

**Letter from the Chair –
Celebrating Gratitude and Milestones in Our Shared Journey**



Dear Medical Plastics Division Members & Friends,

I am filled with deep gratitude and a sense of pride in the collective achievements of our Medical Plastics Division and our impact in the Medical Plastics community. I find myself reflecting on the profound impact we have made in the field of education within the plastics industry, with our special focus on advancements in medical devices and drug delivery systems.

In a world that constantly evolves, our commitment to staying at the forefront of knowledge and innovation has been a driving force. This past year, we have continued to navigate challenges, overcome obstacles, and adapt to new circumstances with resilience. The dedication and passion of our members have truly made a difference, and I am immensely thankful for each and every one of you.

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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As we express our gratitude, let us not forget that the highest appreciation is not just in words but in the actions we take. Our educational and networking initiatives have touched the lives of countless individuals, contributing to the growth and development of professionals within the plastics industry. Together, we have fostered an environment that encourages learning, collaboration, and the pursuit of excellence.

In the spirit of the season, let us also take a moment to acknowledge the milestones we've achieved together. Whether it be the successful implementation of impactful programs (MiniTec & ANTEC), the growth of our membership and outreach to academia, or the positive influence we've had on the industry, each milestone is a testament to the power of our collective efforts.

Looking ahead, the possibilities are limitless. As we enter the new year, let us continue to build on our successes, explore new horizons, and remain steadfast in our commitment to education and progress. Together, we can shape a future where innovation and knowledge are driving forces for positive change.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and passion that each member brings to our organization. May this holiday season be filled with joy, warmth, and a well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Medical Plastics family.

Warmest regards,

Louis Somlai
Chair of the Board of Directors
SPE Medical Plastics Division

Are you interested in volunteering for the BOD?

Please email Louis Somlai
somlai_louis@lilly.com



COUNCILOR'S REPORT

COUNCILOR'S REPORT



Dear fellow members of the Medical Plastics Division,

As we start another year, it's a good time for reflection, and we have a lot to reflect upon as a division with regards to 2023.

There are so many positive reflections from this past year such as:

- Another very successful MiniTec held this February in Anaheim, CA (The committee has already been well into the planning stages of our best MiniTec ever btw. Hope to see you in Anaheim, soon! Huge thank you for all the committee volunteers, we've had a tremendous turnout for support and leadership.)
- Great attendance and representation by the Medical Plastics Division at ANTEC in Denver, CO this March (By the way, our division made up around 10% of the attendees during the leadership roundtable discussion at the opening of ANTEC '23. A testament of how passionate our division's leaders and volunteers about our beloved society!)
- An invitation to attend and support an incredible Track Day event put on by the Central Indiana Section in May. Proud to see the Medical Plastics Division in representation at this great event and look forward to this year!
- Another collaboration with the Central Indiana Section this November for a casual networking event at the Guggman Haus Brewing Co in Indianapolis. Many thanks to the Central Indiana Section for the great collaboration and cross pollination opportunities! We need more of this throughout our society, and I'm so grateful for the Central Indiana Section's leadership and support!

These are just a few examples of opportunities where we were able to network, and learn and share knowledge, and also promote good and new technologies. All very important to our industry, and our division's mission.

Concurrently throughout the year, working towards the same goals noted above, we've had multiple virtual networking & technical sessions. Thanks to our Secretary, Pierre Moulinie and Chair, Louis for the leadership on these sessions!

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COUNCILOR'S REPORT

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This was just the tip of the iceberg though. We had an incredible effort for student & academic outreach, like I've never seen – thanks to Rob Klein and also Joanne Moody for their leadership on this as well as others involved in this effort!

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't make note of excellent fiduciary leadership from our treasurer, Bhavin Shah, and finance committee! Kudos, and thank you all for the responsible management of our funds!

However, this year wasn't all roses and sunshine. There were some surprises along the way, including a couple of unexpected acquisitions by SPE. As we look to learn more about these actions, we have to hope that they were made with the best interest and intent for our society.

I'll be the first to admit, that I came into the role of councilor with a preconceived notion of what the role used to be. However, it seems to have changed over the years, and been diluted down quite a bit. Hence, it's taken quite a bit of time to figure out the game (thankfully, I've had some great guidance along the way). Nonetheless, I feel positive about the things to come and make a commitment to the success of our next councilor and councilors to come and serve our division.

