responsible for the review of all new meetings initiatives (including workshops, special sessions, and topical meetings) brought to MRS via any means. This may include meetings that NMSC may generate, or summer schools, or grass roots initiatives, or Board-initiated efforts. It explores collaborations with other societies and activities to promote commercial and/or industrial participation. NMSC works with the Industry Engagement Council (IEC) to develop new and enhance existing industry engagement with MRS. It also evaluates and approves proposed endorsements and co-sponsorships for external technical meetings. (Refer to: [http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/](http://www.mrs.org/meetings-committee/))

**Publications Committee**
The Publications Committee shall be responsible for the quality of MRS publications and shall provide direction to and review of the society’s print and electronic publications, including journals, books, news, educational and all other publications. It shall oversee general editorial policy, engage in strategic planning and development of the Society’s current and future publications, recommend and work with partner entities where appropriate, and initiate publication focused task forces and subcommittees as deemed necessary by the committee. (Refer to: [http://www.mrs.org/publications-committee/](http://www.mrs.org/publications-committee/))
**Society Agility Council**
The Society Agility Council’s (SAC) role is to ensure the generation and maintenance of innovative topical communities within MRS for the implementation of the Society’s strategic objectives and its continued success. As scientific content enters and is maintained in the Society primarily via publications and meetings, the SAC is responsible for ensuring that MRS incubates and nurtures emerging and high-impact materials research topics; accommodates late-breaking topics/unsual programming with an efficient and swift decision-making process; and encourages the maintenance and representation of active and vibrant topics within the broader scope of MRS meeting and publication activities. SAC’s role embraces vetting, approving, and programming content that extends beyond the traditional MRS bottoms-up programming approach, and ensures coordination between MRS Meetings and Publications Committees.

*A complete MRS committee roster can be accessed at: [www.mrs.org/committees](http://www.mrs.org/committees).*
SECTION 4: MEETING SYMPOSIA

Meeting Chairs:
Linyou Cao, Lena Kourkoutis, Andreas Lendlein, Xiaolin Li and Seung Min Han

MRS Programming Staff:
Marla Boots, boots@mrs.org
Broader Impact (BI01)
Characterization and Modeling (CT01-CT08)
Electronics and Optics (EL01-EL09)
Karen Bartling, bartling@mrs.org
Energy and Sustainability (EN01-EN10)
Nanoscale and Quantum Materials (NM01-NM09)
Erin Moore, moore@mrs.org
Soft Materials and Biomaterials (SM01-SM13)
Structural Materials (ST01-ST05)

BROADER IMPACT (Meeting Chair: Andreas Lendlein)
BI01 Incorporating Sustainability into Materials Science Education, Training and Public Outreach

CHARACTERIZATION AND MODELING (Meeting Chairs: Lena Kourkoutis and Andreas Lendlein)
CT01 In Situ/Operando Characterization of Solid–Liquid Interfaces for Sustainable Energy, Water and Environment
CT02 In Situ TEM Characterization of Dynamic Processes During Materials Synthesis and Processing
CT03 Imaging Materials with X-Rays—Recent Advances with Synchrotron and Laboratory Sources
CT04 Predictive Synthesis and Decisive Characterization of Emerging Quantum Materials
CT05 Artificial Intelligence and Automation for Materials Design
CT06 From Quantum Mechanics to Materials Engineering—Recent Progress on the Development and Novel Applications of Ab Initio Methods in Materials Science
CT07 Excited-State Properties of Materials—Theory and Computation
CT08 Mechanochemical Coupling in Chemical Treatment and Materials Degradation—Modeling and Experimentation

ELECTRONICS AND OPTICS (Meeting Chair: Linyou Cao)
EL01 Organic Semiconductors and Characterization Techniques for Emerging Electronic Devices
EL02 Fundamentals of Halide Semiconductors for Optoelectronics
EL03 Emerging Ionic Semiconductors—Research and Applications
EL04 Ultrawide Bandgap Materials, Devices and Systems
EL05 Advanced Functional, Linear/Nonlinear and Quantum Materials for Metasurfaces, Metamaterials and Nanophotonics
EL06 Molecular and Colloidal Plasmonics—Synthesis and Applications
EL07 Bioelectronics—Fundamentals and Applications
EL08 Next-Generation Interconnects—Materials, Processes and Integration
EL09 Ferroelectricity and Negative Capacitance—Fundamentals, Applications and Controversies
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY (Meeting Chairs: Xiaolin Li and Seung Min Han)
EN01 Sustainable Catalysis—Novel Materials for Energy Conversion Beyond Photocatalysis
EN02 Sustainable Routes to Fuels and Commodity Chemicals Production via Electrochemical Methods
EN03 Intercalation Energy Storage Materials and Systems for Beyond Li-Ion Batteries
EN04 Towards High Safety and High Energy Density—Solid-State Batteries
EN05 Materials Challenges and Opportunities in Concentrated Solar Power Technologies
EN06 Frontier Energy Sciences in Halide Perovskites
EN07 Thin-Film Compound Semiconductor Photovoltaics
EN08 Progress in Understanding Charge Transfer at Electrochemical Interfaces in Batteries
EN09 Advances in Conversion Electrodes for Reliable Electrochemical Energy Storage
EN10 Transformation, Reaction and Organization at Functional Interfaces for Sustainable Energy Systems and Environmental Managements

NANOSCALE AND QUANTUM MATERIALS (Meeting Chairs: Lena Kourkoutis, Linyou Cao and Xiaolin Li)
NM01 Superconductors as Quantum Materials
NM02 Superconducting Materials and Applications
NM03 Topological and Quantum Phenomena in Intermetallic Compounds and Heterostructures
NM04 Magnetic Skyrmions and Topological Effects in Materials and Nanostructures
NM05 Functional Nanoparticle Materials—Synthesis, Property and Applications
NM06 Manipulation and Detection of Physical Properties of Two-Dimensional Quantum Materials
NM07 Beyond Graphene 2D Materials—Synthesis, Properties and Device Applications
NM08 Nanoscale Heat Transport—Fundamentals
NM09 Nanogenerators and Piezotronics

SOFT MATERIALS AND BIOMATERIALS (Meeting Chair: Andreas Lendlein)
Biomaterials/Medical Applications
SM01 Materials Modulating Stem Cells and Immune Response
SM02 Next-Generation Antimicrobial Materials—Combating Multidrug Resistance and Biofilm Formation
SM03 Advanced Neural Materials and Devices
SM04 Beyond Nano—Challenges and Opportunities in Drug Delivery
Multifunctional Materials from Design to Applications
SM05 Progress in Multimaterials and Multiphase-Based Multifunctional Materials
SM06 Materials and Fabrication Schemes for Robotics
SM07 Building Advanced Materials by Self-Assembly
SM08 Next-Generation Materials and Technologies for 3D Printing and Bioprinting
SM09 Peptide and Protein Design for Responsive Materials
Sustainable Systems/Processes
SM10 Progress in Green Chemistry Approaches for Sustainable Polymer Materials
SM11 Design and Analysis of Bioderived and Bioinspired Multifunctional Materials
SM12 Bioinspired Macromolecular Assembly and Hybrid Materials—From Fundamental Science to Applications
SM13 Advances in Membrane and Water Treatment Materials for Sustainable Environmental Remediation
STRUCTURAL MATERIALS (Meeting Chair: Seung Min Han)

ST01  Mechanical Behavior at Micro/Nano-Scale
ST02  *In Situ* Mechanical Testing of Materials at Small Length Scales, Modeling and Data Analysis
ST03  Design, Synthesis and Characterization of Architected Materials for Structural Applications
ST04  High Entropy Materials—From Fundamentals to Potential Applications
ST05  Mechanics of Energy Storage Materials

X Frontiers of Materials Research

Updated 5/4/2020
SECTION 5: PROGRAM

A. PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTIONS

MRS offers an online process for abstract submittal and program development. This section summarizes the most important details that you should know before developing your program. Your understanding of these procedures and your cooperation in meeting the various programming deadlines are crucial to the timely publication of meeting information. Authors and other meeting attendees need this information to arrange their travel and meeting schedules.

MRS Online System

The MRS Online System is a complete easy to use online tool for abstract submission through acceptance and session building of technical programs. There are two features for symposium organizers Review and Session Centers:

1) The Submission Center allows authors to submit their abstracts to a symposium.
2) The Review Center allows organizers to review (accept/reject) and print submitted abstracts.
3) The Session Center enables organizers to create individual program sessions from the abstracts that you marked as “accepted” in the Review Center. It is important that you appoint one co-organizer to input the group’s collective programming decisions.

Instructions to access the Review and Session Centers will be sent to you by MRS. You will have two weeks following the abstract deadline to review, select and arrange accepted abstracts into a program that must be completed in the MRS Online System.

If you have specific symposium questions, please contact MRS programming staff (refer to Section 4).

Abstract Submission

All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS Online System submission site, http://www.mrs.org/spring2021, (this link will not be active until September 24, 2020 and will close on October 29, 2020 11:59 pm ET). Organizers can begin looking at submitted abstracts and familiarizing yourself with the Review Center as soon as the abstract submission site opens. However, please note that nearly two-thirds of an expected 4,000+ abstracts are not submitted until three days prior to the abstract deadline. Also, authors have the ability to revise their abstracts up to the abstract deadline date. Therefore, we recommend that you wait until after the submission deadline date before making any decisions.

MRS programming staff will contact you two weeks prior to the submission site closing with complete instructions for building your technical program. We strongly recommend that you print all the abstracts AFTER the submission deadline to be certain that you have the latest version of all submittals.

Submissions Directly to Organizers

All abstracts must be submitted via the MRS Online System. If you receive an abstract from an author, please instruct them to upload their abstract to http://www.mrs.org/spring2021. If an author is unable to submit their abstract to the Online System, please instruct them to email meetings@mrs.org for assistance. DO NOT SUBMIT ABSTRACTS FOR ANY INVITED SPEAKER OR AUTHOR THROUGH THE MRS ONLINE SYSTEM.
Accepting/Rejecting Abstracts
Use the Review Center to determine and indicate which abstracts will comprise your program. The Review Center enables you to conveniently mark submitted abstracts as accepted or rejected, or to suggest that they be re-categorize to a more appropriate symposium. Because all organizers for each symposium have access to the Review Center—and one person’s selections can override another’s—it is important to designate one person to record the group’s final decisions within the Review Center. Indicating abstract acceptance or rejection within the Review Center is a necessary prelude to using the online programming features in the Session Center. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MRS-RECOMMENDED REJECTION RATES IS INCLUDED IN SECTION 5B and 5C.

Program Days
The program runs from Monday 10:30 am through Friday 5:00 pm. Optional: If you have a full program (Monday am-Friday pm) and need additional time, symposium sessions can be scheduled on Sunday.

Tutorials: Sunday, April 18, 2021 can be scheduled as half-day (morning or afternoon) or full day and must include appropriate breaks
- Sunday
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm half day morning
  - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm full day
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm half day afternoon

Symposia Oral Sessions: Monday, April 19, 2021 through Friday, April 23, 2021
- Monday
  - 8:15 am – 9:30 am Plenary Session
  - 9:30 am – 10:30 am Break
  - 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Symposia sessions
- Tuesday
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Symposia sessions
  - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Poster Session - Author Presentations
- Wednesday
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Symposia sessions
  - 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm SPECIAL BREAK FOR ALL SYMPOSIA
  - 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Poster Session - Author Presentations
- Thursday
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Poster Session - Author Presentations
- Friday
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Symposia sessions
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm Symposia sessions
Program Times

Symposia Oral Sessions

- Oral presentations are assigned 15 minutes.
- Invited speakers are assigned 30 minutes.
- Keynote Session (Invited) presentation is assigned 30 minutes, at the end of the session.
- Spotlight Talk presentations are groups of 3 poster presentations given a 5 minute talk each, at the end of the session, if applicable, prior to the Keynote Session presentation.

  o Morning Sessions:
    - Morning session traditional start time: 8:30 am
    - Optional start times: 8:00 am, 8:15 am
    - Morning sessions must end at 12:00 noon.
    - Include a 30 minute “Break” in all morning sessions except Monday. This break can occur anytime between 9:30 am and 10:30 am. Coffee will NOT be available before 9:30 am or after 10:30 am. To ensure adequate time for meeting attendees to network, meeting chairs recommend serious consideration be given to times other than 10:00 am.

  o Lunch Break:
    - There is a mandatory lunch break scheduled from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. Please note that MRS does not provide lunch to meeting participants.

  o Afternoon Sessions:
    - Afternoon session start time: 1:30 pm.
    - Afternoon sessions must end by 5:00 pm.
    - Include a 30 minute “Break” in all afternoon sessions except Wednesday. This break can occur anytime between 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Coffee will NOT be available before 2:30 pm or after 3:30 pm. To ensure adequate time for meeting attendees to network, meeting chairs recommend serious consideration be given to times other than 3:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY SPECIAL BREAK FOR ALL SYMPOSIA – There will be a mandatory one-hour break so attendees have the opportunity to visit the Exhibit Hall on Wednesday, April 21 from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm. During this time, coffee will be served in the Exhibit Hall. No other programming will be accepted during this 60-minute period, all meeting attendees are encouraged to visit the Exhibit to take part in the special festivities. Morning programs can begin at 8:00 am Wednesday, so that the additional 30 minutes of program time can be recovered.

