

## Welcome Message from Conference Co-Chairs

We warmly welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of POMS in Washington DC. With a record number of participants expected this year, we are delighted to see these annual conferences are becoming larger and more substantial every year. The theme for this year's conference, ***RELEVANCE: Expanding POM research, teaching, and practice to help organizations, society, economies, and the environment*** is particularly appropriate for this city. We hope this conference will bring attention the critical importance of our discipline not only in managing business operations, but also in managing operations in other sectors such as government, non-profit, healthcare, and international trade that are richly represented in Washington.



We greatly appreciate Sushil Gupta, Kalyan Singhal and Martin Starr for their unflinching dedication since the very beginning of our society. This conference would not be possible without generous help from them and a large number of other people. We are truly grateful to the Program Co-Chairs, Annabelle Feng and Glen Schmidt for the tremendous amount of time and energy that they have invested in organizing the program. We are also grateful to the conference organizing committee members, the track chairs, and the session chairs, without whose generous contribution, the conference would not have set another new record of the number of presentations and the number of participants.

Most of all, we like to thank you the participant who are supporting these annual conferences by your presence. We sincerely hope you will enjoy this conference, renew old friendships and make new friends, get new ideas, and above all, have a good time.

### *Kasra Ferdows – Conference Co-Chair*

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### *J. George Shanthikumar - Conference Co-Chair*

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