All this being said, we can only check the rearview mirror so often, and need to keep our eyes focused on the windshield. To me, the view in the windshield looks very positive. Yeah, there will be some traffic, but I feel that our division has done a tremendous job positioning itself to be in the express lane moving forward...A HUGE THANK YOU DUE TO OUR CHAIR: Louis Somlai, for his exceptional leadership, as well as past chairs and division leaders for their excellent support and guidance to help get us here!

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for your support, guidance, and trust! I am truly humbled by this daily!

Best –

Ned LeMaster

Councilor and Vice Chair

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

GREETINGS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Dear Esteemed Members of the Medical Plastics Division,

Welcome to the latest edition of our esteemed newsletter! Your valuable contributions have significantly enriched this communication platform. I encourage you to continue sharing your feedback with me at vkudchadkar@isomicro.com.

During a recent visit to a medical facility, I observed the prevalent use of plastics in various applications. Considering the ongoing discourse around plastic bans, I found myself contemplating what medical devices looked like before plastics and other polymers were invented and how many medical devices and procedures would not be possible without polymers.

The relentless efforts of the medical device industry in alleviating pain and enhancing patients' lives are commendable, with plastics and other polymers playing a pivotal role in these advancements.

This edition features a compilation of 50 groundbreaking innovations showcasing how medical plastics have revolutionized pain management. Future newsletters will delve into specific examples for a more comprehensive exploration.

Additionally, within this issue, you'll discover profiles of our esteemed board members – Louis Somlai, Ali Ashter, and Ned LeMaster. I encourage you to take a moment to peruse their profiles, particularly their experiences within the Medical Plastics Division and its impact on their careers.

I trust you'll find this newsletter engaging and informative.

Warm regards,

Vijay Kudchadkar
MPD Newsletter Editor
Director of Business Development & Innovation
Isometric Micro Molding Inc.
vkudchadkar@isomicro.com

Newsletter Suggestions?

Please email:

Vijay Kudchadkar vkudchadkar@isomicro.com



MEDICAL
PLASTICS

Meet your SPE MPD Board of Directors

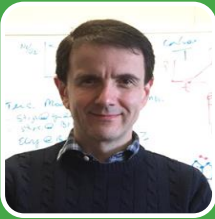
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Officers



Louis Somlai, Eli Lilly

- Chair of the Board, Communications Committee
- Term End: 2024
- somlai_louis@lilly.com



Pierre Moulinié, Covestro

- Secretary
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Ned LeMaster, DuPont Delrin

- Councilor, Vice-Chair
- Term End: 2024
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Bhavin Shah, Millipore Sigma

- Treasurer, Finance Committee
- Term End: 2025
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Ali Ashter, B. Braun

- Past Chair
- Term End: 2024
- ashter2000@gmail.com

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2024



Margie Hanna, Czuba Enterprises

- Finance Committee, Social Committee
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Vijay Kudchadkar, Westfall-Technik

- Communications Committee – Newsletter Editor
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Kyle Kulwicki, Kimball Electronics

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Kumin (Charles) Yang, Boston Scientific

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Rob Klein, AtriCure

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2025



Donna Bibber, Isometric Micro Molding

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Tom Meehan, Eastman

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Jeff Ellis, EWI

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SPE Liaison



Kathy Schacht, SPE

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2026



Ravishankar Ayyar, Eli Lilly

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Joanne Moody, Zeta Scientific

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Chris Konitzer, Avient

- Fundraising Chair
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Ajay Padsalgikar, Biolinq

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Gregorio Veléz-García, Zeus Corporation

- Membership Committee
- Garcia@zeusinc.com

Are you interested in volunteering for the BOD?

Please email Louis Somlai
somlai_louis@lilly.com



Emeritus Members



Glenn Beall, Glenn Beall Plastics Ltd

- Emeritus Member
- Historian
- glennbeallplas@msn.com



Len Czuba, Czuba Enterprises

- Emeritus Member
- Awards & Social Committee Chair
- LCzuba@CzubaEnterprises.com

Special Advisors to the Board



Vipul Davé PhD, Johnson & Johnson

- VDave1@its.jnj.com



Maureen Reitman PhD, Exponent

- mreitman@exponent.com



MEDICAL
PLASTICS

Featured Board Members

MEET YOUR SPE MPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Louis Somlai PhD MBA

Executive Director of Engineering
Delivery Devices Connected Solutions
Eli Lilly and Company



Hobbies: Exercise, Food, Wine & Spirits

Bio: Louis Somlai is a senior technical leader in the Delivery Devices and Connected Solutions (DDCS) organization of Eli Lilly and Company. Medical devices & drug delivery systems are products of science, engineering, and medicine: 3 areas of enormous interest to Louis.