Symposium X
Frontiers of Materials Research is scheduled from 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Meeting chairs are responsible for Symposium X.

Session Chairs – Make sure to have approval from your session chairs before assigning them to a session. (See Section 11B for Session Chair Guidelines)

- Each oral session should have at least two session chairs.
- Oral Session Chairs are responsible for overseeing the session and keeping it on time.
- Poster Session Chairs are responsible to review and nominate for the BEST POSTER AWARD. (At least one of the Poster session chairs should be a symposium organizer.)
**Poster Sessions**

Interdisciplinary Poster Sessions – Author Presentations will be scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, with snacks and beverages provided by MRS. Be sure to divide your evening poster session into separate sessions for each subtopic (if applicable, i.e. several sessions may be scheduled in a single evening). Poster sessions should be assigned the next sequential session number within your program. Because of limited space, it is recommended that you consider having poster sessions on multiple evenings, particularly if you have more than 40 poster presentations. In general, posters are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until room capacity is exceeded on any given evening. However, your preferred evenings for posters may be shifted in the interest of creating appropriately sized, well-attended poster sessions within the limited confines of the assigned poster room.

MRS strongly recommends organizers adhere to author’s whose preferred presentation type is a poster when building your program. Most authors who prefer to have a poster presentation do so because of language barriers. Therefore, we ask that if an author’s preference is poster and you have accepted the abstract you place it in a poster session and not as an oral presentation.

The Meeting Chairs will select and present 3-5 Best Poster Awards each day to the presenting authors. You will receive Best Poster Award Nomination instructions at the Symposium Organizer Tie-Down meeting, Sunday, April 18, 2021.

**Invited Abstracts**

Please ask your invited speakers to submit their abstracts to the MRS Online System by the abstract deadline, Thursday, October 29, 2020, 11:59 pm ET. ALL abstracts, including the invited speakers, are subject to the same deadlines. If they do not submit an abstract, you will often find it necessary to continuously remind them in order to avoid having “Abstract Not Available” appear in the online program. In those few cases in which extenuating circumstances make on-time submittal by an invited speaker impossible, please use the “placeholder” feature of the Session Center to indicate in your program the 30-minute time slot that you are holding for that invited speaker. MRS’ willingness to extend the deadline for invited speakers has been abused in recent meetings, with some papers not being submitted for several months after the published deadlines. This causes more work for both MRS staff and symposium organizers, so please urge your invited speakers to be timely.

**Invited Speaker Guidelines:**

- It is inappropriate for symposium organizers to be invited speakers within their own symposium.
- MRS expects invited speakers to personally present their talks. Please advise speakers of this requirement when inviting them.
- MRS strives to provide both established and newer members of the community the opportunity to give oral presentations. An invited-to-contributed ratio of 1:4 is recommended for your oral sessions. While some slight variation from this ratio is acceptable, the Society does not condone programs that are comprised of essentially all invited presentations.

MRS is aware that some people may be receiving invitations to speak at multiple symposia. To ensure that the invited speakers do not present the same material in multiple talks, please include the following in the invitation – “If you receive invitations to talk at multiple symposia, we ask that you accept no more than two invited talks and ensure that they are topically distinct.”
**Keynote Session**

Keynote Session (Invited) presentations are a 30 minute talk at the end of the session day by an invited speaker who has been requested to speak by multiple symposiums (uniting all symposiums (two or more symposiums) into one session for the invited speaker, known as a Keynote Session). Organizers of the applicable symposiums must work together on having the keynote session with the same title, abstract and session time.

**Joint Sessions**

Joint sessions must be constructed through the close, direct interaction of the respective groups of organizers involved—or at least by those organizers who have primary programming responsibility. Organizers of joint sessions must work closely together during the program planning process to recommend and share those abstracts that they feel are best suited to the topical emphasis of their joint session. It is especially important that both symposia sponsoring a joint session submit programs that are consistent; i.e., the same papers in the same time slots. This can only be done through close and frequent contact in the planning stage. Failure to properly coordinate joint sessions will only delay the processing of your program by MRS. MRS programming staff will provide complete instructions for building sessions in your program.

**Spotlight Talk**

Spotlight Talk presentations are groups of 3 poster presentations given a 5 minute talk each, up to a total of 30 minutes with a maximum of 6 poster presentations at the end of the session day, prior to the Keynote Session, if applicable. Spotlight talks highlight poster presentations of that evening promoting attendees to come see the poster presentation.

**Late Abstracts**

MRS strictly enforces the published abstract deadline so that symposium organizers can finalize their programs in a timely fashion. You may be contacted by an author who would like you to consider a late contributed abstract. If you feel the late abstract is 1) legitimate “late breaking news” or 2) is otherwise of a quality surpassing that of on-time submittals, please send a written explanation to your assigned Meeting Chair (identified on the symposia list, Section 4) with a copy to Pat Hastings at MRS Headquarters. We will review your requests and inform you of our decision as soon as possible. **Late abstracts cannot be included in your program without the approval of the Meeting Chair(s).** If the abstract does not meet either of these two criteria, please remind the author that we do not accept post-deadline submittals.

**Symposia Clusters**

The Meeting symposia have been organized into topical clusters, as shown in Section 4. We will try to maintain these clusters to the highest degree possible when assigning meeting rooms. However, history indicates that, in order to assign appropriately sized rooms to all symposia—and to try to keep related symposia and those with joint sessions in close proximity—it will be unlikely that ALL the linkages can be maintained. If you feel that your symposium is better placed in a different cluster, or you want to identify especially strong linkages within a given cluster that we should try to maintain under all circumstances, please let your assigned Meeting Chair (refer to Section 4) know right away. We will do everything we can to accommodate your requests. However, the Meeting Chairs must reserve the right to make the final decision on symposia locations and room assignments for the benefit of the overall meeting.
**Program Planning Meeting**

In order to finalize programs and room assignments, it is important that you complete your programs by the Symposium program deadline, November 13, 2020. That will enable MRS Programming Staff to prepare copies of the programs for your review at the Program Planning Meeting, December 4, 2020. An agenda and reply form for this planning meeting will be e-mailed to you. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of having at least one representative from each symposium at this critical planning event.

MRS looks forward to working with all of you to achieve an MRS Meeting that will exceed everyone’s best expectations. If you have any questions about the programming process, please contact Pat Hastings, hastings@mrs.org, or any of the Meeting Chairs.

If you have specific symposium questions, please contact MRS Programming Staff (refer to Section 4).

**B. ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

High-quality meetings are one of the hallmarks of the Materials Research Society. MRS continuously strives to maintain and improve the quality of the symposia meeting program. As a symposium organizer, you are responsible for accepting abstracts for both oral and poster sessions that meet the high standards of your symposium and the meeting as a whole.

Things to keep in mind when determining a quality abstract:

1. Does the subject matter have an interested audience today?
2. Does the abstract present cutting edge research?
3. Does the abstract present technically new or innovative ideas?

Because it’s the quality, not the duration, that ultimately determines a symposium’s success, we strongly recommend that you reject abstracts that do not meet the topical criteria or the quality of your symposium. Including poor abstracts in poster sessions is NOT a valid alternative to rejecting them; the selection criteria for posters should be the same as for oral sessions. **The MRS suggested abstract rejection rate is 15% based on the criteria below.**

Although rejection rates can vary because of a symposium’s unique circumstances, symposium organizers will be asked to justify to the Meeting Chairs any rejection rates that are significantly below this level. The consequences of not rejecting unsuitable abstracts are substantial. Your symposium will experience lower-than-expected attendance and be perceived as being low-quality overall. Ultimately, this could jeopardize opportunities for participation of this topic or symposium in future MRS meetings.

**Grounds for Abstract Rejection:**

Grounds for abstract rejection include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The abstract is not in the field of the symposium. (If possible, the abstract should be re-categorized to a more suitable symposium. This can be done in the Review Center.)
2. The work presented in the abstract is of comparatively poor quality.
3. The work is not likely to be of interest to a reasonable number of symposium attendees.
4. The work is not recent and/or has been reported extensively elsewhere.
5. The work is repetitive due to multiple submissions by a single author. (In this case, you should explicitly instruct the author to combine the material from various abstracts into a single submittal.)
C. REJECTION RATES

The Society continuously strives to maintain and improve the quality of its meetings. Because it is the quality, not the duration, that ultimately determines a symposium’s success, we strongly recommend that you reject abstracts that do not meet the topical criteria or the quality of your symposium. Including poor abstracts in poster sessions is NOT a valid alternative to rejecting them; the selection criteria for posters should be the same as for oral sessions. The recommended rejection rate for an MRS meeting is 15%—some are higher and some lower—depending on individual circumstances. IMPORTANT: Symposium organizers will be expected to justify rejection rates that are significantly below the suggested level to assigned Meeting Chairs for your cluster.
SECTION 6: SYMPOSIUM PROMOTION

A. PROMOTING YOUR SYMPOSIUM

The Meeting Chairs have asked that all symposium organizers submit their Call for Papers text through the MRS Call for Papers website (www.callforpapers.mrs.org) by May 15, 2020. This information will be posted to the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting web pages (www.mrs.org/spring2021) by mid-June 2020.

The 2021 MRS Spring Meeting web pages are the primary media for disseminating information about the meeting. The Call for Papers, Program, Abstracts, and other relevant information are posted on the website as they become available. The Program and Abstracts are posted in HTML format. A web-based and mobile Meeting App will also be available closer to the Meeting date.

Marketing efforts begin in early August, when approximately 20,000 postcards and over 40,000 email announcements will be sent to materials scientists from around the world. The Call for Papers will also be promoted via our e-newsletter, Materials360®, which has a global reach of 35,000+.

In addition, we ask for your help to promote the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting, your symposium, and in particular, your own Call for Papers.

- Share information with your colleagues
  - The Call for Papers flyer (and Registration Announcement later) will be posted in pdf format on the Meeting website. Feel free to share, by email or print, with your colleagues, students or others who may be interested.
  - Post the flyers on department bulletin boards and in classrooms
  - Promote via social media

- Encourage colleagues to update their email preferences with MRS, ensuring they receive all the latest news and updates about the Meeting and related events.

B. PUBLICITY/PRESS COVERAGE FOR MRS MEETINGS

Our Objectives
To generate responsible coverage in the technical and general press about research developments reported at MRS Meetings; and to encourage greater appreciation among reporters and editors about the contributions and importance of materials research and development.

Principal Methods
Furnish reporters and editors with a suggested list of topics and specific presentations worth attending—either overviews of important fields or explanations of noteworthy developments in research or application of materials.
**Procedure**

- In early March, Symposium Organizers will receive an email from MRS Marketing, inviting them to submit their Symposium Highlights for the press. The email will include a direct link to the online Symposium Highlights submission form.

- **Highlights Submission Deadline: March 22, 2021**

- We are seeking your judgment as to which presentations—if any—ought to be highlighted for the press. Highlights should be selected principally for the novelty of the work to be presented, although we are also interested in any good overview presentations that would help give reporters a “handle” on the symposium and fields affected.

- MRS prepares a Press Tip Sheet (see sample in Section 6C) based on symposium highlights furnished by symposium organizers.

**Additional Press Considerations**

Our first emphasis for press coverage at MRS Meetings is on veteran correspondents from *Science, Nature, Science News, Physics Today, C & E News*, and other major technical publications. They have been extremely complimentary of the press information provided by symposium organizers in the form of symposium highlights and lay-language abstracts. Sometimes these materials lead to immediate news coverage; sometimes they form the basis for a more in-depth article weeks or months later. (MRS cannot guarantee the use of any press information that you provide.)

