

Welcome Message from POMS President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the 26th Annual Meeting of the Production & Operations Management Society! At this conference, over and above prominent plenary speakers and special receptions, all attendees and members have the opportunity to meet face-to-face, discuss new research ideas, and of course, enjoy all that our capital city has to offer. For our younger colleagues, this conference is an ideal way to establish linkages and interact with a global community of practitioners, researchers, and teachers from over 40 countries.



Organizing a conference of this magnitude requires an immense effort from a dedicated group of volunteers who have contributed significant amounts of time. On behalf of POMS, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the outstanding organizing committee of Kasra Ferdows and J. George Shanthikumar (General Co-Chairs), Qi Annabelle Feng and Glen Schmidt (Co-Program Chairs), Ken Klassen (Scheduling Committee Chair), Chris Tang (Leaders in Practice Session Chair), Rachna Shah (Doctoral Consortium Chair), Jack Kanet (Emerging Scholars Program Chair), Henrique Correa and Bharat Kaku (Vice President Meetings), Sriram Narayanan (Proceedings Editor), Shailesh Kulkarni (Associate VP Sponsorship) who was ably assisted by Nagesh Murthy (VP Global Outreach), and Sushil Gupta (Executive Director). In addition to these individuals, I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Track Chairs since they have been instrumental in organizing invited and submitted papers for this conference.

The theme of the conference “*RELEVANCE: Expanding POM research, teaching, and practice to help organizations, society, economies, and the environment*” is especially appropriate as it will motivate us to address issues of relevance from a significantly broader perspective. I look forward to hearing and learning from all of you regarding your thoughts on how we can achieve this together so that POMS continues in its trajectory to being the leader in this effort!

I look forward to meeting you Washington, D.C.

Warm regards,

Asoo J. Vakharia
President, Production and Operations Management Society
McClatchy Professor, University of Florida