Louis has 20+ years of research & development, commercialization, and manufacturing experience (end-to-end) in the areas of materials, container closure systems, medical devices, and drug delivery systems. Injection Molding & Extrusion (plastics transformation processes; plastics structure-property relationships) are his areas of subject matter expertise. Working collaboratively Louis has successfully driven product development, innovation, and continuous improvement within every organization he has worked.

Louis holds a B.Sc. (Applied Chemistry) from the University of Calgary, a Ph.D. (Polymer Science & Engineering) from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Post-Doctoral Fellowship (Plastics Engineering) from Case Western Reserve University. Louis completed his MBA (Management) from Delta State University.

Louis is an active member of the Society of Plastics Engineers – volunteering on the SPE Finance Committee, Medical Plastics Division Board of Directors (currently Chair of the Board), European Medical Polymers Division, and within the Central Indiana SPE chapter.

How SPE Medical Plastics Division has helped you in your career:

Over the past decade, my involvement with the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) - Medical Plastics Division has been instrumental in shaping and advancing my career. Having initially joined during graduate school over 25+ years ago, I reignited my connection with the organization about 10 years ago, actively participating as a volunteer and eventually assuming a leadership role (BOD member, vice-chair, and now chair). This reengagement has proven to be transformative, providing invaluable opportunities for technical growth, extensive networking, and significant professional development. Through the SPE, I've not only received mentorship that has been crucial to my own journey but have also had the privilege of mentoring others. The relationships forged within this community have not only enhanced my technical expertise but have also allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the medical plastics field while fostering a deep appreciation for the collaborative spirit of the society.

MEET YOUR SPE MPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ali Ashter

Sr. Engineering Specialist
B. Braun Medical Inc



Hobbies: Traveling, Playing Tennis (Sports in general), Learning new languages

Bio: Ali Ashter is a career plastic professional with experience working in research and development, product sustaining, manufacturing engineering and quality engineering within medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. He received his Ph.D in Plastics Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and completed his post-doctoral work from McMaster University, Canada.

Ali Ashter is an accomplished author and has published four books: (1) Thermoforming of Single and Multilayer Laminates (2013), (2) Introduction to Bioplastics Engineering (2016), (3) Technology and Applications of Polymers derived from Biomass (2017) and (4) Applications of Polymers and Plastics in Medical Devices (2022).

Ali Ashter has been an active member of SPE Medical Plastics Division since 2010 and was first elected to the board in 2012. He has been the division treasurer from 2013-2020 and then division chair from 2020-2022. He currently serves as the past chair and member of the finance committee.

How SPE Medical Plastics Division has helped you in your career:

Initially joined SPE as a student member in 2000, I was eventually introduced to Medical Plastics Division by Len Czuba, SPE Past President and Councilor at that time and later was encouraged to join the Board. Over the years, I have learned and grown by collaborating with passionate group of industry professionals. It has provided with opportunities to develop leadership skills and network with talented individuals in an environment of professionalism leading to lifelong friendship. I am proud to be part of this group where everyone is striving to achieve MPD's mission "We will be the leading platform for the scientific and engineering community to exchange technical information on medical applications using plastics and polymers".

MEET YOUR SPE MPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ned LeMaster

Application Development Engineer
Delrin



Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, cooking, listening to music, bird dogs and spending time outdoors

Bio: Ned LeMaster's career in plastics has spanned over two decades covering various roles including process engineering; technical service and sales; product and application development. He's provided application development support for DuPont's semicrystalline resins in healthcare since 2018, with an exclusive focus on Delrin® homopolymer acetal beginning in 2022. With Delrin® now operating as a standalone business, he continues to support this product line exclusively providing support for customers in the healthcare and consumer electronics market segments.