We also are on the lookout for topics and stories appropriate for the general press. Science editors at the *Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, New York Times, CNN, Newsweek* and *Time* pay attention to the MRS Meeting although coverage in these publications is rare. If you know of a topic or presentation that you believe should be called to the attention of these editors, please contact:

**Anita B. Miller**
Manager, Marketing and Communications
Phone: 724-779-2754
amiller@mrs.org

**Jenny MacBeth**
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Phone: 724-779-2771
macbeth@mrs.org
C. PRESS TIP SHEET (Sample)

2020 MRS Spring Meeting
Phoenix, AZ—April 13-17, 2020

Symposium organizers for the 2020 MRS Spring Meeting have advised that the following presentations are of special note to the trade press. Program comments (in italics) are from the symposium organizers themselves. Only presenting authors are listed. The content provided is based on information current as of April 1, 2020. For the most up-to-date information, and for additional information on these presentations (including abstracts), visit https://www.mrs.org/spring2020, or consult the official MRS Spring Meeting mobile app.

SYMPOSIUM CM05
Strain Localization, Avalanches and Intermittent Deformation Mechanisms

CM05.02.04  Beaudoin, Armand, Study of the Transient Response in Alloys Using High-Energy X-Ray Diffraction
Tuesday, 3:30 pm | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 132 B
Revealing with x-rays in 3D where fluctuations in plastic flow occur in a polycrystalline metal

CM05.03.06  Loffler, Jorg, Constitutive Model for Shear Stability in Metallic Glasses
Wednesday, 10:30 am | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 132 B
Atomistic understanding for different shear stabilities of amorphous metals – derived from experiments, general results for plastic flow of metallic glasses

CM05.04.05  Harder, Ross, Bragg Coherent Diffractive Imaging for Nanoscale In Situ Studies
Wednesday, 3:45 pm | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 132 B
New diffraction based methods to measure atomic strains during in situ testing at a synchrotron

CM05.06.02  Rycroft, Christopher, Simulations of Three-Dimensional Shear Band Structure in Bulk Metallic Glasses
Thursday, 2:00 pm | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 132 B
First mesoscopic/continuum description of strain localization in metallic glasses – bridging from the atomic picture to the macro-scale

SYMPOSIUM EN07
Issues, Challenges and Opportunities in Actinide Materials

EN07.01.01  Abergel, Rebecca, Exploring Trends in Bonding from Actinium to Einsteinium Using Biologically Relevant Ligands—Where Separation, Decontamination and Nuclear Medicine Meet
Tuesday, 10:30 am | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 126 C
Medicines for radioactive decontamination

EN07.01.02  Wang, Shuao, What Can Actinides Do for Metal-Organic Frameworks and What Can Metal Organic Frameworks Do for Actinides and Fission Products?
Tuesday, 11:00 am | PCC North, 100 Level, Room 126 C
Cutting edge science from China
D. MEETING SCENE® ON-SITE COVERAGE

Meeting Scene delivers daily summaries of technical presentations and events by on-the-spot reporters at MRS Spring and Fall Meetings. These electronic newsletters are produced by Meeting Scene Editor, Judy Meiksin (meiksin@mrs.org), and are distributed to approximately 25,000 MRS members, Meeting attendees and subscribers. They are also posted on the MRS website.

During the Meeting week, we ask that you forward newsworthy items, breaking news, or significant new research developments to Judy for inclusion in the daily reports. Please also alert us to any special or noteworthy talks within your symposium that could warrant special attention. News items (along with graphics) can be e-mailed directly to Judy or may be left at one of the MRS Help Desks.

Additional information on Meeting Scene may be found at www.mrsmeetingscene.org
SECTION 7: SYMPOSIUM FUNDING

A. INTRODUCTION/FUNDING POLICY

MRS supplies symposium organizers with the necessary basic services to run a symposium without raising additional funds. However, additional funds can assist in obtaining internationally recognized scientists as invited speakers and cover expenses incurred during the organization of the symposium. Possible funding sources include government agencies, DOE national laboratories, and industry. **Guidance for approaching fundraising is given in this section.** Fundraising does not involve a great deal of time, and it adds to the success of a symposium.

MRS encourages co-support of symposia by other professional societies, institutes and foundations. For details on this and reciprocal arrangements that can be made with other organizations, contact Patricia Hastings, Director of Meeting Activities.

To ensure fiscal responsibility and to avoid situations that might be potentially embarrassing to you and to the Society, it is important that you follow the procedures outlined in this section.

**Symposium Funding Policy**

MRS uses its financial resources to provide symposium organizers the opportunity to plan and advertise a topical symposium in their specialty field and to hold that symposium in comfortable, well-managed surroundings conducive to the productive exchange of information. Frequently, symposium organizers want to extend or enhance these basic features to make their symposium special.

Unlike most other technical societies, MRS permits its symposium organizers to supplement the basic meeting features with appropriate additions they feel will improve the quality and effectiveness of their symposium. MRS encourages symposium organizers to take full advantage of the opportunity to design a unique symposium operationally and technically. However, with the right to provide desired enhancements goes the responsibility to raise funds to pay for them and to use those funds in an appropriate manner.

The financial burden of services and benefits beyond the basic symposium support of the Society rests entirely with the symposium organizers. MRS cannot afford and will not pay for these. However, MRS will provide considerable assistance with the fundraising efforts of the symposium organizers.

Each symposium is allocated $1,500 of funding from MRS. The funding is designed to assist organizers with enhancing the quality of their symposia and might be set aside by organizers for invited speaker registration and/or travel support, financial support for junior researchers and students, and special at-meeting AV needs. **Note: symposium organizers' registration fees cannot be paid from this fund.**

The Society has developed effective methods by which symposium organizers can successfully solicit funds from federal agencies and private corporations. These methods do involve time and effort by the organizers. The following pages provide more detailed information concerning the basic symposium services, examples of supplemental features, and operational procedures for symposium funding.
B. BASIC SYMPOSIUM SERVICES SUPPLIED BY MRS

MRS assumes the essential financial costs of running a symposium. The services that MRS provides to all symposia and which do not require supplemental funds are:

Before the Meeting:
- Compilation of a targeted mailing list from MRS interest lists and from names supplied by symposium organizers.
- Production and distribution of the Call for Papers
- Processing and coordination of abstracts for production and posting of the Program on the MRS website.
- Processing of pre-registrants
- Assembly and printing of the Meeting & Exhibit Guide
- Detailed planning of the meeting activities for smooth operation

At the Meeting:
- Processing on-site registrants
- Well-equipped and staffed meeting rooms to include standard AV, poster boards, and symposium assistants.
- Morning and afternoon coffee breaks
- Society reception
- Refreshments at evening Poster Sessions.

Note: The standard AV package in each meeting room will consist of an LCD projector, screen, pointer and lapel microphone. ONLY meeting rooms with seating capacity over 150 attendees will have wireless aisle microphones for Q&A. Authors must provide their own laptop computer, power cord, and any proprietary cords required by their laptop.

C. OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL FEATURES FINANCED BY EXTERNAL FUNDING

It is possible to run a symposium and publish in MRS Advances without raising any additional funds. However, additional funds can be used to help make your symposium special.

Examples of supplemental features that symposium organizers might want to provide include the following:

- Support for invited speakers such as travel reimbursement, registration fees or complimentary print issue of MRS Advances;
- Support for tutorial instructors above the stipend provided by MRS (Refer to Section 10);
- Support for students or underrepresented groups to attend your symposium;
- Payment of registration fees and travel reimbursement for symposium organizers;
- Food and beverage functions, other than the basic refreshments provided by MRS;
- Requests for special AV such as extra microphones (wireless, aisle or podium);
- Best Poster or Best Presentation awards within your symposium (see guidelines below)
DETERMINING A BUDGET FOR OPTIONAL SYMPOSIUM FEATURES

Only partial support is normally required to secure a speaker (for example, offering $500 towards travel, not covering their entire travel cost). In most cases, partial support of travel makes it easier for speakers to raise the balance they need.

- **Payment of honoraria is not appropriate.**
- Offers of support should be for fixed dollar amounts rather than for a percentage of the total travel expense.
- Until funding is confirmed, offers of support should be communicated as tentative (“if funding becomes available, we will assist you with $500 toward your travel expenses”). **MRS is not liable for offers of support that cannot be fulfilled.**

There are no waived, reduced, or one-day registration fees. All meeting registrations must be paid either by the individual or from symposium funds.

You should exercise discretion in setting up your budget.

- Lavish and excessive spending is not necessary to run an effective symposium and may bring discredit to MRS.
- Spending on entertainment should be kept within reasonable levels. (For example, a dinner for speakers and session chairs should be treated as a networking opportunity and limit lavish food and beverages).
- In most circumstances, government agencies will not support food & beverage costs. Supplemental food & beverage functions require using the $1,500 MRS funds or corporate funds.

BEST POSTER OR BEST PRESENTATION AWARDS GUIDELINES

If you choose to give Best Poster or Best Presentation awards within your symposium, the symposium organizers should decide on the amount and number of awards to give. The organizers will also be responsible for selecting the winners.

MRS will process monetary awards from your symposium account.

The symposium organizers should coordinate any certificate or other documentation you wish to give to the award winners.

- Please note if certificates or other documentation is issued to the winners, the certificate wording should be specific to your symposium (for example, “Best Poster for Symposium MS01: Materials Science is Great as held at the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting”)
- Please list the MRS Meeting in this format, without shortening or modifying: 2021 MRS Spring Meeting.
It is not necessary to “name” the award after your symposium supporters, as they will receive various other forms of recognition in return for their donation. However, if you do choose to offer an award in the name of one of your supporters (often the publisher supporters will want you to do this), the award must not be tied to any obligation to publish with them because MRS reserves the right of first refusal for publication of collections of MRS Symposium content.

D. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SYMPOSIUM FUNDING

Symposium organizers wanting to add supplemental activities must adhere to the following minimal procedures. These are for liability protection of both the organizers and the Society:

- Symposium budgets are managed by Mallory Starr at HQ. Symposium Organizers must communicate with Mallory Starr regarding their plans for receiving and spending symposium funds.
- All funds raised on behalf of MRS symposia must be deposited at MRS in an account specific to a given symposium (Mallory Starr at MRS will provide information on how to make payment to this fund).
- Disbursements from symposium funding will be made upon written request of the symposium financial chair. No reasonable request will be denied, but the Society needs to have this procedure to be assured that the request is indeed reasonable and funds to cover the request exist.
- Organizers should ONLY offer support to symposium attendees when the funding commitments are confirmed. (MRS is not liable for offers of support that cannot be fulfilled.)
  - Until funding is confirmed, offers of support can be communicated as tentative (“if funding becomes available, we will assist you with $500 toward your travel expenses”).

E. PROPOSALS FOR FEDERAL FUNDS

The following government agencies are potential sources for funding your symposium – Contact Mallory Starr (starr@mrs.org) or Donna Gillespie (gillespie@mrs.org) for sample government proposals:

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research/Air Force Research Laboratory: www.afrl.af.mil
- Army Research Office¹: www.aro.army.mil
- Department of Energy: www.doe.gov
- National Science Foundation²: www.nsf.gov
- Office of Naval Research: www.navy.onr.mil

¹ ARO requires MRS to submit one block grant per meeting. Symposium Organizers should submit proposal information to Donna Gillespie (gillespie@mrs.org) who will then arrange the block grant to be submitted collectively.

² The National Science Foundation updates its Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) each year to communicate the recommendations of the National Science Board. The link to the most recent PAPPG (effective June 1, 2020) is: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf20001&org=NSF
This document should be reviewed by organizers that wish to request funding from NSF.

Each proposal must contain a summary of the project and statements on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity.
NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to the achievement of societally relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include, but are not limited to: full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); improved STEM education; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; and increased partnerships between academic, industry, and others.

**STEPS FOR SOLICITING GOVERNMENTAL FUNDING**

Generally, government agencies are very receptive to novel symposia, and you should emphasize this aspect in your initial contact. The following approach has been successful for many previous symposium organizers:

1. **Telephone funding agency representatives** that you believe are likely to be interested in the technical area your symposium will address; describe your plans and ask if they are interested in possibly funding such a symposium.

2. If the representative seems interested or does not discourage you, **prepare a formal proposal** to include:
   - A one-page abstract readable by people with wide and diverse backgrounds;
   - A description of the scientific background, objective and technical approach;
   - How the proposed research effort will respond to the objectives of the funding agency;
   - The need for this topic to be held at the MRS meeting vs. other meetings;
   - List of invited speakers;
   - How the results of the meeting will be disseminated;
   - Future directions for this series of symposia;
   - Anticipated budget and budget justification;
   - A 1-2 page biographic profile for the lead or financial symposium organizer

3. **Submit all proposals to Donna Gillespie, MRS HQ for processing.**

   Donna Gillespie can assist you by supplying copies of proposals from previous symposia. Proposal evaluations can take up to six months so early planning is recommended. Once an agency has formally decided to fund your symposium, MRS HQ will handle the administrative details to include invoicing for the funds, filing financial reports, and providing required *MRS Advances* volume to the funding agency.

