Society of Plastics Engineers Medical Plastics Division 2022 Summer Newsletter

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Medical Plastics Division Members and Fellow Readers:

Welcome to our Newsletter!
This will be my last greetings as the Chair of the MPD. I am truly humbled with several accomplishments that were made during the last two years as the Chair of the Division.

While we spent most of 2020 and 2021 virtually, Medical Plastics Division leaders successfully organized events, both in-person as well as virtual. I am very impressed with the team of our Board of Directors that has a collaborative spirit and a winning attitude to make a difference for the Medical Plastics Division.

Here are some of our accomplishments in the past 2 years:

- Organized MPD Webinar series on topics relevant to medical device industry
- Introduced Virtual Technical Forum and Networking event series to bring plastics professional virtually together once a month for a technical presentation by guest speaker followed by a networking event.

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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- Partnered with Informa Markets to organize our premium event, a 1 day MiniTec conference in Anaheim during the MD&M show
- Initiated Medical Plastics Scholarship Program with one scholarship of $10K for academic year 2022-2023 to provide financial support to students (juniors or seniors in college or in graduate school) majoring in plastics, biomedical, chemical, mechanical and physics.

I would like to acknowledge our industry sponsors, Celanese, Covestro, Avient, Eastman Chemicals, Evonik, Sesikui Kydex and Pinfa who have supported many of our activities.

I would also like to extend my recognition to MPD Executive team for their leadership in planning, organizing, and driving activities.

Finally, I would like to end by saying that it has been an honor to serve as the Chair with this amazing team and would like to thank all the Board members for the time, passion, dedication, and hard work you've put in to make this division successful.

Thank you,

Ali Ashter

Are you interested in volunteering for the BOD?

Please email Ali Ashter
ashter2000@gmail.com

MPD Sponsor – Covestro

GREETINGS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Greetings fellow Medical Plastics Division Members! Welcome to the latest edition of our award winning newsletter! I appreciate your efforts to help me improve this communication tool; please send feedback my way: vijay.kudchadkar@westfall-technik.com

In this newsletter we are honoring our Emeritus member – **Len Czuba** who has made significant contributions to the medical plastics industry. Please take a moment to read about his achievements and contributions to the plastics industry. On behalf of the MPD, we would like to thank Len for the contributions and continued support.

Our 2022 MiniTec in Anaheim was a big success. It was nice to meet people in-person again. The presentations and posters were excellent. I have included photos from our MiniTec in this newsletter.

We are looking for speakers for the 2023 MiniTec. A “call for speakers” will be issued in the coming weeks.

Look forward to seeing many of you in Anaheim in February 2023.

Best regards,

Vijay Kudchadkar

Do you have questions about MPD Membership?

Please email Ravi Ayyar
rayyar@lilly.com

Newsletter Suggestions? Interested in Sponsorship?

Please email:
Vijay Kudchadkar Vijay.Kudchadkar@westfall-technik.com
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Message from MPD Emeritus Board Member – Len Czuba


Len with JoAnn

It was my privilege and honor to be selected an Emeritus Member of the Medical Plastics Division at the January 29th meeting last year (2021). My selection to this position follows our first division Emeritus Member, Glenn Beall, who was selected to this honored position in Q1, 2020. Glenn Beall's bio covering his long and distinguished record of involvement in SPE and the plastics industry, which I had the honor to write, was featured in our Q2 2021 Division Newsletter.

My career and industry involvement very closely was interwoven with Glenn Beall over the years going back to my early days in SPE when he was very active in the Chicago Section and then when he and several other industry professionals formed SPE's Medical Plastics Division in 1982.

Background

Early in my career in plastics, I worked for Baxter Healthcare Corporation. Glenn Beall had begun teaching seminars on Plastics, Part Design and Injection Molding Principles as well as other Plastics Processing Technologies. Many of my Baxter colleagues joined me in taking this class that Glenn taught on site in Round Lake, IL in the mid to late 1970's. This was a weekly class taught over a number of months that covered many topics which most of us faced in our work in medical device product development. It was a valuable resource that helped prepare me for much of my project work throughout my career.

Before working at Baxter, I spent one year after college at a company in Chicago (S&C Electric) that made high voltage switches and fuses. I was hired as a lab technician because of my experience using laboratory equipment based on my bachelor's degree in BioSciences from Southern Illinois University.

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Dad with Len's brother Joe

I started college hoping to get into an engineering program as a mechanical engineering major. When I originally applied to the School of Engineering the program, late in the summer after my high school graduation, the quota for engineering students had already been met for the year so I pursued all the basic requirements for engineering in the school of liberal arts and sciences during my first two years of college at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

After my second year at U of I, my father, who had an auto repair business, suffered a heart attack and he needed to take off from work for several months of recovery and rehab. Since I was the oldest kid in a family of 13 children, I decided to help my mother run the family business while my father recovered his health. My brothers and I had worked with and for our dad throughout our growing up years since he opened the shop in 1960. By then we could do common upkeep work on cars like oil changes and tire repairs as well many of the routine repairs like tune ups, replacing muffler systems, water pumps, battery change and even timing chain replacement for our customers while he was recovering his health.

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It took about 6 months before my dad was able to return to work full time and when he did I decided to take additional college courses for credit at a local junior college. It was there that I met and began dating a wonderful young lady, JoAnn Hartnett, who eventually accepted my proposal for marriage with the condition that we would wait to marry until after we both finished our bachelor's degrees. She finished with a degree in Speech Pathology and began working as a grade school Speech Therapist and I transferred to Southern Illinois University and instead of Engineering, pursued a degree in Biological Sciences. We both finished school and got jobs and were married the summer after graduation.