Ned has been an active member of the SPE Medical Plastics Division since 2017. He was the division's secretary from 2018-2021, and currently serves as the division's councilor and vice-chair. He was voted division co-MVP in 2019 and again in 2021-2022. He's served on the Webinar Committee, served as co-chair for the division's 2020 virtual conference "Plastics in Medical Manufacturing", and served as co-chair for the division's MiniTec event since 2019.

How SPE Medical Plastics Division has helped you in your career:

How SPE Medical Plastics has helped you in your career – The Medical Plastics Division has enhanced my career by providing fulfillment through collaboration with peers to better our industry. It has provided networking opportunities that have yielded lifelong friendships as well as opportunities to learn and share knowledge. I am proud to be part of such an active and passionate group of talented individuals who volunteer their time to advance our mission.



50 Innovations: How Medical Polymers Revolutionized Pain Management in Diverse Medical Practices

Eliminating Pain using Medical Polymers

1. **Robotic Surgery:** Robotic surgical instruments and devices incorporate precision plastic components for lightweight and precise control, enable minimally invasive procedures, reducing patient trauma and promoting quicker recovery.
2. **Intravenous (IV) Catheters:** These catheters, made of plastic materials, are used to deliver fluids, medications, or anesthesia directly into the bloodstream, reducing pain associated with repeated needle insertions.
3. **Vascular Stents:** Stents made from biocompatible plastics are used to open narrowed blood vessels, reducing pain caused by restricted blood flow and improving overall blood circulation.
4. **Insulin Pumps:** These devices, incorporating plastic components for tubing, reservoirs, and housing, deliver a continuous and customizable supply of insulin, providing diabetic patients with precise control over their blood sugar levels and minimizing the need for multiple injections.
5. **Wound Closure Strips:** These adhesive strips, often made of flexible plastic materials, offer a less painful alternative to sutures for closing small wounds, promoting faster healing and reduced discomfort.
6. **Intrathecal Drug Delivery Systems:** Using plastic components, these systems deliver pain-relieving medications directly into the spinal fluid, targeting pain receptors and minimizing systemic side effects.
7. **Intraocular Lenses:** These lenses, often made of plastic materials, replace the eye's natural lens during cataract surgery, improving vision and reducing post-operative discomfort.
8. **Pain Relief Cream Applicators:** Devices with plastic applicators are used to apply pain relief creams or gels topically, ensuring precise and mess-free application for localized pain relief.
9. **Nerve Block Catheters:** These catheters, made of flexible plastic tubes, deliver local anesthetics directly to nerves, providing prolonged pain relief after surgery or for chronic pain conditions.
10. **Pain Relief Orthoses:** Orthopedic braces and supports made of plastics provide stability and support to injured or painful joints, reducing discomfort and aiding in rehabilitation.

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Eliminating Pain using Medical Polymers

11. **Inhalers and Nebulizers:** Devices made with plastic components are used to deliver medications directly to the lungs, easing breathing difficulties and reducing discomfort for respiratory patients.
12. **Intragastric Balloons:** Utilizing plastic materials, these balloons are inserted into the stomach to aid in weight loss by reducing hunger and discomfort associated with overeating.
13. **Hemodialysis Catheters:** These plastic catheters are inserted into large veins to facilitate hemodialysis, reducing pain and discomfort for patients with kidney failure undergoing regular dialysis treatments.
14. **Pain Relief Compression Garments:** These garments, made of specialized elastic plastics, provide targeted compression to alleviate pain associated with swelling or circulation issues.
15. **Endotracheal Tubes:** These flexible plastic tubes are used to maintain an open airway during surgeries under anesthesia, ensuring proper breathing and reducing post-operative discomfort.
16. **Pain Relief Heat/Cold Packs:** Plastic-contained packs provide controlled application of heat or cold therapy, reducing pain and inflammation in specific areas of the body.
17. **Epidural Catheters:** These catheters are made with flexible plastic tubes and are used to deliver pain-relieving medications directly into the epidural space around the spinal cord. Plastics are used to ensure flexibility and comfort during insertion, minimizing discomfort for patients.
18. **Infusion Pumps:** These devices often incorporate plastic components to deliver controlled doses of pain-relieving medications or anesthesia directly into the bloodstream, ensuring a steady and pain-free administration.
19. **Nerve Stimulators:** Some nerve stimulators use plastic components in their electrodes or probes to precisely target and stimulate nerves, providing pain relief through electrical impulses without invasive procedures.
20. **Transdermal Patches:** These patches are made with plastic materials and contain pain-relieving medications that are slowly absorbed through the skin, providing continuous pain relief over an extended period.

