

## ***POMS 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference – Chicago***

### ***Welcome Message from the Conference General Chair***

On behalf of the Planning Committee, welcome to the 2012 POMS Annual Conference. The 2012 Chicago Conference is the largest POMS conference with over 1000 abstracts and over 1000 registered attendants from over 45 countries. In addition to attendants from the Americas, Europe and Asia, we are delighted to observe a big increase of conference attendants from Brazil, China and India this year!

Our theme, ***Socially Responsible Operations*** is developed through 32 tracks and 3 Plenary Sessions.

By sharing our research through paper presentations we fulfill the POMS fundamental purposes:

- to extend and integrate knowledge that contributes to the improved understanding and practice of production and operations management (POM);
- to disseminate information on POM to managers, scientists, educators, students, public and private organizations, national and local governments, and the general public; and
- to promote the improvement of POM and its teaching in public and private manufacturing and service organizations throughout the world.

Clearly, the success of the 2012 Chicago conference relies on the support of POMS current and new members and the hard work of the Program Chair and Track Chairs for inviting current POMS members and new members to attend this exciting conference. However, this conference is made possible by the tireless effort of the organizing committee members that I would like express my gratitude.

Specifically, I am indebted to each of the planning committee members as follows: Professors Sushil Gupta (Executive Director) and Nagesh Murthy (VP Meetings) for guiding us each step of the way, Professor Kumar Rajaram (Program Chair) for organizing all session tracks, Professor Vikram Tiwari (Scheduling Committee Chair) for scheduling different events, Professor Vinayak Deshpande (Doctoral Consortium Chair) for organizing a special program for the doctoral students, Professor Jack Kanet (Emerging Scholars Program Chair) for organizing a special program for young scholars, Professor Laurens Debo (Local Arrangement Chair) for helping us with the local arrangements. Last but not least, I am grateful to Professors Nagesh Murthy (VP meetings) and Shailesh Kulkarni (Associate VP Sponsorship) for soliciting extra funds to support POMS and many of the special conference activities. Finally, I would like to thank all of the sponsoring organizations for their generous financial support.



Once again, welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society. I look forward to meeting you at the conference, and I hope you will have a wonderful time in the city of Chicago.

Christopher S. Tang  
Conference General Chair  
POMS Fellow  
Edward W. Carter Professor of Business Administration  
UCLA Anderson School  
U.S.A.