Len & JoAnn, his fiancé with family

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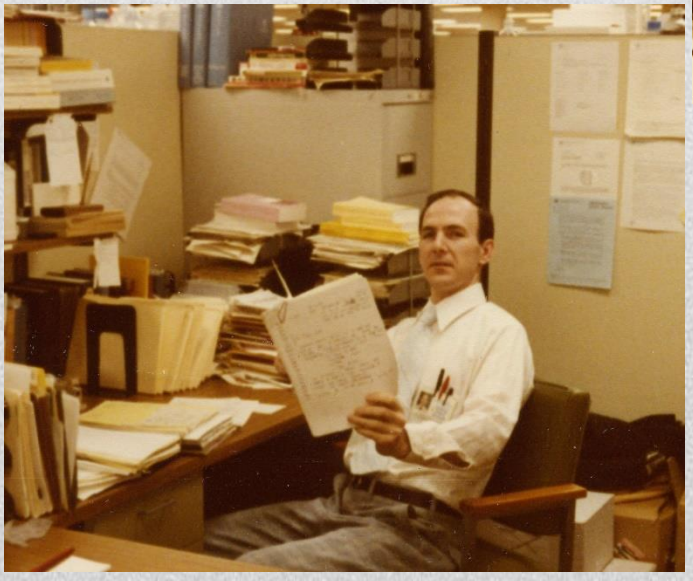
Early career

My job at S&C, although very rewarding, did not offer me continuing education support or much opportunity for career advancement. So after a year, I was able to find a job at Baxter where continuing education was encouraged. By some amazing and wonderful stroke of luck, I was hired by Dr. Dean Laurin, one of the best supervisors, mentors and colleagues that anyone could ever have asked to have. It was at a time that I, as someone quite new to the plastics industry needed training from the ground up. And Dean helped by giving me much of my early training. At the time, our lab was synthesizing new polymers intended to be possible replacement materials for flexible PVC used in blood bags and IV solution containers. Within a year, Dean succeeded in building a polymer that had the required properties necessary to be a direct replacement for DEHP-plasticized PVC.

First cubical office at Baxter



My mentor, colleague and friend, my first supervisor at Baxter, Dr. Dean G. Laurin

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Presenting Certificate to student with program coordinator, Marcia Gabriel

When that project was completed, the material was shelved until and if it was ever needed because of some unknown and unanticipated problems with fPVC. (By the way, that material, a silicone polycarbonate block copolymer, earned Dr. Laurin one of his more than 50 U.S. patents but is still not being used commercially as a medical solution container. It has all the required properties, except that for now, it would not yet be a low cost material!)

After a few years finishing up the synthesis work, we began working with compounding materials to tailor them to meet the requirements for the medical device products. One of our formulations (eventually also patented) became the novel material for blood platelet storage. It allowed platelets to be stored at least 3 times as long as previous platelet containers because the material properties allows dissipation of CO_2 rather than have it build up in the container as previous materials did. This extended-platelet-life container has been used in saving lives for trauma patients globally since its development in the mid-1980's. And I believe that this material is still in use today.

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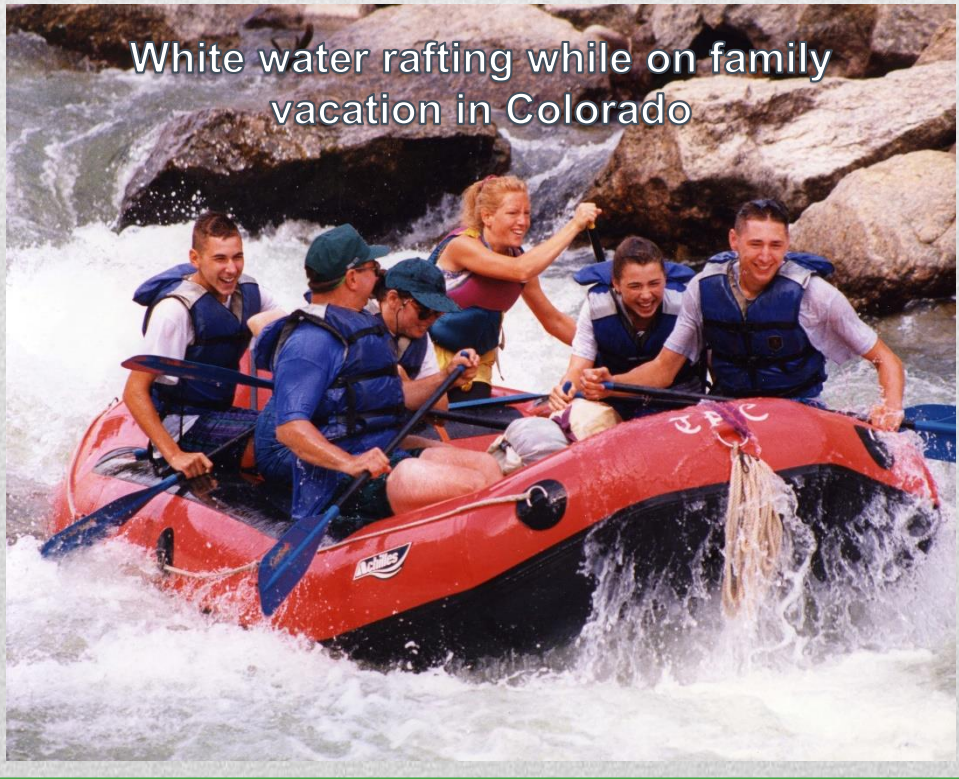
SPE Membership

While I worked for Dr. Laurin at Baxter, I was encouraged to join SPE and to pursue as much as I could learn from their educational programs. The Chicago Section had many good training offerings both as evening courses as well as presentations at their monthly Section meetings. I went to as many as I could justify considering we had a very young growing family (by mid-'82 we had 3 young children) but my wife, JoAnn was always supportive and encouraged my continuing education. I was able to get permission from Baxter each year to attend ANTEC where I went to as many talks as I could fit into my schedule and often found new ideas or materials that I was able learn about and bring back to Baxter after ANTEC. When the Medical Plastics Division was formed in '82, I was a charter member of the division and after a few years was encouraged by one of my supervisors after Dean Laurin to run for the board of directors. I did run but few people knew me, so I did not win in that election. However I was encouraged to run again the following year and that time I did win a seat on the MPD board!