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Eliminating Pain using Medical Polymers

21. **Orthopedic Implants:** Various orthopedic implants, such as joint replacements or plates, often use biocompatible plastics that mimic the properties of bone to reduce pain and improve mobility post-surgery.
22. **Cryotherapy Devices:** Some cryotherapy devices use plastic applicators to deliver cold therapy, reducing pain and inflammation by numbing nerve endings and constricting blood vessels.
23. **Dental Anesthesia Delivery Systems:** Plastic components in dental anesthesia delivery systems help in precise and comfortable administration of local anesthetics, minimizing pain during dental procedures.
24. **Ultrasound Devices:** Ultrasound machines often have plastic transducers that emit sound waves to create images of internal body structures, aiding in guided pain relief injections or diagnostic procedures.
25. **Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems (CGMS):** Some CGMS devices utilize plastic sensors inserted under the skin to monitor glucose levels, reducing the discomfort of frequent finger pricks for diabetic patients.
26. **Insulin Pumps:** These devices incorporate plastic components for housing, tubing, and reservoirs to deliver insulin continuously, reducing pain associated with frequent injections for diabetic patients.
27. **Minimal Invasive Surgical Tools:** Tools used in minimally invasive surgeries, such as laparoscopes and endoscopes, utilize plastic components for their lightweight and durable properties, reducing tissue trauma and post-operative pain.
28. **Nerve Conduction Study Devices:** Some devices used for nerve conduction studies incorporate plastic electrodes, aiding in diagnosing nerve-related pain conditions by measuring electrical impulses.
29. **Pain Relief Eye Drops and Applicators:** Plastic containers and applicators are used to deliver pain-relieving eye drops, ensuring precise and sterile administration for ocular discomfort.
30. **Plastic-based Neural Prosthetics:** Prosthetic devices for nerve regeneration and pain management often use specialized plastics that interact with nerve tissue to mitigate chronic pain conditions.

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Eliminating Pain using Medical Polymers

31. **Pain Relief Injection Pens:** Pens equipped with plastic components are used to administer pain-relieving injections with precision and minimal discomfort for patients with chronic conditions.
32. **Plastic-based Radiofrequency Ablation Probes:** These probes use plastic materials to precisely target and ablate nerve tissues, providing long-term pain relief for certain chronic conditions.
33. **Pain Relief Electrotherapy Devices:** Some electrotherapy devices incorporate plastic electrodes and pads, delivering targeted pain relief through electrical stimulation, minimizing discomfort.
34. **Plastic Splints and Braces:** Used in the management of fractures and injuries, plastic splints and braces offer support and stability, reducing pain and aiding in the healing process.
35. **Pain Relief Laser Therapy Devices:** Devices utilizing plastic components deliver low-level laser therapy to alleviate pain and inflammation, promoting tissue healing without causing discomfort.
36. **Pain Relief Massage Tools:** Massagers made with plastic components help in relaxing muscles and reducing pain by providing targeted pressure and vibration therapy.
37. **Plastic-based Neurostimulation Implants:** Implantable devices made with specialized plastics deliver neurostimulation to manage chronic pain conditions, providing long-term relief.
38. **Pain Relief Taping Systems:** Elastic therapeutic tape with plastic components is used to alleviate pain by providing support to muscles and joints, enhancing movement without restricting mobility.
39. **Pain Relief Nasal Sprays:** Nasal sprays containing pain-relieving medications in plastic containers offer quick relief from headaches and migraines.
40. **Insulin Pen Injectors:** Insulin pen injectors, equipped with plastic cartridges and durable plastic bodies, provide a convenient and pain-free method for diabetic patients to self-administer insulin, offering precise dosage control and reducing the need for traditional syringes.