4. **For all government grants, a final technical report must be prepared by the symposium organizers 60-days post-meeting** and sent to Donna Gillespie for submission to the granting agency. Failure to comply with this requirement delays evaluations for pending MRS proposals. To ensure full compliance by the symposium organizers in preparing final reports, MRS will hold in reserve 10% of the total grant award funds. These funds will be released for spending once the final report is prepared and submitted to MRS for forwarding to the appropriate government agency.
F. SOLICITATION OF CORPORATE FUNDS

Funds should be solicited where possible from the industrial/corporate sector. Contact industrial representatives that you believe are likely to be interested in the technical area your symposium will address; describe your plans and ask if they are interested in possibly funding such a symposium. Corporate funds can generally be used for a wider variety of purposes than government funds.

The MRS Symposium Support Program offers four (4) support levels beginning at $1,000:

- $10,000 Platinum
- $5,000 Gold
- $3,000 Silver
- $1,000 Bronze

Each donation can acknowledge only one Institution/Company.

All donations $1,000 and above receive Signature Benefits as follows:

- Recognition in the MRS Meeting & Exhibit Guide
- Recognition in on-site signage positioned outside the symposium room
- Recognition on Symposium Support page on the MRS website & mobile meeting app
- Recognition in the symposium technical program on the MRS website & mobile meeting app
- Recognition in a post-meeting issue of MRS Bulletin

The various support levels offer additional opportunities for recognition. See the MRS Symposium Support Program brochure for additional information.

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions of less than $1,000 will NOT receive the Signature Benefits, but will be recognized on the Symposium Support page on the MRS website & mobile meeting app.

For assistance in preparing correspondence to solicit corporate funds, contact Mallory Starr at MRS HQ. These letters can be prepared by your office staff or by Mallory Starr. See next page for sample letter.

You may also wish to let your equipment manufacturer contact know there will be an equipment exhibit at the meeting. Mary Kaufold at MRS HQ can provide more information (kaufold@mrs.org).

PLEASE NOTE:

Organizers may request to have one skirted table placed within their meeting room where their symposium supporters may display printed literature only – no electronic advertising of any kind is permitted in the symposium meeting rooms. To order the table (free of charge), contact Mallory Starr at starr@mrs.org. Symposium organizers are responsible for arranging delivery of the printed literature to the meeting room, and the organizers are also responsible for managing the table throughout the meeting week to ensure only your symposium supporters’ printed materials are on display.
At your discretion, you can also offer your symposium supporters additional exposure by projecting a PowerPoint slide at various times throughout the session. This would require you to create the slide, bring your own laptop, and connect to the switcher to project the slide before the start of the session and at break and lunch times. We encourage you to limit this to 1-2 slides, to use text only--no logos, and not to permit the symposium supporters to submit their own slides.

Please note the acknowledgement deadlines as listed in Section 7G that follows.
Insert date

Dear

The Materials Research Society requests your financial support for Symposium (insert code identifier and topic) to be held at the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting, April 18 – 23, in Seattle, Washington. Your support will help the Symposium Organizers provide a high quality technical program and encourage participation from researchers all over the world.

The MRS Symposium Support Program offers four (4) support levels ranging from $1,000 - $10,000, and includes the following Signature Benefits:

- Recognition in the MRS Meeting & Exhibit Guide
- Recognition in on-site signage positioned outside the symposium room
- Recognition on Symposium Support page on the MRS website & mobile meeting app
- Recognition in the symposium technical program on the MRS website & mobile meeting app
- Recognition in a post-meeting issue of MRS Bulletin

Please see the MRS Symposium Support Program brochure for additional information.

Payment should be identified as support for S21 (insert Symposium code identifier), and checks should be made payable to the Materials Research Society. Wire transfer details will be provided upon request.

For additional information regarding meeting and exhibit activities, please visit https://www.mrs.org/meetings-events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mallory Starr

Mallory Starr
Accounting Manager
Tel: 724-779-2713
starr@mrs.org
G. SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

CONTACT: MALLORY STARR (starr@mrs.org), 724-779-2713, FOR SYMPOSIUM FUNDING ISSUES

- MRS provides the essential services required for a symposium; however, additional support can help provide special features. Discuss possible sources of funding and appropriate expenditures with your co-organizers.
- Each symposium has been allocated $1,500 of funding from MRS. The funding is designed to assist organizers with enhancing the quality of their symposium. **Symposium organizer registration fees cannot be paid from this fund.**
- Prepare proposals for submission by Donna Gillespie to appropriate federal agencies. Allow sufficient time as the evaluation process can take up to six months. Funds from government agencies cannot be used for entertainment expenses. Some government agencies and DOE national laboratories do not allow payments to international attendees.
- Organizers may solicit industry for donations for symposium support. Checks are to be made payable to the Materials Research Society, identified as support for your particular symposium and sent directly to MRS. **All solicited funds must go through the MRS to receive symposium support recognition benefits (in program, onsite signage, etc.)**
- **There are no waived, reduced or one-day registration fees.** All meeting registrations must be paid either by the individual or from symposium funds.
- Do not make firm financial commitments to individuals (either registration or travel) until you know there is money “in the bank.” Until funding is confirmed, offers of support can be communicated as tentative (“if funding becomes available, we will assist you with $500 toward your travel expenses”). MRS is not liable for offers of support that cannot be fulfilled due to insufficient symposium funds.
- **Please note symposium-paid registrations for invited speakers and organizers are not automatic.** You are responsible for selecting invited speakers and organizers whose registration fees will be paid by the symposium. You are also responsible for notifying your invited speakers if your symposium will not offer them any financial assistance.
- If you have invited speakers that will not receive financial support from your symposium, make sure you inform them they have to register for the meeting. Many invited speakers come to the meeting under the assumption the organizers have paid their registration. Notification before the meeting eliminates confusion and frustration.
- Based on the speaker list you provide, Mallory will verify the membership status of your speakers and organizers and send a draft budget to you for approval. Once approved, the registrations are processed and the speakers will receive confirmation by email. Registration requests received after the preregistration deadline will be charged the higher on-site rates.
- Symposium-paid food and beverage (F&B) events require non-government funds. Symposium F&B events to be held at the meeting venue are to be coordinated with Mallory Starr. Organizers may opt to host an event at a local restaurant. One of the organizers must pay for the event and submit receipts to Mallory for reimbursement.
- Travel support checks may be processed prior to the meeting and ready for distribution onsite. Arrangements will be made with the local Wells Fargo Bank where your participants receiving travel support may cash the MRS check for a nominal fee.
DEADLINES

- The deadlines to list symposium support in MRS publications:
  - *Meeting & Exhibit Guide*, and sign placed outside of your symposium room – **March 1, 2021**.
  - Symposium technical program posted on the MRS website – **March 26, 2021**.
- Symposium-paid onsite food and beverage (F&B) requests are due no later than **March 15, 2021**.
- Special AV requests are due no later than **March 15, 2021**.
- Travel support checks may be processed prior to the meeting and ready for distribution in Seattle. This list is due to Mallory by **March 26, 2021**.
  - Travel support checks for non-USA participants may also be processed at the meeting. Details on this procedure will be provided to the symposium financial chairs in March 2021.
  - Arrangements will be made with a local bank where your participants receiving travel support may cash the MRS check for a nominal fee before leaving the USA.
- Requests for final disbursement are due to Mallory no later than **July 31, 2021**. Requests received after July 31, 2021 will not be fulfilled.
SECTION 8: MRS Advances PUBLISHING

Publishing with MRS and Springer Nature, MRS’s new publishing alliance in 2021, ensures dissemination and discoverability of your symposium’s content well beyond the meeting. MRS Advances is a digital journal publishing snapshots of work in progress. Article scope offers a focused, in-depth look at key materials topics of current interest, as identified by MRS meeting programming. The journal now includes contributions not presented at the meeting, but solicited from the MRS community for the specific topics of each meeting. This allows you, at your option, to create a focused issue on your symposium topic that incorporates the broadest reach of the society. Details are available at your request. MRS Advances is now indexed in Scopus and the Web of Science, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which heightens the profile of the work published in it.

This section focuses on publication of MRS Advances and the editorial responsibilities of symposium organizers in publishing these collections of symposium content. Depending on the stage of research and the scope of their presentations, authors may also submit to the other impactful journals in the MRS portfolio: MRS Bulletin, MRS Communications, Journal of Materials Research, and MRS Energy & Sustainability.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLISHING MRS Advances

MRS Advances is a digital journal that publishes snapshots of work in progress, with a focus on MRS Meetings programming topics.

The MRS Advances editorial board shares leadership with symposium organizers to ensure high quality content, rapid peer review and publication. Access to MRS Advances is free to approximately 13,000 MRS members and by subscription to institutional libraries around the world.

MRS Advances will be available on a print-on-demand basis on the Springer Nature platform, and the clusters that organize each meeting’s symposia will be published as print issues, available by pre-publication order at the time of meeting registration.

1. Principal Editors for each Symposium will be confirmed according to the Responsibility Chart by October 7, 2020.
2. Instructions and license to publish information will be supplied to your authors by MRS Headquarters.
3. MRS Advances print issues may be purchased at the Meeting at special discounted attendee rates. Symposium Organizers may elect to use symposium support funds to purchase quantities of the issues or individual print-on-demand symposia collections for invited speakers, etc.
B. PUBLICATION POLICIES FOR MRS Advances

The term “content” or “paper” in this policy statement refers to any form of manuscript or electronic file that is derived from the presentation made in connection with an MRS Meeting Symposium.

1. MRS reserves the right of first refusal for publication of collections of MRS Symposium content. Symposium Organizers (editors) may not publish collections of papers from their Symposium in non-MRS venues without MRS’s written permission.

2. Only those Symposium Organizers directly involved in the editorial handling of Symposium papers are included in the list of MRS Advances Principal Editors.

3. MRS assumes all financial risk in publishing MRS Advances. The responsibilities of Principal Editors are limited to basic editorial activities under their control.

4. In order to maximize the value of the MRS Advances, all attempts will be made to publish individual papers electronically as soon as the editors approve them and in complete issues within 3 months of the end of the Meeting. This requires a high level of cooperation between the authors, Principal Editors, MRS headquarters, and Springer Nature. The Meeting Chairs, the MRS Advances Editorial Board, the Publications Committee, and officers of the Society will take whatever steps are necessary to protect the Society’s financial and scientific interests.
C. PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

2021 MRS Spring Meeting

2020

October 7  Deadline for Principal Editor confirmations, per the Responsibility Charts*

December 15  *MRS Advances* prepublication prices established
Print issues can be pre-ordered with meeting registration

Mid-December  Assign Referees (optional)*

2021

Mid-January  Call for Paper Submissions beyond meeting presentations issued, 2021

Mid-January  Information for electronic manuscript submission emailed to contact authors

January 14  2021 Spring MRS submission site open for all

April 8  Electronic paper submission deadline

June 22  Editorial work on *MRS Advances* symposium papers completed*

July 12  *MRS Advances* Spring 2021 bound issues begin to go to press

*Requires symposium organizer action.
D. **MRS Advances** **EDITOR – ON-SITE MEETING INFORMATION**

**Editor Training**

A demonstration of the electronic manuscript submission and review website will be held on-site at the Spring Meeting in Seattle. Editor attendance is strongly encouraged. During this hour, you will learn:

- How to effectively use MRS’s peer review system, Editorial Manager, including evaluating reviewer scores and reports, sending comments to authors, and making decisions;
- How to answer frequently asked questions about *MRS Advances* from your symposium participants;
- Deadlines for completion of key steps in the publication process;
- How to produce the highest quality published record of your symposium

Date, time, and location will be distributed well before the Spring Meeting so that you may plan your travel arrangements accordingly.

Authors are required to submit papers before the meeting so that preassigned reviewers may attend their assigned paper’s oral or poster presentations and complete reviews promptly.

E. **SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZER/PRINCIPAL EDITOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. MRS offers you the opportunity to pre-assign reviewers. If you elect to do so, you will receive a spreadsheet from MRS to aid you in this process. You may provide to MRS a referee name and email address for each paper in your symposium. This action is optional, but is designed to quickly move submitted manuscripts into review without the editor having to attend to each submission individually.
2. Throughout the symposium, remind authors to submit their papers promptly via the Editorial Manager website if they have not already done so. Remind referees to review manuscripts as soon as they are available.
3. Monitor the progress of your Symposium. MRS will also be closely monitoring the progress and can help with problems.
4. If a review has been completed, check the referee comments and make a final determination on the paper’s acceptability.