White water rafting while on family vacation in Colorado

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MPD Board Member

Once on the BOD (board of directors) I volunteered to be on the technical programming committee. We worked on planning ANTEC sessions, RETECs which were Regional Technical Conferences and providing support to sections whenever we were asked for speakers. I spent several years learning from those senior members on the board and in the various committees. I finally agreed to be the Technical Program Chairman for ANTEC in 1987 and continued through 1990. Then with a year off, I served again as ANTEC TPC for the 91-92 ANTEC. During these early years on the board, we began our relationship with what was then Canon Communications and the Medical Design & Manufacturing Expo & Conferences. Our first venture was the year after we held a RETEC in Anaheim, CA just 2 weeks before the MD&M West event. Since our technical conference was seen as competing with their event, we were invited to join forces and together we put on conferencing within their program. That relationship continued for more than 20 years until under new ownership, the UBM team decided to work independently leaving us to plan our own conferencing, which we did.

One of the primary goals of SPE is to offer technical information to help promote education and enhance the ability to make better products, reduce costs, improve safety and do it in a way that makes better use of our global resources. Our division has taken the responsibility of hosting technical conference programming seriously and have offered either RETECs or MiniTecs regularly over the years.

Most recently we have held them in Anaheim during the same week as the MD&M West show. (We were invited back to working with the most recent owners of the MD&M shows, Informa Markets which we restarted last year in 2021.)

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During my term on the MPD BOD, I was elected to serve as Division Chairman in 1990-1991 SPE year. I had 5 years of experience working with previous boards and the elected Chairs but I felt a bit unprepared for the job. Nevertheless, I believe that we had a good year with fully staffed committees, a good technical program at ANTEC and membership that was virtually stable and a regularly issued newsletter. I was in a career change mode at the time and was downsized out of Baxter in May of 1991. I was able to take a job with a small company in the area and luckily still able to stay actively involved with MPD. After 2 years with the small medical device company in the area, I worked as a contractor living in St Paul, MN for 7 months where I served as the plastics expert on staff making medical devices supporting the use of implanted ports for chemotherapy. I helped switch the material for infusion sets from DEHP plasticized PVC to an alternative material that does not use DEHP. My work there resulted in a technical research paper that was submitted and published in the Journal of Vinyl and Additives Technology in December 1996. This paper has also been presented at an MPD RETEC in September of 1995.

In May of ’94, I rejoined Baxter in a new role in the Gene Therapy Unit of the BioTech Division. I worked there sourcing materials for a new implantable device being developed called the TheraCyte device. There were about 7 different materials used in its construction and during the 1990’s most suppliers of plastics to the medical device industry strongly pulled away from sourcing implantable materials due to the small but possibly devastating problem of product liability whether or not the material was the problem. And usually the material is not the problem but how the materials are used sometimes leads to patient problems. I was able to find suppliers willing to work with Baxter to supply their materials for this product by offering a legal indemnification agreement with our suppliers that Baxter would bear all costs and any possible liability claims against the suppliers of the material.

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Meanwhile, the U.S. congress passed a new bill that helped resolve this issue that was beginning to limit new medical product development. The new law was called the “BioMaterials Access Assurance Act of 1998” and it essentially stated that if the supplier of a good polymer material meets the requirements or specifications of the user, the medical device maker, will bear all liability of any product failure and patient injury if that medical device caused harm to the patient. Any effort to draw in the supplier of the material, as long as the material met the specifications agreed-upon by the device manufacturer and the supplier, any such effort would be thrown out of court and the suppliers would be shielded from further litigation in that matter. This opened the market once more for companies to supply implantable materials. With the new law in place and with the suppliers identified, TheraCyte was able to be shown effective in treating select diseases even in human patients in limited trials, some of which lasted over a year.

In SPE, I was elected Chairman of the division again in the 1997-1998 year also during a job transition year for me. Baxter was selling the Gene Therapy Division product, TheraCyte and the organization was being shut down. This gave me a chance to take a job with a Chicago-based Industrial Design and Engineering firm named HLB Inc. (also known as Herbst, Lazar, Bell). I worked with the sales team in developing the medical device segment of the company and helped both the designers and engineers learn what medical device companies needed in their products. Having worked with so many different colleagues in SPE and specifically in the MPD, I had an extensive network of friends and colleagues that helped me understand the market needs. I continued to serve our division as a board member and even took on the role of newsletter editor for 6 years between 1999 and 2005, just about the end of the era of printing and mailing newsletters before newsletters went to becoming completely electronic media communication.

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SPE Executive Committee and Presidency

In January of 2001, I served as proxy for the Japan section and attended an in-person Council weekend and since it was election time, submitted my name as a candidate to serve on what was then called the Executive Committee. Being new to the Council, few people knew me so I did not win the election. However I was surprised to learn that the incoming SPE President was entitled to appoint 2 members of his or her choosing. President-elect Terry Browitt invited me to serve on his EC as one of his appointees which I gladly accepted. I took my position at ANTEC in 2001 and had a 3-year term. At the end of my 1st year of my term, I ran for and was elected SPE VP & Treasurer for one year. This gave me good experience working with the Executive Director at the time, Susan Oderwald. Near the end of that year as Treasurer, I ran for Senior VP of SPE and won, giving me another year on the EC. During these years, I served under Presidents, Terry Browitt, Claudius Feger and Donna Davis. At the end of my 3rd year on EC, I decided to run for SPE President by trying to earn the position of President-elect. Karen Winkler was the current President-elect, and with her support and mentorship, I was able to win the election! I served throughout Karen's term as president and then in 2005 at ANTEC in Boston, I took over as SPE president. My presidential theme for the year was: Connect, Collaborate & Compete. It means that in SPE we get to meet other industry professionals (Connect) and we begin to discuss the challenges and solutions that we face in our jobs and occupation, (Collaborate) and finally bring the things we learn back to our job, our office and our manufacturing plant, (Compete). I worked during my year as president to help eliminate all barriers to communication between SPE Governance, HQ, EC, Council, and the various Section and Division Boards and Leadership. I told everyone that I wanted to hear if there were perceived problems and that we would work to resolve them. I also felt that we needed to do a better job of **making SPE fun!**