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Eliminating Pain using Medical Plastics

41. **Pain Relief TENS Unit Electrode Pads:** These adhesive pads, typically made with conductive plastic materials, attach to the skin to deliver Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS), easing various types of pain without invasive procedures.
 42. **Plastic-based Pain Relief Traction Devices:** Traction devices with plastic components aid in spinal decompression, alleviating back pain by gently stretching the spine and relieving pressure on nerves.
 43. **Pain Relief Foot Orthoses:** Customized orthotic insoles made from plastics offer support and alignment, reducing foot pain associated with various conditions such as plantar fasciitis.
 44. **Plastic-based Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy:** Devices employing plastic components provide pain relief by delivering electrical stimulation through the skin to modulate nerve activity, reducing chronic pain.
 45. **Pain Relief Topical Patch Dispensers:** These devices with plastic applicators facilitate the controlled application of medicated patches, providing localized pain relief for muscle or joint pain.
 46. **Plastic-based Pain Relief Vibrating Massagers:** Handheld massagers made with plastic parts and vibration mechanisms help in relaxing muscles, reducing pain, and improving blood circulation.
 47. **Pain Relief Ultrasound Therapy Devices:** Portable ultrasound devices with plastic transducers aid in pain management by delivering high-frequency sound waves to targeted areas, promoting tissue healing and reducing discomfort.
 48. **Plastic-based Pain Relief Aquatic Therapy Equipment:** Aquatic therapy tools made with specialized plastics offer low-impact exercise in water, reducing pain associated with movement and enhancing rehabilitation.
 49. **Polymer-based Pain Relief Hot/Cold Water Bags:** These bags made from durable polymers are filled with hot or cold water to provide temperature therapy, easing pain and promoting healing for various conditions.
 50. **Microneedles:** Microneedle patches, composed of biocompatible plastics, offer a minimally invasive and painless means of vaccine delivery by penetrating the skin's surface, enhancing vaccination efficiency.
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Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bhavin Shah



SPE MPD Q4 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report for the Period:	Oct 1, 2023 – Dec 21, 2023
Section/Division Name:	Medical Plastics D36
Balance as of Oct 1, 2023	\$ 32,896.90
Income	
Eventbrite registration income	134.73
Total Income	\$ 134.73
Expenses	
Account maintenance and statement fee	56.00
Jay Gardner Scholarship contribution by SPE MPD	1,000.00
Norm Fowler thank you gift card	200.00
Total Expenses	\$1256.00
Ending Balance as of Dec 21, 2023	\$ 31,775.63

Do you have questions about the Treasurer Report?

Please email Bhavin Shah
treasurer.mpd@gmail.com



MPD 2023 Fall Events

Central Indiana – Medical Plastics Networking Event

The Medical Plastics Division collaborated with the Central Indiana Section for a Networking Event on the evening of November 29, 2023. The event was held at the Guggman Haus Brewing Co. in Indianapolis, Indiana. A total of approximately 15 plastics professionals were present at any given time at the event, and the evening was filled with lively discussion paired with excellent food and spirits. We thank the Central Indiana Section for their continued partnership, collaboration, and reciprocity efforts.