Authors and referees will be instructed to follow the standard *MRS Advances* procedures unless you inform them otherwise. Please keep the journals publication staff informed of any modifications or changes in procedures for your Symposium.
F. PRINCIPAL EDITOR CHECKLIST

- Provide to MRS a list of all PRINCIPAL EDITORS from your symposium and their affiliations and full contact information. Submit the Editor name information exactly as you want it to appear on the MRS Advances editorial masthead. Only those organizers directly involved in the editorial handling of symposium papers will be recognized as Principal Editors.
- Provide to MRS the ORDER OF YOUR PAPERS (if different from the Program order), along with section/chapter headings as soon as the editing/acceptance of all papers from your symposium is completed. The default order of publication will be the order in which the papers were accepted for publication.

Send to mrsadvances@mrs.org
SECTION 9: SYMPOSIUM CO-SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

The MRS is frequently asked, in one manner or another, to allow co-sponsoring of its symposia. The objectives of the Society are to serve professionals working in the field of materials science and engineering by fostering interaction, sponsoring interdisciplinary meetings, and disseminating information. We believe that co-sponsorship of MRS symposia should arise from a desire to fulfill one or more of these objectives. To this end, the MRS welcomes co-sponsorship of its symposia by other societies or groups provided that:

A. The co-sponsor provides substantive support, such as:

- Funding (e.g., for invited speakers)
- Publicity
- Individual and corporate mailing lists
- Assistance in organizing and conducting the symposia

B. The MRS retains full technical and financial control of all symposia held as part of the general meeting of the MRS.
SECTION 10: SYMPOSIUM TUTORIALS

A. GENERAL TUTORIAL INFORMATION

Tutorials are designed to bring people quickly up-to-speed on the symposium’s topic often on the first half day of a symposium. Tutorials typically are scheduled on Sunday before the symposium as an integral part of the program. They may or may not be held in the same meeting room as the symposium, depending on attendance expectations and other considerations. Tutorials are available at no additional charge; a nominal fee is charged for optional colored tutorial notes, which are generally bound copies of the instructors’ presentation visuals.

PLANNING A SYMPOSIUM TUTORIAL

It is the decision of the symposium organizers as to whether or not their symposium should feature a tutorial. Some of the criteria for deciding whether a tutorial would be beneficial include:

- to provide an introduction to a new or rapidly evolving field
- to highlight new developments in an older field
- to educate attendees on a new technique
- to serve as a plenary overview or introduction from a “senior researcher”
- to introduce a “broader impact” topic within or outside of a symposium

The intent to offer a tutorial and the potential topic of the tutorial should be included in the Call for Papers.

SCHEDULING THE TUTORIAL

Please use the proposal form to submit your tutorial proposal. The MRS Tutorial Review Group, a subset of the Program Development Subcommittee (PDSC), will approve or reject the tutorial based upon its role in enhancing meeting and symposium quality. Timely submission of the proposal will also be considered. MRS, Erin Moore, will notify the symposium organizer of the MRS Tutorial Review Group’s decision early enough to incorporate the tutorial into their program.

PROGRAM TIMES

- **Tutorials**: Sunday, April 18, 2021 can be scheduled as half-day (morning or afternoon) or full day and must include appropriate breaks:
  - 8:30 am – 12:00 pm half day morning
  - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm full day
  - 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm half day afternoon

- **Breaks**
  - Morning Break:
    - Include a 30 minute “Break” in all morning sessions. This break can occur anytime between 9:30 am and 10:30 am. Coffee will NOT be available before 9:30 am or after 10:30 am. To ensure adequate time for meeting attendees to network, meeting chairs recommend serious consideration be given to times other than 10:00 am
  - Lunch Break:
    - There is a mandatory lunch break scheduled from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. Please note that MRS does not provide lunch to meeting participants.
Afternoon Break:

- Include a 30 minute “Break” in all afternoon sessions. This break can occur anytime between 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Coffee will NOT be available before 2:30 pm or after 3:30 pm. To ensure adequate time for meeting attendees to network, meeting chairs recommend serious consideration be given to times other than 3:00 pm.

SELECTING INSTRUCTORS

Tutorial instructors should be chosen from the membership already involved in the symposium and should be individuals with a high-recognition factor. Some information for potential instructors should include:

- A tutorial is an excellent method of highlighting your field.
- Except for unusual circumstances, tutorial instructors should be limited to one or two per half-day session.
- It is prestigious to be an MRS tutorial instructor, recognizing the instructor’s important position in his/her research field.
- Because of the extra time and effort required to produce an effective tutorial, symposium organizers are discouraged from also being tutorial instructors and can be instructors only with the prior approval of the MRS Tutorial Review Group.

It is your responsibility to confirm that all proposed tutorial instructors are able to attend and present onsite at the Meeting before you submit your tutorial proposal. In the event that a tutorial instructor can no longer participate, please notify Erin Moore (moore@mrs.org) as soon as possible. Any changes to tutorial instructors after March 8, 2021, will not be reflected in any printed materials or on the website.

TUTORIAL NOTES

The instructors are required to prepare notes, (i.e., reproducible copies of their visuals), which MRS reproduces in color and distributes to those tutorial attendees who pre-purchased the notes. The nominal charge for these notes enables the Society to conduct the tutorial program on a cost-effective basis. It is important that the symposium organizers make certain that the instructor sends these notes to MRS (Erin Moore, moore@mrs.org) by March 8, 2021 so that both the budget and production schedule for these professionally bound notes can be met. If the tutorial notes are not received by the above date, the tutorial instructor(s) will be responsible for printing, shipping and delivering the notes to the Meeting at their own expense. Please be sure instructors understand the level of support they can expect from both MRS and the symposium before they agree to conduct the tutorial.

INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT

A total stipend of $500 for one instructor and $800 for two or more instructors will be provided, regardless of the tutorial’s length. This stipend is meant to defray the cost of producing tutorial notes and it is contingent upon the instructor’s submittal of completed notes to MRS by the requested date. A stipend cannot be used toward the instructor’s registration fee. Additional financial support for tutorial instructors—to cover registration or a portion of the instructor’s travel expenses, for example—is the responsibility and prerogative of the symposium organizers. Please be sure instructors understand the level of support they can expect from both MRS and the symposium before they agree to conduct the tutorial.
In addition to the tutorial stipend, and professionally bound colored copies of the tutorial notes, MRS also provides a suitable meeting space, audio-visual package (LCD projector, screen, laser pointer, and wireless lapel microphone), coffee break(s), a complimentary copy of tutorial notes for instructors and pre-meeting publicity.

**CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT**
Each instructor **must** sign and return a copy of an MRS Instructor Agreement to MRS (Erin Moore, moore@mrs.org) by January 8, 2021.

**TUTORIAL PROGRAM EVALUATION**
At the end of the tutorial, each participant will be asked to complete an evaluation form. The results of the participant evaluations are sent to the instructors by MRS (Erin Moore, moore@mrs.org).
B. TUTORIAL PROPOSAL FORM

TUTORIAL PROPOSAL FORM

2021 MRS Spring Meeting Symposium Code:

2021 MRS Spring Meeting Symposium Title:

2021 MRS Spring Meeting Symposium Organizer Contact:

Name:

Email:

2021 MRS Spring Meeting Tutorial Title:

Proposed Tutorial Length (Select One):
Half day  ○ 8:30 am – 12:00 pm  ○ 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Full day  ○ 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Breaks:
Morning Break (Select One):  ○ 9:30 – 10:00 am  ○ 9:45 – 10:15 am  ○ 10:00 – 10:30 am
Mandatory Lunch Break:  12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Afternoon Break (Select One):  ○ 2:30 – 3:00 pm  ○ 2:45 – 3:15 pm  ○ 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Tutorial Overview: (should include learning objectives)
Tutorial Instructor(s) Affiliation, Contact Information and Biography
Include full name, affiliation, address, email, and a brief biographical summary for all instructors:

Instructor One:
Name:

Gender:  [ ] Male  [ ] Female  [ ] Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Biography:

Instructor Two:
Name:

Gender:  [ ] Male  [ ] Female  [ ] Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Biography:
Instructor Three:
Name:

Gender: □ Male □ Female □ Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Biography:

Instructor Four:
Name:

Gender: □ Male □ Female □ Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Biography:
Tutorial Outline and Description:
Include a preliminary schedule or timeline with topics; if multiple instructors, please indicate which information each instructor will specifically deliver.

Deadline – Friday, September 11, 2020 (Proposals will not be accepted after this date)
Submit to:
Erin Moore, Technical Program Associate, moore@mrs.org
C. TUTORIAL SAMPLE
Tutorial Proposal from a previous year

SAMPLE TUTORIAL PROPOSAL FORM

2020 MRS Fall Meeting Symposium Code: NM01

2020 MRS Fall Meeting Symposium Title:
Nanophotonics—Emerging Hybrid Platforms, Materials and Functions

2020 MRS Fall Meeting Symposium Organizer Contact:
Name: Artur Davoyan
Email: davoyan@ucla.edu

2020 MRS Fall Meeting Tutorial Title:
Emergent Nanophotonic Platforms and Functions

Proposed Tutorial Length (Select One):
Half day  ○ 8:30 am – 12:00 pm  ○ 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Full day  ○ 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Breaks:
Morning Break (Select One):  ○ 9:30 – 10:00 am  ○ 9:45 – 10:15 am ○ 10:00 – 10:30 am
Mandatory Lunch Break: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Afternoon Break (Select One):  ○ 2:30 – 3:00 pm  ○ 2:45 – 3:15 pm  ○ 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Tutorial Overview: (should include learning objectives)
This tutorial session covers emerging topics in nanophotonics. The four select tutorials cover different aspects of the rapidly growing and promising field from symmetry breaking at the subwavelength scale to emergent phenomena in collective systems to novel and enabling applications.

Prof. Andrea Alu will discuss importance of symmetry in nanophotonic systems and the role of symmetry breaking for potential device applications. Continuing the discussion of the roles of symmetry, Prof. Jennifer Dione will introduce recent development in the context of chiral nano-optics and its applications to biochemistry and biomedicine. Materials with extreme parameters are at the frontier of nanophotonics and offer unique applications in quantum physics and optoelectronics. Prof. Nader Engheta will discuss recent developments in the field of near-zero index photonics revealing some of the fascinating phenomena that emerge in this extreme materials parameter regime. Finally, Prof. Din Ping Tsai will present most recent developments in the field of metasurfaces.
**Tutorial Instructor(s) Affiliation, Contact Information and Biography:**
Include full name, affiliation, address, email, and a brief biographical summary for all instructors:

**Instructor One:**
Name: Andrea Alu

Gender: [ ] Male [ ] Female [ ] Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation: Advanced Science Research Center, City University of New York

Address: 85 St. Nicholas Terrace, New York, NY 10031, USA

Email: aalu@gc.cuny.edu

Biography:
Andrea Alù is the Founding Director and Einstein Professor at the Photonics Initiative, CUNY Advanced Science Research Center. He received his Laurea (2001) and PhD (2007) from the University of Roma Tre, Italy, and, after a postdoc at the University of Pennsylvania, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in 2009, where he was the Temple Foundation Endowed Professor until Jan. 2018. Dr. Alù is a Fellow of NAI, IEEE, AAAS, OSA, SPIE and APS, and has received several scientific awards, including the IEEE Kiyo Tomiyasu Award, the Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship from DoD, the ICO Prize in Optics, the NSF Alan T. Waterman award, the OSA Adolph Lomb Medal, and the URSI Isaac Koga Gold Medal.