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Reception after TechnoBiz seminar in Bangkok with Austin Coffey & Peram Rao

It is hard to keep volunteer members and to keep them working as volunteers if they/we are not getting any benefit from our time spent. I believe that by the end of my 1-year presidential term, communication improved and there was far less “we / they” problems. Furthermore, in general we did begin to recognize the importance of having fun with each other when we had meetings and even when conducting business.

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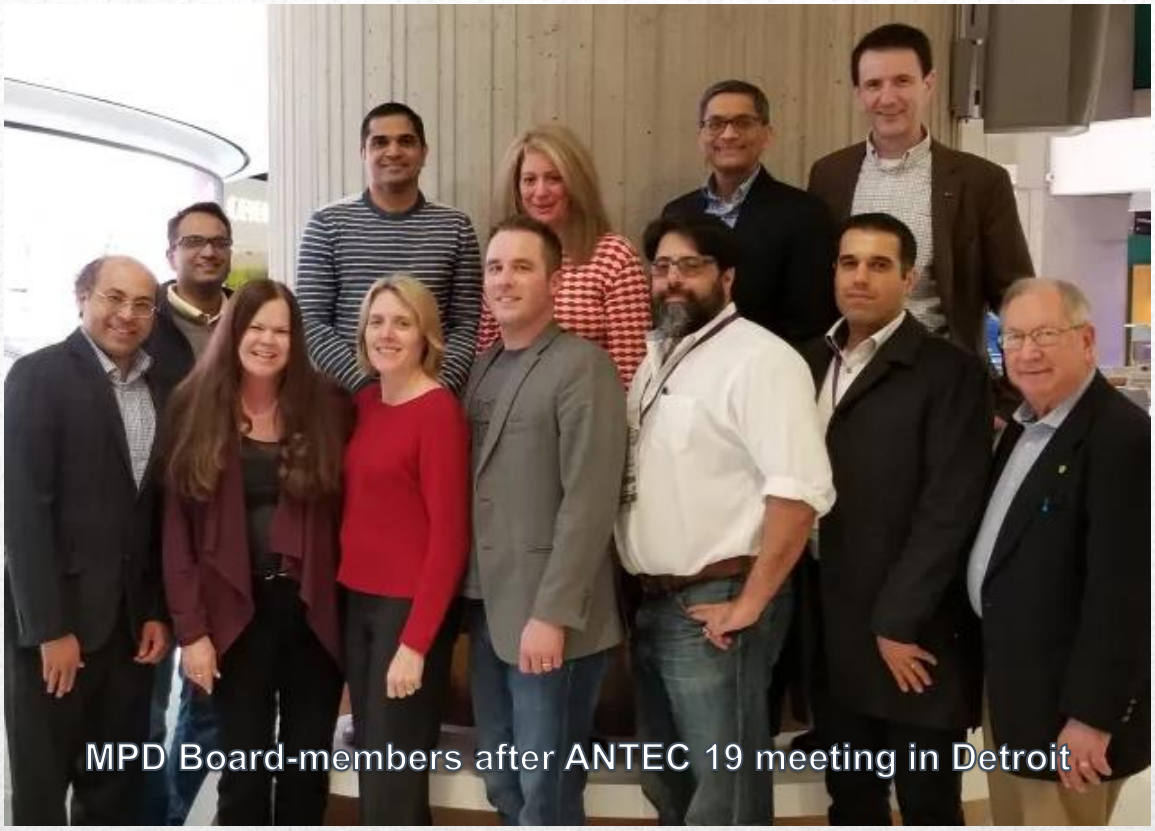

MPD Board-members after ANTEC 19 meeting in Detroit

Back to MPD

After my SPE Presidency, I served 1 year as Past-President during Tim Womer's presidency and another year as Previous Past-President when Vicki Flaris was president, finally stepping down from the EC in 2008. I reconnected with the MPD BOD and won another 3-year term after leaving the Executive Committee and I ended up being elected Division Chairman again for the 2010-2011 SPE year. There were many new faces in the division which although I had met most of them, I didn't know them until I began working together with the board. It was a very strong group and we had good leaders willing to follow me as future Division chairs. After that year as chairman, I went back to technical programming which is my primary interest. I did however accept the role as Councilor for the division following Margie Hanna who was finishing two 3-year terms. I starting in 2015 and served for 2 complete 3-year terms turning over the job to new Councilor, Ned LeMaster in 2021.

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Honored Service Member

Throughout these years in SPE, I have worked to prepare and give technical presentations often which describes the project or product on which I have recently worked. At ANTEC in 2000 in Orlando, I presented a paper describing catheter that I helped develop which enabled the treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia using focused microwave energy. The catheter is used to keep the urethra of the patient cool while the prostate tissue is heated by the focused microwave energy. My paper was selected as the Best Paper of ANTEC that year and I was also surprised to be selected and recognized as an Honored Service Member by the Medical Plastics Division at that ANTEC in Orlando, FL. It was quite an honor!

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Project review meetings with clients of CEI

Distinguished Fellow of SPE

Having served as SPE President, I earned the distinction of Distinguished Member of SPE at the end of my term. And in 2015, the MPD nominated me to be a Fellow of the Society which was accepted by the review committee and this recognition was presented to me at ANTEC 2015 also in Orlando. I am extremely grateful to the division for the nomination and thankful to the committee that accepted me to have this honor. This recognition was an amazing surprise for me and beyond any expectation that I could ever have imagined!