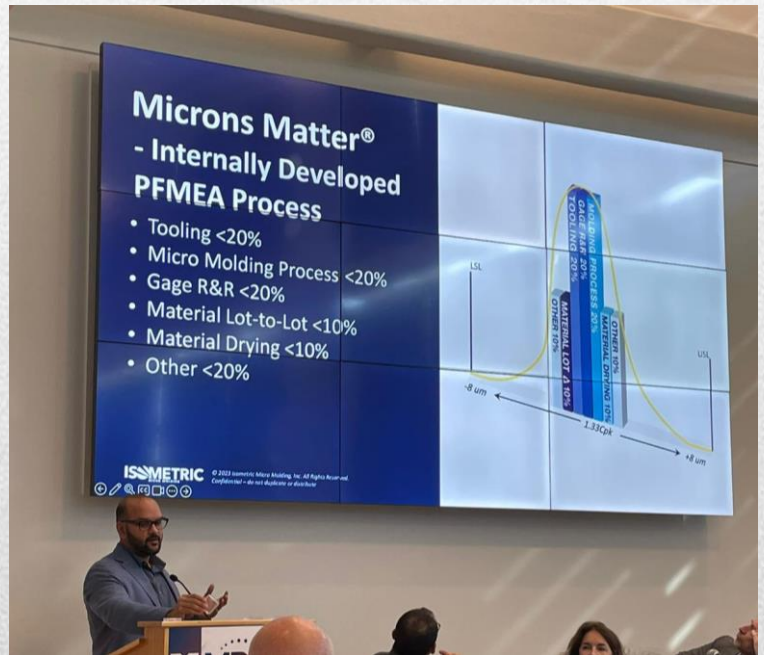
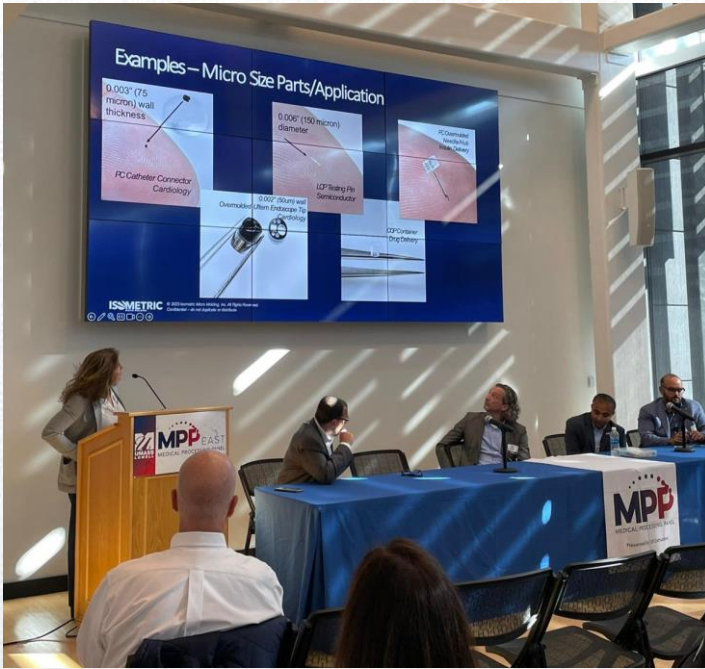


Academic Outreach to Ohio State University



Rob Klein and Jeff Ellis spoke to Prof. Mark Rueggeger's Biomaterials class in person at The Ohio State University in November 2023. They felt it was fantastic to connect with the students about polymers for medical applications and the students asked insightful questions about the materials, devices, and manufacturing processes. Rob and Jeff plan to continue collaborating with OSU..

MPP East



MPD Board Members Donna Bibber, Vijay Kudchadkar, and Nate Doyle delivered presentations at MPP East, organized by US Extruders, hosted at the Mark & Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies & Innovation venue at UMass Lowell on November 8, 2023. The event achieved full capacity, with over 100 attendees, including MPD board members Vipul Dave, Charles Yang, and Suneel Bandi.

Donna and Vijay participated in the Thermoplastic & Silicone Molding Panel, while Nate contributed to the Polymer Technologies Panel. The event was characterized as educational and well-received, featuring valuable questions and discussions.

Academic Outreach to University of Minnesota

SPE MPD was invited to participate with the University of Minnesota (UMN) - Biomedical Engineering Industry - Grand Rounds webinar featuring "Polymer Engineering in Medical Devices" on November 13, 2023. MPD BOD members were honored to have two members presenting, Joanne Moody and Ajay Padsalgikar, and UMN Professor Wei Shen. Joanne introduced the functions of the medical plastics board within the SPE and the benefits of expanding the student network and connecting to it. Ajay followed with a presentation on polyurethanes in the medical space. Finally, Professor Shen talked about biodegradable medical devices. The webinar was well attended, with 120 attendees who were well engaged, asking a substantial number of questions that were answered live or through the chat.

UMN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING – MSP INDUSTRY GRAND ROUNDS



SPE MPD Inaugural Medical Polymers Workshop

The SPE Medical Plastics Division inaugural Medical Polymers Workshop was a great success!

Held over two sessions on October 3 and 4, 2023, “Polymers for Medtech: Industry Perspective” featured medical plastics professionals discussing the history of polymers in healthcare, ongoing material developments, processing and conversion technologies, as well as trends and growth drivers looking toward the future.

One of the sessions was held in the evening to accommodate student attendees, and altogether, 54 were in attendance across the two days.