**Instructor Two:**
Name: Jennifer A. Dionne

Gender: [ ] Male [ ] Female [ ] Prefer Not to Answer

Affiliation: Stanford University

Address: 496 Lomita Mall 125 Durand Hall Stanford, California 94305

Email: jdionne@stanford.edu

Biography:
Jennifer Dionne is an associate prof of Materials Science and Engrg and of Radiology (by courtesy), Director of the Photonics at Thermodynamic Limits Energy Frontier Research Center, and co-director of the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy at Stanford. She is also an affiliate faculty of the Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, the Institute for Immunity, Transplantation, and Infection, and Bio-X. Jen received her B.S. degrees in Physics and Systems Science and Mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis in 2003 and her Ph. D. in Applied Physics at the California Institute of Technology in 2009, advised by Harry Atwater. Prior to joining Stanford, served as a postdoctoral researcher in Chemistry at Berkeley, advised by Paul Alivisatos.
Instructor Three:
Name: Nader Engheta
Gender: ☑ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer Not to Answer
Affiliation: University of Pennsylvania
Address: 200 S. 33rd St., Philadelphia, PA 19104
Email: engheta@seas.upenn.edu
Biography:
Nader Engheta is the H. Nedwill Ramsey Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, with affiliations in the Deptof Electrical and Systems Eng, Bioengineering, Materials Science and Engrg, and Physics and Astronomy. He received his BS degree from University of Tehran, and MS and PhD degrees from Caltech. He received several awards for his research including Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Pioneer Award in Nanotechnology, Gold Medal from SPIE, Balthasar van der Pol Gold Medal from International Union of Radio Science (URSI), William Streifer Scientific Achievement Award, induction to the Canadian Academy of Engineering as an International Fellow, Fellow of US National Academy of Inventors (NAI), IEEE Electromagnetics Award, IEEE Antennas and

Instructor Four:
Name: Din Ping Tsai
Gender: ☑ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer Not to Answer
Affiliation: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Address: Core E, 6/F, Dept. of Elect. & Info Engrr., Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Email: dinpin.tsai@polyu.edu.hk
Biography:
Din Ping Tsai received Ph.D in Physics from University of Cincinnati, USA in 1990. He worked at Micro Lithography Inc., Ontario Laser and Lightwave Research Center, and National Chung Cheng Univ., Taiwan from 1990 to 1999. He joined National Taiwan Univ. as an Associate Professor in 1999, and became Professor and Distinguished Professor of Department of Physics at NTU in 2001 and 2006. He served as the Director General of the Taiwan Instrument Technology Research Center located in Hsinchu Science Park, Taiwan from 2008 to 2012. He was the Director and Distinguished Research Fellow of Research Center for Applied Sciences, Academia Sinica from 2012 to 2019. He is currently Chair Professor and Head of the Dept of Electronic and Information Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is author and coauthor of 313 SCI papers (more than 11,798 SCI cited times, SCI H-index 55), 65 book chapters and conference papers, and 38 technical reports and articles. He was granted 67 patents.
Tutorial Outline and Description:
Include a preliminary schedule or timeline with topics; if multiple instructors, please indicate which information each instructor will specifically deliver.

8:30 am Lecture 1: “Exotic Light-Matter Interactions in Metamaterials with Broken Symmetries,” by Andrea Alù

In this tutorial, I will overview emerging sub-fields of electromagnetics and nano-optics showing how suitably tailored meta-atoms and suitable arrangements of them open exciting venues to realize new phenomena and devices for light, radio-waves and sound. In particular, I discuss venues in which broken symmetries play a pivotal role in establishing emerging physical properties in metamaterials, from geometrical asymmetries and generalized forms of chirality, to time-reversal symmetry and parity-time symmetry. The opportunities offered by hybrid metamaterials combining classical photonic material platforms with 2D and quantum materials with exotic lattice symmetries will also be discussed. Our work shows how these concepts can provide interesting tools to largely break Lorentz reciprocity and realize isolation without the need of magnetic bias, based on broken time-reversal symmetry induced by mechanical motion, spatio-temporal modulation and/or nonlinearities. I also discuss how broken symmetries in space and space-time can open the opportunity to induce topological order in metamaterials. In the talk, I will also discuss the impact of these concepts from basic science to practical technology, from classical waves to quantum phenomena.

10:30 am Lecture 2: “Hybrid nanophotonic platforms to control chiral light-matter interactions,” by Jennifer Dionne

Chirality in Nature can be found across all length scales. At the molecular scale, the spatial dissymmetry in the atomic arrangements of pairs of mirror-image molecules, known as enantiomers, gives rise to fascinating and often critical differences in chemical and physical properties. With increasing hierarchical complexity, protein function, cell communication, and organism health rely on enantioselective interactions between molecules with selective handedness. For example, neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases have been linked to distortion of chiral-molecular structure. Moreover, d-amino acids have become increasingly recognized as potential biomarkers, necessitating comprehensive analytical methods for diagnosis that are capable of distinguishing l- from d-forms and quantifying trace concentrations of d-amino acids. Correspondingly, many pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals consist of chiral molecules that target particular enantioselective pathways. Yet, despite the importance of molecular chirality, it remains challenging to sense and to separate chiral compounds. Chiral-optical spectroscopies are designed to analyze the purity of chiral samples, but they are often insensitive to the trace enantiomeric excess that might be present in a patient sample, such as blood, urine, or sputum, or pharmaceutical product. Similarly, existing separation schemes to enable enantiopure solutions of chiral products are inefficient or costly. Consequently, most pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals are sold as racemic mixtures, with reduced efficacy and

Deadline – Friday, September 11, 2020 (Proposals will not be accepted after this date)

Submit to: Erin Moore, Technical Program Associate, moore@mRS.org
SECTION 11: MEETING INFORMATION

A. 2021 MRS SPRING MEETING FLOOR PLANS

- Ballrooms
- Meeting Rooms & Other Event Spaces
- Exhibition Halls
- Restrooms
- Elevators
- Retail
- Food & Drink
- Exits

Dotted lines indicate flexible walls
B. SESSION CHAIR GUIDELINES

Session Chair responsibility is to assist with the smooth flow of the session; ensure the session environment is distraction free; the equipment for the presenter (audio-visual equipment, microphones and lighting) is satisfactory and the presentations follow the scheduled program. A Symposium Assistant will be assigned to assist you in carrying out these important responsibilities.

Plan to be in the meeting room 30 minutes before your session to assist the presenting author in setting up their personal equipment. Please ensure the projector and microphone are in the room. Lights in the meeting room have been preset at a level of brightness which will enable attendees to take notes. If there are any audio-visual or temperature problems, ask your Symposium Assistant to seek help.

Introduce yourself to your Symposium Assistant* (wearing a Symposium Assistant green ribbon on his/her meeting badge) who will be assisting you in the meeting room. The Symposium Assistant is responsible for the following:

- Posting the Session Sheet on sign outside of meeting room
- Providing a Session Sheet that lists the latest program information
  - Note: Oral presentations are 15 minutes. Invited Speaker presentations are 30 minutes and are indicated on the session sheets by an asterisk before the abstract number (e.g. *NM07.03.01).
- Providing a Session Chair Ribbon to attach to your Meeting badge
- Placing the timer and laser pointer on the table near the LCD projector
- Recording attendance numbers
- Notifying MRS Staff of any audio visual problems as well as any special symposium needs
- Makes sure each presenter signs the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form; records no shows and substitute presenter information.

*If the Symposium Assistant does not show, a MRS staff person will place your session sheet in the sign outside of the room and will provide you with your timer, laser pointer and blue Presenter Sign In/Attendance form. Please have the presenter sign the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form and record your attendance number then return forms, timer, and laser pointer to the Symposium Assistant Desk.

Before the session:
Make any general announcements including any program changes. Also, remind attendees no video or photos and please silence phones.

For your reference, the MRS recording and photo policy is below:

Recording of Presentations is Strictly Prohibited: No individual or entity—including a presenting author—may electronically record or broadcast any portion of the MRS Meeting without prior written consent of MRS. Unauthorized recording (audio, video, still photography, etc.) of presentations during sessions, posters, workshops, tutorials, etc., without the express written consent of MRS and individual authors is strictly prohibited.
MRS reserves the rights to any approved audio and video production of presentations at all MRS events. Press representatives must receive a Press Pass and photo/recording permission from MRS. Those who do not comply with the MRS recording policy may be asked to leave the premises.

**Photo Policy:** Attendees or exhibitors are encouraged to network and enjoy the meeting experience. As such, capturing memories of casual meeting activities and networking is permitted with the permission of those being prominently photographed. **Photographing formal meeting presentations, posters or displays is forbidden without permission of MRS and the presenter.** Those who do not comply with the MRS photo policy may be asked to leave the premises.

**Videos and Photos for MRS Use:** MRS Meeting attendance implies your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or recorded for use on the MRS website or news publications. **Please note that no presentations will be recorded without prior consent of MRS and the authors.**

**Introduce the Presenter to the audience.** Name and affiliation is listed on the Session Sheet. Also, as a courtesy to attendees and other presenters, interrupt the presenter if he/she is not finished at the end of their presentation time. **It is important** to maintain published program times in order to facilitate attendee scheduling.

**Presenter No Show:**
If you have a “presenter no show,” **do not rearrange the schedule of presentations.** Use the open time slot for discussion or review. It is important to maintain published program times in order to facilitate attendee scheduling. Also, staying on time insures the availability of meeting rooms for important noontime and evening functions.

**Substitute Presenters:**
It’s important for MRS to know if someone other than the presenting author delivers the talk. The Symposium Assistant has been asked to make note of all such changes. Please help your assistant by clearly identifying all authors who are substituting for the presenter noted on the session sheet.

**Meeting Room:**
If your meeting room has people standing, there may be available seats throughout the room. Please ask attendees to move over to enable seating access by others. Then, ask attendees that are standing to come forward to take a seat. If the meeting room is overcrowded the entire day, please ask the Symposium Assistant to report this to the Symposium Assistant Desk.

**Remember:** It’s normal for all symposia to experience standing-room crowds at times; MRS will intervene if such overcrowding persists throughout the day.

**Following the session:**
Please return the laser pointer and timer to your Symposium Assistant. Initial Symposium Assistant’s timesheet.

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!**
C. POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTING AUTHORs

• Please pick up your meeting badge at MRS Registration. A MRS meeting badge is required for poster check-in.
• Check-in at the poster desk THE DAY of your presentation. The presenter must be an author of the poster and a registered attendee. Any posters not verified at check-in prior to posting will be removed from the session.
• Each presentation will be assigned a board and will be labeled with the number of the paper (e.g. GI01.01.18) and the presenting author’s name.
• The **Poster Board** size is:
  ```
  - U.S. Format – 46 inches (width) x 46 inches (height)
  - European Format - 118 cm (width) x 118 cm (height)
  ```
• Your poster must fit within the **Poster Board** size listed above.
• The poster boards will accept pushpins which will be available in the poster hall. Please return the pins at the end of your poster session.
• Display your material in large print so it may be read from a distance. Print TITLE and AUTHORS in extra-large print across the top of your display.
• Only the Presenter will be able to enter the Poster Hall when posting.
• Once your poster is posted, you will not be able to enter the Poster Hall until the **Exhibit Hall opens**.

**Poster Session Schedule**

- **Tuesday**
  - 9:00 am – 10:00 am  Check-In ONLY (Poster Presenters)
  - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  Check-In/Display “Post” (Poster Presenters)
  - 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Symposium Organizers Review (Judges Only)
  - 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm  Meeting Chairs Review (Judges Only)
  - 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Poster Session Attendee Viewing (All Registered Attendees)
  - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Poster Session – Author Presentations (All Registered Attendees)
  - 5:30 pm  Best Poster Award Winners Announcement (All Registered Attendees)

- **Wednesday and Thursday**
  - 7:00 am – 9:30 am  Check-In/Display “Post” (Poster Presenters)
  - 9:30 am – 10:30 am  Symposium Organizers Review (Judges Only)
  - 10:30 am – 11:30 am  Meeting Chairs Review (Judges Only)
  - 11:00 am – 7:00 pm  Poster Session Attendee Viewing (All Registered Attendees)
  - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Poster Session – Author Presentations (All Registered Attendees)
  - 5:30 pm  Best Poster Award Winners Announcement (All Registered Attendees)
**Best Poster Awards**
Poster sessions are an important and integral part of MRS meetings, allowing many more authors the opportunity to share their research and ideas with others. The quality of the poster sessions is a major priority of the Society. The Meeting Chairs will recognize the best presentations from each day of the poster sessions. One or more awards of up to $500 will be presented by the Meeting Chairs.

The Meeting Chairs will select the winners on the basis of the poster’s content, appearance, graphic excellence and presentation quality (not necessarily equally weighted). Poster award winners must be present during Winners Announcement time to be eligible for a Best Poster Award. The Best Posters will remain on display in a central location for the remainder of the meeting.

**MRS Recording Policy**
**Recording of Presentations is Strictly Prohibited**
No individual or entity—including a presenting author—may electronically record or broadcast any portion of the MRS Meeting without prior written consent of MRS. Unauthorized recording (audio, video, still photography, etc.) of presentations during sessions, posters, workshops, tutorials, etc., without the express written consent of MRS and individual authors is strictly prohibited. MRS reserves the rights to any approved audio and video production of presentations at all MRS events.

Press representatives must receive a Press Pass and photo/recording permission from MRS. Those who do not comply with the MRS recording policy may be asked to leave the premises.