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CEI

Complimenting these busy SPE years, in 2001 I was able to begin my own consulting firm after leaving HLB in Chicago. Since then, I have been working with client companies both large multi-nationals as well as mid-to small size and even start-ups doing NPD and various types of product development support. Over the years, I have put together and taught seminars on the use of plastics for medical devices as well as a variety of other topics around medical device manufacturing including product design, sterilization, failure analysis and selection and processing of the best materials. Details are found in my CV on my website. I have served as a seminar instructor for the University of Wisconsin Continuing Adult Education Program where I taught two 2-day seminars on materials used in medical devices. This was an annual event for about 3 years until COVID-19 caused a pause in the program.

Meanwhile, I was invited to Bangkok Thailand to present seminars on materials, processing and design for a local training company called TechnoBiz. The founder of that company, Peram Rao formed his company to provide training originally for the rubber industry which had a strong presence because of the proximity of the rubber producing countries in SE Asia. TechnoBiz training has since expanded into training in other areas of material sciences and added training in plastics technologies not only in Thailand but also in Europe and in the US. I formed a partnership with TechnoBiz and began hosting training seminars by various experts in plastics and even did some training myself. Here again, our programs were affected by the global pandemic and in-person training programs are currently on Hold until travel once again returns to pre-pandemic levels.

My consulting has kept me busy with a variety of engagements built largely on my network of friends and colleagues and on the network built as a result of my membership in SPE and my participation in SPE activities, including ANTEC, MiniTecs and working in partnership with the MD&M organizers, Informa Markets.

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I have been given the opportunity to serve as the conference organizer, moderator, panel leader and speaker. I often am contacted by magazine editors and asked to contribute an article and when I do, it results in further promoting my company as being able to help on their challenges. I have been invited to present training seminars in India, Thailand, China and the Middle East. It has been fun!

One other area that I would like to mention is that I enjoy serving as Expert Witness in lawsuits. I have served on more than a dozen cases including patent disputes, best medical device industry practices and product failure litigation. This type of work has been both fun as well as challenging. It pushes me to dig deeply into very specifics of a product or the meaning of a patent claim. But the ability to explain to the non-technical community about the product design or polymers properties makes this type of work very rewarding.

Plant visit with molder Denman outside of Belfast

Booth duty at MD&M W with past chair Rob Braido

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Family Life

This sharing of my walk through life would not be complete without sharing the part of my life that helped make all the other parts possible. I told you that I met and in August 1973, married my beautiful Irish sweetheart, JoAnn Hartnett. We lived in a rented house in Chicago, near Midway Airport for the first 3 years of our marriage and then bought our first home in Lombard in 1976. I was working for Baxter Labs when we moved and at first I traveled to work only 20 miles to our labs in Morton Grove, IL. Then in the spring of 1977, our new labs in Round Lake, IL were opened and I was transferred to these new offices and labs now 42 miles from home. At about the same time, JoAnn and I welcomed our first son Martin Francis to the world! He was the first of our three children as well as our grand parents' first grandchild. JoAnn took a hiatus from her teaching job as a Speech Pathologist at a public elementary school in Evergreen Park, IL. She became a full-time mom and really enjoyed the role and did a wonderful job! After 3 years, our family grew when we welcomed Michael Leonard into our family. He was a big baby and gave his brother a new playmate although it took a few years until they could actually begin playing challenging sports and activities. By then our family welcomed our third and most surprising child, our amazing & wonderful daughter Kathleen Ann in 1982.

My job at Baxter required an unusual amount of travel, about half of it international including trips to Europe and Japan. Through it all, JoAnn supported me and did what she needed to do to keep our young family growing and healthy. When Katie contracted spinal meningitis shortly after she turned one-year old, it was because of JoAnn's recognition of a serious problem along with the quick action of our pediatrician that we were able to hospitalize and immediately treat her and prevent any permanent long-term effects of this dangerous infection.

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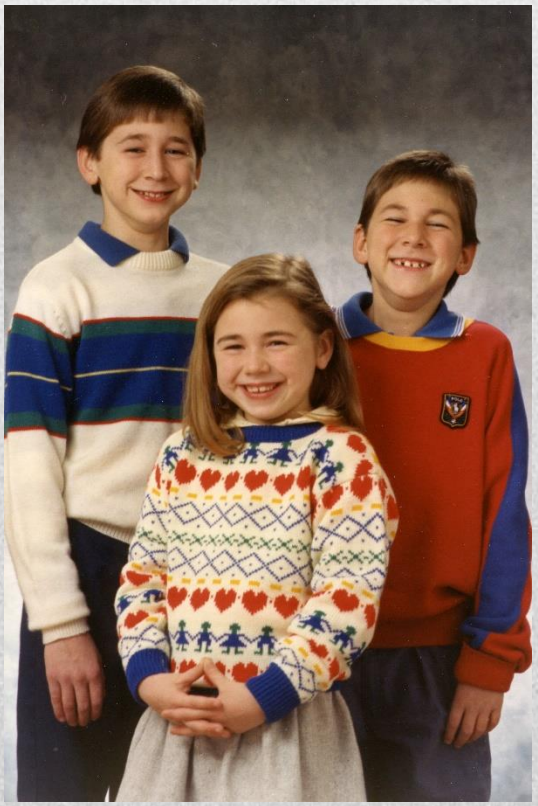