**Inaugural Medical Polymers
Virtual Workshop – Fall 2023
“Polymers for MedTech:
Industry Perspective”**



Upcoming Events

Antec 2024: Honoring Glenn Beall



On Wednesday, March 6, 2024 the ANTEC® 2024 program will feature a Symposium Honoring the Career Achievements of Mr. Glenn Beall. Glenn's indelible legacy has significantly contributed to the growth of plastics and SPE. The symposium will feature Glenn giving a keynote presentation, and sessions will include speakers focusing on various areas of his expertise, such as rotational molding, injection molding, design, additive manufacturing, thermoforming, and more. The event will conclude with a reception, providing a great opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of one of our foremost plastics innovators.

For more information on Glenn Beall's Hall of Fame Career, please click on this link: <https://plasticshof.org/members/glenn-l-beall/>

Happy Hour Webinar Series



The Medical Plastics Division is organizing a **Virtual Happy Hour Speaker Series**, a bi-monthly event offering a unique blend of technical education and social interaction. The series kicks off with a 30-minute presentation by prominent technical experts, delving into the latest developments in medical plastics. Following the insightful session, participants engage in a lively discussion while enjoying their favorite beverages.

This initiative aims to foster knowledge exchange and networking within the medical plastics community in a casual and enjoyable virtual setting.

If you are interested in presenting, please send the following to Len Czuba:

- Proposed Title
- Abstract (200-500 words)
- Speaker Bio (100-300 words)

Happy Hour Speaker Series Upcoming Dates:

March 13th 6pm ET – “Additive Manufacturing in Medical Devices”

May 1st 6pm ET – TBD

Then usually every 2 months on the first Wednesday of the month @ 6pm ET.

Interested in presenting?

Please email Len Czuba
lczuba@czubaenterprises.com

Upcoming Events



Feb 5-6, 2024
Anaheim, CA

MiniTec 2024

Antec 2024

March 4-7, 2024
St. Louis, MO

Please visit mpd.4spe.org for more details

Are you interested in sponsoring MPD events?
Email: Christopher Konitzer, christopher.konitzer@avient.com

2024 MPD MiniTec: Medical Plastics – Innovations for Life

February 5 @ 8:00 am - February 6 @ 5:00 pm

SPE's Medical Plastics MiniTec will be held Monday February 5th and Tuesday February 6th, a day prior to and concurrent with the first day of the 2024 MD&M West Expo & Conference in the Anaheim Convention Center.

Innovations in medical plastics and associated applications are rapidly advancing in exciting ways. Concurrently, the medical device and healthcare industries face several new and evolving challenges related to materials, regulatory requirements, product design, and materials characterization and validation in order to ensure better outcomes for patients while being mindful of plastic wastes in the environment and focusing efforts on sustainability. Join us for a two-day program with experts in the medical plastics industries that explore these topics and more.

Topics include:

- Innovations in Resins, Surface Modifications, and Processing**
- Silicones Bringing New Benefits & the Use of Surface Modifications**
- Global Impact of PFAS on Medical Polymers & Devices**
- Progress Updates in Sustainability of Medical Polymers**
- New Product Designs Highlighting & Enabled by Medical Polymers**
- Characterization & Validation of Medical Devices**
- Drug Delivery & Novel Processing of Medical Polymers**

To register click here:

<https://www.imengineeringwest.com/en/education/conference/spe-mpd-minitec.html>

Please see our MiniTec Flyer: [MiniTec 24 Flyer v1 1 22Dec23 LC \(003\)](#)

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SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS – MEDICAL PLASTICS DIVISION

About Us - The Medical Plastics Division exists to encourage the

interchange of technical and regulatory information on the polymer materials/components used in medical devices and in device containers among the scientists and engineers who are working in medical device and related industries.

With over several hundred members and webinars, newsletters, and conferences arranged every year, MPD allows sponsors a unique opportunity to establish deep connections within the plastics community.

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Be a sponsor on our Award-winning Division Newsletter! Below are the prices and sizes available for purchase. Do not miss this rare opportunity to have your company seen by thousands of readers every year!

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The newsletter, as scheduled, is prepared and circulated four times per year. Every MPD member receives a copy emailed directly to their listed address. Additional copies are also circulated via the Chain and broader social media (LinkedIn, Twitter) in our continuing effort to reach new and prospective members and other interested individuals.

Follow us on our social media platforms to stay up to date on the latest medical plastics news!

- [SPE - Medical Plastics Division Micro Website](#)
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