**Photo Policy**
Attendees or exhibitors are encouraged to network and enjoy the meeting experience. As such, capturing memories of casual meeting activities and networking is permitted with the permission of those being prominently photographed. **Photographing formal meeting presentations, posters, or displays is forbidden without permission of MRS and the presenter.**

Those who do not comply with the MRS photo policy may be asked to leave the premises.

**Videos and Photos for MRS Use**
MRS Meeting attendance implies your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded for use on the MRS website or news publications. Please note that no technical presentations will be recorded without prior consent of MRS and the authors.

Updated 8/8/19

**D. ORAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTING AUTHORS**

Your cooperation is appreciated in keeping the meeting on schedule for the benefit of all attendees. Please note the following guidelines:

- Authors must be prepared before presenting to allow fast and easy transition from one talk to another to avoid unnecessary delay between presentations. All talks are limited to the amount of time listed in the program which includes setup time to connect laptops or flash drives.
• **Standard Audio Visual Package**: LCD projector, screen, laser pointer and wireless lapel microphone. ONLY meeting rooms with seating capacity over 150 attendees will have wireless microphones for Q&A.

• **Non-Standard Audio Visual Package**: Requests for additional audio-visual equipment not included in the standard package must be submitted to your symposium organizer, who will present the request to MRS Accounting Manager, Mallory Starr (starr@mrs.org).
  - **Laptops**: MRS does not supply laptops or slide advancers. Authors must bring their own laptops, any power cords and proprietary cords (adaptors) for your computer to the meeting with you.
  - **Connectors**: An HDMI connection (recommended) and a VGA secondary connection cable from the computer to the LCD projector will be provided in each room, including the Speaker Ready Room.
    - **Adaptors**: A selection of HDMI adaptors for the following connections will be available in each room, including the Speaker Ready Room. These adaptors allow for connection of a standard HDMI cable from the projector into these types of computer ports:
      - 8” Micro-HDMI “D” (M) to HDMI (F)
      - 8” Mini-HDMI “C” (M) to HDMI (F)
      - 8” Mini-DisplayPort (M) to HDMI (F)
      - 8” DisplayPort (M) to HDMI (F)
      - 9” USB “C” (M) to HDMI (F)

• **Speaker Ready Room**: In order to be prepared for your presentation, a Speaker Ready Room is provided at the TBD to help presenting authors give a smooth and trouble-free presentation. Testing your presentation in the Speaker Ready Room will minimize potential equipment compatibility issues.

  If you do not use the Speaker Ready room in advance, please test your presentation no later than the “break” immediately preceding your scheduled presentation. The break is defined as: the time before the first morning talk, during the morning break, during the 12:00-1:30 pm lunch break or during the afternoon break. Note: Only one presenter at a time will be connected to the LCD projector.

• **Oral Presentation**: Contributed presentations are scheduled for 15 minutes and invited speaker presentations are scheduled for 30 minutes (set up and Q&A are included within this timeframe). A presentation must not start late or extend past the scheduled end time. PowerPoint screen size is 16:9.

• **Audio Visual Assistance**: Only minimal audio-visual assistance can be expected from your session chair or the symposium assistant. If a problem arises, please relay the issue to the symposium assistant, who will contact the appropriate personnel.

• **Security**: MRS is not responsible for the security of any personal equipment.
**MRS Recording Policy:**

**Recording of Presentations is Strictly Prohibited**
No individual or entity—including a presenting author—may electronically record or broadcast any portion of the MRS Meeting without prior written consent of MRS. **Unauthorized recording (audio, video, still photography, etc.) of presentations during sessions, posters, workshops, tutorials, etc., without the express written consent of MRS and individual authors is strictly prohibited.** MRS reserves the rights to any approved audio and video production of presentations at all MRS events.

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Updated 4/162020
E. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL EXHIBITORS
Due Date: May 22, 2020

Held in conjunction with the meeting, the **2021 MRS Spring Exhibit** will feature international exhibitors from all sectors of the global materials science and engineering communities. As a symposium organizer, your involvement is necessary to assure the growth and success of the exhibit. First, stress the importance of visiting the exhibit and promote the exhibit hall activities. Second, search your business card files...talk to your colleagues...and help us identify companies or organizations that may benefit by exhibiting at an MRS meeting. Submit your list of potential exhibitors to Mary E. Kaufold at kaufold@mrs.org by **May 22, 2020**.

The following companies have exhibited with MRS in the past...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AAAS S&amp;T Policy Fellowships</th>
<th>Bio-Logic USA</th>
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<tr>
<td>abcr GmbH</td>
<td>Blue Wave Semiconductors</td>
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<td>Accurion, Inc.</td>
<td>BNNT Materials, LLC</td>
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<td>ACI ALLOYS, Inc.</td>
<td>Brooks Automation, Inc.</td>
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<td>Bruker Nano</td>
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<td>Bruker—AFM Probes</td>
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<td>Advanced Polymer Materials Inc.</td>
<td>Carl Zeiss Microscopy, LLC</td>
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<td>CELLINK</td>
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<td>AIP Publishing</td>
<td>CellScale Biomaterials Testing</td>
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<td>AJA International, Inc.</td>
<td>Center for Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven National Laboratory</td>
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<td>Chemat Scientific</td>
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<td>Allevi, Inc.</td>
<td>Cobolt by HÜBNER Photonics</td>
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<td>Allwin21 Corp.</td>
<td>Cornell NanoScale &amp; Technology Facility</td>
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<td>Alpha Space Test &amp; Research Alliance, LLC</td>
<td>CRAIC Technologies, Inc.</td>
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<td>American Physical Society</td>
<td>Cryogenic Control Systems, Inc.</td>
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<td>ANCORP</td>
<td>CrystalMaker Software Ltd</td>
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<td>Andeen-Hagerling, Inc.</td>
<td>CVD Equipment Corporation</td>
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<td>Angstrom Engineering Inc.</td>
<td>CytoViva, Inc.</td>
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<td>Angstrom Scientific Inc.</td>
<td>DE GRUYTER</td>
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<td>Delcom Instruments</td>
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<td>Delong America Inc.</td>
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<td>Applied Surface Technologies</td>
<td>DENSSolutions</td>
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<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Digital Surf</td>
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<td>Asahi Spectra Co., Ltd.</td>
<td>DOE Nanoscale Science Research Centers</td>
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<td>Astellatech, Inc.</td>
<td>Duniway Stockroom Corporation</td>
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<td>Asylum Research, an Oxford Instruments Company</td>
<td>Ebara Technologies, Inc.</td>
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<td>attocube systems Inc.</td>
<td>Ebaclo</td>
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<td>B&amp;W Tek</td>
<td>Ecopia Corp.</td>
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<td>Barnett Technical Services</td>
<td>ECS—The Electrochemical Society</td>
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<td>BASi</td>
<td>EDAX Inc., AMETEK Materials Analysis Division</td>
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Edinburgh Instruments Ltd.
Edwards Vacuum
Electron Microscopy Innovative Technologies
Electron Microscopy Sciences
Electron Optics Instruments LLC
Elsevier
EmCrafts Energetic Technology, Inc.
Enli Technology Co., Ltd.
EnvisionTEC, Inc.
Ephemeron Labs Inc.
Ereztech LLC
ETRI (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute)
Evactron® by XEI Scientific, Inc.
Extrel CMS, LLC
FemtoTools AG
Film Sense
Fischione Instruments
FlackTek, Inc.
Formulaaction Inc.
Frontiers
Furuya Metal Americas, Inc.
Gamry Instruments
Gatan
Geib Refining Corporation
Geowell Vacuum Co., Ltd.
GNB KL Group
Goodfellow Corporation
Graphene Square Inc.
Hamamatsu Corporation
HeatWave Labs, Inc.
Heidelberg Instruments Inc.
Herzan LLC
Hitachi High Technologies America, Inc.
HORIBA Scientific
Hummingbird Scientific
Huntington Vacuum Products
ibss Group, Inc.
ID Quantique SA
Imperia Engineering Partners
InRedox LLC
Instec, Inc.
Integrated Dynamics Engineering
Integrated Surface Technologies
International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD)
International Union of Crystallography
Ionoptika Ltd
IONTOF
IOP Publishing
ISS, Inc.
Janis Research Company, LLC
Japan Science and Technology Agency
JASCO
JEOL USA, Inc.
JFE Shoji Electronics Corporation
JoVE
KA Imaging
Kammler & Weiss Technologies, Inc.
Kaufman & Robinson, Inc.
Keithley, A Tektronix Company
KEMSTREAM
Keyence Corporation of America
Keysight Technologies
KLA Corporation
Kleindiek Nanotechnik
KMLabs, Inc.
KP Technology USA Inc.
Kurt J. Lesker Company
Lake Shore Cryotronics, Inc.
LDS Vacuum Products, Inc.
Leica Microsystems Inc.
Leybold USA Inc.
Linkam Scientific Instruments
Linseis Inc.
LTS Research Laboratories, Inc.
Lyncée Tec SA
M. Braun Inc.
Mad City Labs, Inc.
Malvern Panalytical
MANTIS-SIGMA
Mass Applied Science
Materials Analysis Technology Inc. (MA-tek Inc.)
Materials Square, Inc.
Materion
Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc.
McCrone Group
MDC Vacuum Products, LLC
MDPI AG
MEO Engineering Company, Inc.
Metrohm USA, Inc.
MilliporeSigma
MIT Press
MKS Instruments
MMR Technologies, Inc.
Montana Instruments
MPF Products, Inc.
MSE Supplies LLC  
MTI Corporation  
Naieel Technology  
NanoAndMore USA Corp.  
NanoMagnetics Instruments  
Nano-Master, Inc.  
Nanoscale Science Research Centers  
Nanoscribe GmbH  
Nanosurf, Inc.  
Nanotronics  
NANOVA  
NASA—Physical Science Informatics  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
National Security Agency (NSA)  
National Tsing Hua University  
NBM Design, Inc.  
neaspec GmbH  
Neocera, LLC  
NETA  
NETZSCH Instruments North America, LLC  
Newport Corporation  
Nextron Corporation  
Nor-Cal Products, Inc., A Pfeiffer Vacuum Company  
Novocontrol America, Inc.  
NT-MDT America, Inc.  
Nuclear Science User Facilities  
Object Research Systems  
Olympus America Inc.  
Optics11 Inc.  
OptiGrate, An IPG Photonics Company  
OriginLab Corporation  
Oxford Cryosystems  
Oxford Instruments America, Inc.  
Oxford University Press  
Park Systems Inc.  
PerkinElmer, Inc.  
Pfeiffer Vacuum  
Photothermal Spectroscopy Corp.  
PicoQuant Photonics North America, Inc.  
piezosystem jena, Inc.  
Pine Research Instrumentation, Inc.  
Pittcon 2020  
Plasmaterials, Inc.  
PLOS (Public Library of Science)  
Polytec, Inc.  
Princeton Scientific Corp.  
PROTO  
Protochips, Inc.  
PVD Products, Inc.  
Qnami GmbH  
Quantum Design, Inc.  
Qzabre LLC  
R.D. Mathis Company  
Radiant Technologies, Inc.  
Raith America, Inc.  
Reliable Corporation  
Renishaw Inc.  
RHK Technology, Inc.  
Rigaku  
Rocky Mountain Vacuum Tech, Inc.  
ROKIT Healthcare  
Royal Society of Chemistry  
Royal Society Publishing  
SAES Group  
SAGE Publishing  
Schrödinger  
Science/AAAS  
Scienta Omicron, Inc.  
Seki Diamond Systems  
SemiconSoft, Inc.  
Semilab USA LLC  
Sensofar Metrology  
Sigray, Inc.  
Sine Scientific Instruments  
SmarAct Inc.  
Software for Chemistry & Materials  
Solid State Cooling Systems, Inc.  
Sono-Tek Corporation  
SPECS-TII, Inc.  
Spectro Inlets  
SPex SamplePrep  
SPI Supplies, Division of Structure Probe, Inc.  
Springer Nature  
SPS-America  
STAIB Instruments, Inc.  
Stanford Advanced Materials  
STPL (Sahajanand Technologies Pvt. Ltd.)  
Strem Chemicals, Inc.  
SunP Biotech, LLC  
Super Conductor Materials, Inc.  
Sytnto-MDP AG  
TA Instruments  
Taylor & Francis Group  
TDK-Lambda Americas—Neptune
Ted Pella, Inc.
Telemark
TERA-print, LLC
TESCAN-USA
The XPS Library
Thermal Technology LLC
Thermionics Laboratory Inc.
Thermo Fisher Scientific
THINKY USA, Inc.
TMC, AMETEK Ultra Precision Technologies
Toho Technology, Inc.
Tokyo Ohka Kogyo Co., Ltd.
Toshiba Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
TOYOTech LLC
Trion Technology, Inc.
UC Components Inc.
ULVAC Technologies, Inc.
VACGEN Ltd.
Vacuum Technology Inc.