Czuba children memories

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When all three of our children were old enough to go to school, JoAnn began working, at first, part-time and then when the right position opened, she started full-time at a local elementary school as its Speech Therapist. Being local, mom could be home until the children left for school in the morning and be home after school by the time they walked home. With a larger family we decided to move. Our second home was both larger and within walking distance to our children's school. This allowed us to stay closely connected to the school community throughout their grade school and high school years. I volunteered on the school board for several years and was elected board president for two years. JoAnn and I also volunteered to help coach our children's sports teams. I started as an assistant softball coach for the girl's team several summers and then took on basketball and also volleyball during the school year. Our motto for each team was "Work Hard (at practice), Play Hard (when competing) Have Fun Together!" Our teams were remarkably successful and our three went on to play high school varsity sports including basketball, volleyball, softball and even soccer. All three did very well academically and were all admitted to the college of their choice: Marty to Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, Michael to St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO and Katie to Loyola University right here in Chicago. Marty graduated with a BSEE, Michael with a BS and then an MS in Physical Therapy. He went on to get his Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) and also became a certified athletic trainer. Katie graduated with a BA in Marketing and after several years in the field realized that she wanted to pursue an advanced degree in Speech Pathology. She graduated from Rush University with an MS in Speech Pathology and has worked both at Loyola University Medical Center at several locations in Chicagoland and is now at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly known as "RIC") in the Chicago downtown area. Michael works in the Chicago area with a large medical group originally called DuPage Medical and now called Duly Health and Care. He manages one of their local offices. Marty moved to New York and lives on Long Island where he took a job at Dayton T Brown, Inc. where he works coordinating the quoting and various electrical / mechanical testing done for their customers.

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Michael was married in August 2009 to Emily Marshall-Walenta, also a DPT, a graduate of Marquette University. Emily works at Rush University in surgical recovery and rehab. They welcomed our first twin grandchildren, Agnes and Peter in June 2013 and then Thomas in February 2018. They live in LaGrange, IL.

Marty met Megan Condon by way of his love of sand volleyball which he still plays regularly. He was introduced to Megan by a fellow VB players' cousin. Megan was a hospital ER pharmacist. She graduated from UConn and now works closer to home having recently changed jobs. They welcomed their baby daughter, Noelle in December 2015 and now in their Smithtown home are enjoying watching her grow and learn. They visit us as often as they can (but it is never enough)!

Katie married Ted Webler in May 2018. Ted owned a pub bar in Little Italy near University of Illinois – Chicago and Rush University Medical Center and opened a restaurant, The Brixton in Andersonville on Chicago's north side. They welcomed our 5th grandchild, Owen in February 2019 and are expecting their daughter in June this year.

JoAnn and I are blessed to have such a wonderful family and lucky to be able to see them (except Marty & his family) often. Our holidays are usually very full with extended family gatherings and except for the pandemic-caused isolations, we enjoy these get-togethers as often as possible.

JoAnn decided to retire from her career as the school Speech Pathologist last June (2021) and has since been focusing on finishing up the move back into our newly remodeled kitchen and first floor family rooms. She is doing a great job and enjoying retirement very much.

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Message from MPD Emeritus Board Member – Len Czuba

I have been keeping busy outside of work and SPE activities by biking during summer mornings, going fishing when I can get away, gazing at the stars with our telescope and constantly taking loads of pictures. (I used to be a part-time wedding photographer and have been enjoying photography since my mother gave me an old camera when I was in grade school. It has been a great source of enjoyment over the years!) I also enjoy tossing horse shoes (these days only at family picnics) and my newest backyard game – “bags” aka “corn hole”. And if we can’t get outside because of cold weather, I enjoy playing pinochle or other games although these days, we don’t have much time for that type of activity. Maybe when the grandkids get a little older!

The SPE Executive Committee at the start of Claudius Feger’s presidency 2002-2003

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Family on a whale watching trip during EC Summer meeting 2002

I have turned my days of coaching volleyball into what I call my “Alzheimer avoidance technique”. While coaching grade school volleyball, I bought a rulebook to learn the “official rules” of the game. After our 3 children were old enough to enter high school and volunteer parents were no longer used, I decided to become a State of Illinois high school volleyball official. It has now almost been 30 years and although I am a certified high school official, I am still learning the game and very much enjoy working with the teams and coaches as I work during the girls season in the Fall and the boys season in Spring. During the volleyball season, I usually work 1 or 2 nights of the week at high schools throughout the area. It is both fun and rewarding (and so far, I think there are no signs of dementia)!

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Closing Thoughts

After I finished my term as MPD Councilor 2021, I have focused my SPE work in technical programming. We have had two MiniTecs last year and are planning another this year. Meanwhile I have decided to help the European Medical Polymers Division to better organize to meet the needs of our members primarily in Europe. This division has had about 6 technical conferences since it was founded by Gerry McNally and a small group of us founding board members. We currently have 13 active board members in this fledgling sister division, but the newly recruited board members are active and very talented. We strive to offer benefit to our members with technical programming beyond ANTEC and except for the pandemic would have had another MiniTec with training programs in Central Europe last year. That conference is on Hold but others are being planned.

Thank you to the Medical Plastics Division for the honor of being named an Emeritus member of our division. I hope that I could help the upcoming generation of members continue the good work of SPE and allow each to grow into recognized industry professionals, much like Dean Laurin and Glenn Beall did for me!