VAT Group
Verder Scientific, Inc.
Vigor Tech USA, LLC
Virginia Tech Economical and Sustainable Materials Strategic Growth Area
Wafer World, Inc
Welch Vacuum
Wiley
WiTec Instruments Corp.
J.A. Woollam Company, Inc.
World Scientific Publishing
Xallent LLC
Xenocs
XENON Corporation
Yuasa System Co., Ltd.
Zurich Instruments USA, Inc.
Zygo Corporation, AMETEK Ultra Precision Technologies

Your support, in partnership with MRS, will help to make the 2021 MRS Spring Meeting & Exhibit a success!
SECTION 12: GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

A. GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD EVALUATION INSTRUCTIONS

Symposium Organizers’ Online Evaluations – 2021 Spring Meeting

Reviews Begin: November 16, 2020 (Tentative)
Evaluations Due: November 23, 2020 (Tentative)

The Graduate Student Award (GSA) is an important vehicle for encouraging outstanding graduate students to present their research at MRS meetings, become affiliated with the Society, and continue to do excellent work in the field of materials science. Finalists will present their work orally during the Special Talk Sessions at the MRS Spring Meeting, competing for the Gold and Silver Awards. Each symposium is requested to select one of its organizers to assist in the selection of these finalists by carefully evaluating the merits of some of the applications that have been submitted for this competition. Symposium organizers will be provided with a link for online evaluation (access by logging in with your MRS User ID and Password). The site will prompt you if you need login assistance. If you experience any problems, please send an email to gsa@mrs.org.

Once you access the site, you will see a list of applications assigned for your review. This list will include applications from all students who have submitted their abstracts to your symposium and to other symposia within your topical cluster. Please review ALL the applications that are posted on the screen; then categorize them according to the criteria as outlined in the attachment. Your evaluations are due online by date that is published in the email sent to you with instructions.

It is important that every application receives a full set of evaluations (4 reviews per application), so please complete the reviews assigned to you promptly and by the deadline specified in the email that you receive.

Please note: In performing these evaluations, you are free to share the reviewing duties with your co-organizers as long as they have no conflicts-of-interest with any of the applicants assigned to your symposium; however, only one organizer per symposium may enter the rankings. In fairness to all applicants, if you have submitted a Letter of Evaluation for a student whose application is included in your symposium’s review group, you ARE NOT ELIGIBLE to participate in the ranking of ANY of the applications in the group. If this is the case, or if, for any reason, you must recuse yourself from participating in this evaluation, please make sure that another co-organizer of your symposium does assume the evaluation responsibility.

Guidelines for Evaluation of Applications

Please rank the Graduate Student Award applications that you have reviewed in accordance with the Award Criteria given below and enter the rankings online. All finalists will receive either a Gold or Silver Award that will be presented during the Award Ceremony at the MRS Meeting. The award prizes consist of: $400 and a presentation plaque for the Gold Award; $200 and a certificate for the Silver Award.
Award Criteria

The MRS Graduate Student Awards are intended to honor and encourage graduate students whose academic achievements and current materials research display a high order of excellence and distinction. MRS seeks to recognize students of exceptional ability, who show promise for future substantial achievement in materials research. Emphasis is placed on the quality of the student and his/her research ability. The criteria for selection are:

- Excellence in the conduct of materials research, including:
  1. Thoroughness of the applicant’s research;
  2. Originality and independence of the applicant’s contributions;
  3. Depth of understanding of the research topic, the methodologies used, and the relationship of the results to the specific research area and the broader materials field;
  4. Scholarship and ingenuity shown by the student in attacking the research project
- Promise for future substantial achievement in materials research.

**NOTE:** Please keep these criteria in mind while making your evaluations.

Please indicate online which students are in the “HC” (Highly Competitive), “C” (Competitive), and “NC” (Not Competitive) categories.

For online review/ranking technical assistance, please contact: Lorri Smiley, gsa@mrs.org.

Graduate Student Award Calendar (TENTATIVE)

**Graduate Student Award Applications Deadline** (including Advisor Letters of Evaluation)  
**November 9, 2020**

MRS sends student application review instructions to symposium organizers to begin to evaluate for selection of finalists  
**November 16, 2020**

*An organizers who is also an applicant’s advisor may not participate in ranking the applicants but may still coordinate the rankings of the other organizers if he/she is the GSA lead contact person*

**Evaluations Due**  
**November 23, 2020**
B. SYMPOSIUM ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY

Here’s an opportunity for you to help an especially promising graduate student to attend the MRS Meeting at a significant savings and, at the same time, assure your symposium of a dedicated and dependable Symposium Assistant.

Symposium Assistants provide essential service to Session Chairs by tracking important attendance figures; bringing timers, laser pointers, signs, and last-minute announcements to the room each day; and seeking help from audio-visual and MRS staff when unforeseen problems arise.

Because it’s often not possible for MRS to assign the same assistant for the entire length of a given symposium, we are offering you the opportunity to choose a trusted, deserving graduate student as your program’s Symposium Assistant. Both you and the student would benefit in a number of ways:

**SYMPOSIUM BENEFITS:** Your symposium can count on the reliable services of a known, dedicated and dependable individual throughout the course of the meeting. The graduate student will be someone with whom you’re comfortable and who knows exactly how you want your program to be conducted.

**STUDENT BENEFITS:** A student who assists in a symposium room for at least two days (four half-day sessions) will receive a post-meeting refund of the student registration fee, $40 per half day session assisted to help defray meeting expenses and a one-year complimentary electronic MRS student membership commencing July 1, 2021. The student will also receive $10 for attending the training session to help defray attendance cost. Also, the graduate student gains the opportunity to witness presentations by, and possibly network with, leaders in his/her chosen field of study.

If you would like to recommend a promising graduate student to act as your program’s Symposium Assistant during the Meeting, please follow these two important steps:

1. Reach agreement among your symposium co-organizers as to which student is chosen as your Symposium Assistant.
2. **Important Deadline Date:** Complete and return the attached Symposium Assistant Nomination form providing the student’s contact information and send via e-mail to Amanda Edmiston, edmiston@mrs.org NO LATER THAN January 8, 2021. Beginning in February, all remaining open positions will be filled from the general pool of applicants who submit an online Symposium Assistant application and assignments will not be changed.

Ideally, the recommended graduate student will act as Symposium Assistant for the entire length of your symposium. However, symposium organizers for programs lasting four half days or longer can appoint two Symposium Assistants, each of whom must serve at least two days (four half-day sessions) to obtain the full benefits mentioned above. **Please do not choose more than two students.**

In late January, the student will receive an email with further details about the assignment and a confirmation form to secure his/her participation. The appointed student does not need to complete the general application form that will be posted online.
C. SYMPOSIUM ASSISTANT NOMINATION FORM

SYMPOSIUM ASSISTANT NOMINATION FORM
2021 MRS SPRING MEETING • SEATTLE, WA • April 18 – 23, 2021
(Available to Graduate Students Only)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN January 8, 2021 to Amanda Edmiston – edmiston@mrs.org

Symposium Organizers whose programs are 4 days (equivalent of 8 half-day sessions) or longer can appoint up to 2 Symposium Assistants. Each assistant must serve at least 2 full days (equivalent of 4 half-day sessions) to obtain the registration refund. Symposium Assistants are not assigned to poster sessions.

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZER:
FIRST Name: ___________________________ LAST (FAMILY) Name: ___________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________________________________________

STUDENT ONE
FIRST Name ___________________________ LAST (FAMILY) Name ___________________________
Email __________________________________ Country _____________________________________________
Session Days: Sun _______ Mon _______ Tues _______ Wed ______ Thrus _______ Fri _______

STUDENT TWO (Optional)
FIRST Name ___________________________ LAST (FAMILY) Name ___________________________
Email __________________________________ Country _____________________________________________
Session Days: Sun _______ Mon _______ Tues _______ Wed ______ Thrus _______ Fri _______

For more information on the Symposium Assistant Opportunity, please refer to Section 12.8 of your Symposium Organizer Handbook.
D. SYMPOSIUM ASSISTANT GUIDELINES

- Students assisting in two days (four or more half-day sessions) receive a reimbursement of the student registration fee and a one-year complimentary electronic MRS student membership commencing on July 1, 2021. Students also receive $40 per each half-day session and $10 for the training session to help defray meeting expenses.

- MRS Registration Desk: Prior to the first session, please go to MRS Registration to pick up your Meeting badge and Meeting and Exhibit Guide. Please wear your Meeting badge at all times during the MRS Meeting.

- Download the MRS Meetings App for your smartphone or tablet, or start building your schedule at www.mrs.org/meeting-app. Log in with your MRS username and password and use the app to check the location and exact start/end times for your assigned sessions. You can also check the MRS website at www.mrs.org/spring-2021-symposium-sessions.

- Symposium Assistant Substitutes have no pre-assigned session. If you check in as a Symposium Assistant Substitute, you must wait to see if you are needed. If you are not needed to replace someone, you will receive $10. If you are needed to replace someone, you will receive $40.

Before the session:
- Arrive at the Symposium Assistant Desk 30 minutes prior to the start of the session.
- Check-in next to your assigned symposium on the Check In/Out sheet.
- You will receive a session folder and bag containing a laser pointer and timer.
- Report to the session room (you will find the room at the top of the session sheet).
- Insert white session sheet into plastic pocket attached to sign that is outside of room.
- Introduce yourself to the Session Chair and give him/her the yellow copy of the session sheet, a light blue Session Chair ribbon and the Session Chair Guidelines. (NOTE: If you need more ribbons, come back to the Symposium Assistant Desk). Remember you are there to assist the Session Chair; your steady, courteous support will be appreciated.
- Place timer and laser pointer on the table near the LCD projector.
- Use the orange copy of the session sheet to pre-fill the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form with the final id #, start time and presenter name.
- Place the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form on the table and ask presenters to sign it.

During the session:
- Record attendance numbers for each presentation on the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form.
- Make sure each presenter signs the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form.
- Substitute Presenters: If someone other than the presenting author underlined in the session sheet delivers the talk, have the presenter print their name and member id on the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form.
- If the presenter on the session sheet did not give the presentation, did not send a substitute presenter, and had not notified the Symposium Organizer, mark the “Presenter No Show” column on the Presenter Sign In/Attendance form.
If a problem occurs:
- If there is an audio-visual problem, first check the plug to make sure it has not become unplugged.
- Report the problem to one of the Audio-Visual Assistant locations:
  - Audio Visual Tables - Located in the hallways.
  - Audio Visual Room: TBD
  - Symposium Assistant Desk: TBD
- For other problems (e.g., room needs more chairs; room too hot/cold; lighting, etc.) report the issue to MRS Staff at the Symposium Assistant Desk.
- Be sure to include the room number and a short description of the problem.

Following the session:
- Complete your Attendance Log and have the Session Chair initial it.
- Collect the session folder, timer and laser pointer from the room.
- Complete the total attendance, average attendance and peak attendance on the Presenter Check In / Attendance form.
- Remove the white session sheet from the plastic pocket attached to the sign that is outside of the room.
- Report back to the Symposium Assistant Desk and turn in the session folder, timer and laser pointer.
- BE SURE TO RECORD your Check Out.
- Turn in your Attendance Log at the end of your final work session.

Payment:
- **U.S. Residents**: (you live/study in U.S. and can receive mail at a U.S. address.) Be sure to submit your Attendance Log at the end of your final assignment. Your check will be mailed to the address provided approximately six weeks after the MRS meeting.
- **Non-U.S. Residents**: To receive your check onsite, please submit your Attendance Log by Thursday at 5:30 pm. Checks can be picked up until 11:00 am on Friday, April 23 at the Registration Desk (ask for Accounting Manager, Mallory Starr). After 11:00 am on Friday, you will pick up your check at the Symposium Assistant Desk up until 5:30 pm. Attendance Logs submitted after 5:30 pm on Thursday your check will be mailed to the address provided approximately six weeks after the MRS meeting.
- Also, for your convenience, the check will be issued from the local bank account where you may cash it for a nominal fee while you are visiting Seattle. If you prefer, you can cash the check at your hometown Bank.
  - Bank TBD

Meeting Registration Refund:
- Registration refunds are given to those Symposium Assistants who work at least two full days (four half-day sessions). Refunds will be completed in approximately 6-8 weeks and will be refunded in the manner in which they were processed. MRS cannot give you the registration refund this week. It must be processed at the MRS headquarters after the meeting.