Respectfully submitted,

Len Czuba
Emeritus Member of the Medical Plastics Division
Chairman of the European Medical Polymers Division
SPE President 2005 - 2006
Distinguished, Honored-Service Fellow of SPE

Continued on the next page…

Emeritus Members

Glenn Beall

- Emeritus Member
- Historian
- glennbeallplas@msn.com

Len Czuba, Czuba Enterprises

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

MEET YOUR SPE MPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Louis Somlai, Eli Lilly

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

Pierre Moulinié, Covestro

- Secretary
- Term End: 2025
- pierre.moulinie@covestro.com

Ned LeMaster, DuPont

- Councilor
- Term End: 2024
- ned.e.lemaster@dupont.com

Bhavin Shah, Millipore Sigma

- Treasurer, Finance Committee
- Term End: 2025
- bhavin.shah@milliporesigma.com

Ali Ashter, Advanced Plastics Enterprise

- Past Chair
- Term End: 2023
- ashter2000@gmail.com

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2023

Vipul Davé, Johnson & Johnson

- Past Division Chair/Finance Committee/TPC
- VDave1@its.jnj.com

Ravishankar Ayyar, Eli Lilly

- Membership Chair & Awards Co-Chair
- Awards & Social Committee
- rayyar@lilly.com

Nathan Rader-Edkin, BD Corporation

- nathan.rader-edkin@bd.com

Ajay Padsalgikar, DSM

- MPD Technical Program Committee – Co-Chair
- Ajay.Padsalgikar@dsm.com

Gregorio Velez, Stryker Corporation

- Membership
- Gregorio.Velez@stryker.com

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2024

Margie Hanna, Czuba Enterprises

- Member - Finance Committee
- m_hanna@yahoo.com

Vijay Kudchadkar, Westfall-Technik

- Communications Committee – Newsletter Editor
- Vijay.Kudchadkar@westfall-technik.com

Kyle Kulwicki, Kimball Electronics

- Membership
- kyle.kulwicki@kimballelectronics.com

Kumin Yang (Charles)

- TPC Co-Chair
- Kumin.Yang@bsci.com

Rob Klein, ArtiCure

- TPC Co-Chair
- rklein@atricure.com

Selvaanish Selvam, Avient

- Communications Committee
- selvaanish.selvam@avient.com

Amin Sedighiamiri, AstraZeneca

- am.sadighi@gmail.com

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MPD Board Members with Term Expiring in 2025

Donna Bibber, Isometric Micro Molding

- dbibber@isomicro.com

Tom Meehan, Eastman

- tmeehan@eastman.com

Jeff Ellis, EWI

- JEllis@ewi.org

SPE Liaison

Kathy Schacht, SPE

- SPE Liaison
- kschacht@4spe.org

MEDICAL PLASTICS DIVISION COMMITTEES

Chair **Louis Somlai (‘24)** Communication Chair / MPD Website	**Past Chair** **Ali Ashter (‘23)**	**TPC** **Vipul Davé (‘23)** Past Chair / Finance Committee / Nominating Committee / Technical Program Committee
Treasurer **Bhavin Shah (’25)**	**Councilor** **Ned LeMaster (’24)**	**Emeritus Member** **Len Czuba**
Education Committee • co-Chair: Pierre Moulinié (’22) • co-Chair: Victoria Nawaby (‘22) • Webinars: Pierre Moulinié (‘22); Victoria Nawaby (‘22), Ned LeMaster (‘21)	**Communications Committee** **Chair: Louis Somlai (’23)** • Newsletter: Vijay Kudchadkar (‘24) • Marketing & Outreach: Suneel Bandi, Selvaanish Selvam (‘23) • Website: Louis Somlai (‘23) & Ned LeMaster (‘23) • Historian: Len Czuba (‘21); Glenn Beall (Emeritus)	**Membership Committee** • Chair: Ravi Ayyar (‘23) • Members: Kyle Kulwicki (‘24) • Gregorio Velez (‘23)
Awards Committee • Chair: Ravishankar Ayyar (’23)	**Finance Committee** **Chair: Louis Somlai (’24)** • Treasurer Bhavin Shah (‘25) • Members: Vipul Davé (’23); Margie Hanna (‘24)	**Technical Programing Committee** • co-Chair: Kumin Yang (’24) • co-Chair: Rob Klein (‘24) • Members: Vipul Dave (‘23),

Are you interested in volunteering for the BOD?

Please email Ali Ashter
ashter2000@gmail.com

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Dear fellow MPD Members,

Greetings from the division councilor's chair. It is my pleasure, to bring to you the councilor's report for the first half of 2022. This is also my very first official report as councilor to be included in our division newsletter.

I'd like to begin by saying thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility and honor to represent our division. We have done some great work as a division over the years, and I hope to continue to bolster our reputation amongst other divisions as past councilors have done.

As expected, being new to the role, it's taken some time to get settled and learn the ropes. However, it's been a busy experience.

The first Council Committee of the Whole (CCOW) meeting of the year was held on January 11th. The overall theme of the meeting was Customer versus Membership Model. Key takeaways from this meeting were: 1) SPE membership and associated dues have been on a steady decline since 2018; 2) Messaging from Pat Farrey and Headquarters indicating the need to shift away from a member based society and head towards a transaction based society; 3) Discussion from the broader group around possibly rebranding SPE to SPP (Society of Plastics Professionals). Nonetheless, it made me reflect and appreciate not only our division membership, but also all the great work that our division does to promote technology and education in our industry.

In mid-February, some changes to the SPE Bylaws were announced. These are available in SPE Communities, and have been shared with the board. Highlights are: 1) The SPE Fiscal year will align with the calendar year, but council year remains the same; 2) Several changes have been made to the nominations process and nominating committee.

Please reach out to me with any questions or if you would like to discuss in more detail.

The Spring '22 Council Meeting was remotely on March 30th. Unfortunately, I joined this meeting a little late due to another call running over. However, my takeaway from the meeting involved Pat Farrey explaining HQ's direction with their DEI effort.

Continued on next page…

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Pat mentioned that he felt the need to clear things up due to some negative feedback or questions from a few divisions/members

In late April, I was tapped by Barry Morris to participate in a CCOW/Chapter Representative Roundtable that took place on May 11th. The focus of this panel was around recruiting, training, and retaining leaders within the different SPE chapters and divisions. I appreciate the input from division members provided in advance of this event, which helped me best represent our division. Key takeaways from the roundtable were that we aren't alone in some of our struggles. However, I'm very encouraged to see the new board members come in with this last election class. I feel we are ahead of other divisions in this regard. Much credit to some of our past power members (Len and Vipul) who have decided not to run for re-election, but continue to stay involved and volunteer. Also in mid-May, past MPD Councilor, Len Czuba, was kind enough to make an introduction to Donna Davis of the South Texas Section. Donna has a very impressive service record with SPE and was kind enough to spend some time on the phone providing some guidance to me as a new councilor. I expect that I'll reach out to her in the future for more mentoring in my new role.

Lastly Call for nomination for Chair of the Council has been circulated. The timeline for June should have the presentation of the nominees and election, with the new chair to be announced on June 27th. The term for the new chair will begin on July 1st.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best –

Ned

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for supporting our “Medical Plastics in Manufacturing: The Virtual Edition” virtual conference.

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Newsletter Suggestions? Want to Advertise?

Please email: Vijay Kudchadkar
vijay.Kudchadkar@westfall-Technik.com

MPD SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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.

MPD NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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!

Full page - $1500
Half page - $850
Quarter Page - $450
Eighth Page - $250

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
- SPE - Medical Plastics Division - LinkedIn
- SPE - Medical Plastics Division - Twitter

BENEFITS OF BEING A SPONSOR:

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FOR SPONSORSHIP PLEASE CONTACT

Louis Somlai
somlai_louis@lilly.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bhavin Shah

SPE MPD Q1, Q2 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT	
Financial Report for the Period:	**Jan 1, 2022 - May 31, 2022**
Section/Division Name:	Medical Plastics D36
Balance as of Jan 1, 2022	**$ 50,815.51**
Income	
UBM Deposit for MiniTec 2022	4,000.00
Total Income	**$ 4,000.00**
Expenses	
Student Scholarship fund @ SPE	10,000.00
Emeritus Board member token of appreciation	155.52
Microsite 22	300.00
HQ Services	75.00
MPD Service Award Trophy	203.89
Total Expenses	**$ 10,734.41**
Ending Balance as of May 31, 2022	**$ 44,081.10**

Do you have questions about the Treasurer Report?

Please email Bhavin Shah
bhavin.shah@milliporesigma.com

SPE MPD WEBINARS

The Medical Plastics Division and Webinar Team plans to host a series of webinars during 2022, with a goal of at least three to four. Some of the topics in consideration include: Advances in Medical Tubing Materials, Drug Delivery and Implantable Materials, Materials for Excipient Release, Relevant Changes in Regulatory Directives, Biodegradable & Resorbable Polymers in Med Device, Best Practices for Introduction of New Polymers in Med Device, Speed to Market through Improved Development, and Advances in Friction Reducing Materials. We are even considering a series on project management.

We welcome your interest to participate, as well as suggestions for topics and/or speakers. Please contact the MPD Webinar team:

Pierre Moulinié (pierre.moulinie@covestro.com),
Victoria Nawaby (nawabyv@hotmail.com)
Ned LeMaster (ned.e.lemaster@dupont.com)

MiniTec MD&M West 2023 – Call for Speakers

"Life Saving Medical Plastics & Their Continued Evolution"

This MiniTec will be held Monday February 6th with a possible 2nd day on Tuesday February 7th the day prior and the first day of the 2023 MD&M West Expo & Conference in the Anaheim Convention Center.

Our Technical Program Committee is now accepting *presentation title & abstract* for inclusion in this event. Each day we will feature at least 10 of the most relevant presentations (30-minute time slots each) selected from all submissions received by **August 19, 2022.**

Papers related to the following will be taken into strong consideration:

Medical technology market trends in plastic and polymer materials especially:

- Advanced resins and composites for enabling new device and packaging technologies
- Personalization in materials, manufacturing, and measurements (delivery & diagnostics)
- Additive manufacturing extending individual product design & manufacturing
- Sustainability - materials, manufacturing and design considerations for balancing safety, convenience, and the product lifecycle, including reprocessing of medical device materials, and single use technologies
- Development of hybrid devices to reduce the amount of single use material that is discarded and end-of-life responsibilities of OEMs
- Materials for use in the rapidly emerging telehealth and telemedicine role in healthcare
- Materials & Technologies that will be critical for next generation medicines & therapeutic delivery systems
- Chemical interaction(s) between polymers and sterilization, disinfection, drugs and drug solutions, etc.
- Regulations and Patient contact considerations
- Plastics used in the manufacture of biopharmaceuticals
- Polymers used for the controlled release of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- Digitization, connectivity and (AI) trends in healthcare
- Other emerging materials & technologies in healthcare and medical device
- How materials are finding utility with innovations in the manufacturing of devices themselves
- Next generation medical devices & therapeutic delivery systems (early and disruptive innovations – new products coming to market)

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MiniTec MD&M West 2023 – Call for Speakers

If you are interested in being considered, please submit the following:

1) Your name
2) Proposed presentation title
3) Abstract of **150 word maximum** (no exceptions!)
4) Your contact information including:

- Full name as it would appear in the program
- Company or Affiliation
- Office phone number
- Mobile phone number
- Email address

5) Agreement that you will comply with following speaker requirements

MPD Speaker Requirements:

Submit proposed title & abstract
Submit high resolution color headshot & biography of **150 word maximum**
Submit Power Point presentation for committee review
Participate in the program in Anaheim **(LIVE – in person)**
Give us permission to distribute pdf version of your presentation to attendees (assumed if you submit)

After all interested speakers submit title/abstract, the committee will review and prepare the program. Submitters will be notified of decision once made.

This conference is expected to host at least 100 conference attendees and will feature up to 20 tabletop exhibitors.

If you are interested in presenting as a speaker, please submit by August 19, 2022 your proposed Title and Abstract to:

Ned LeMaster, MPD Councilor MiniTec Conference TPC Chairman
ned.e.lemaster@dupont.com or 608.402.3268 m

For other conference info contact:

Len Czuba, Conference Co-Chair
lczuba@czubaenterprises.com or 630.627.9242 o or 630.632.3560 m

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