

Welcome Message from the Program Chairs

Welcome to Washington DC and the 26th Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS)!

The theme of POMS 2015 Conference is “*Relevance: Expanding POMS research, teaching and practice to help organizations, society, economies, and the environment.*” It highlights the importance of our discipline to both the private and public sectors. The plenary and semi-plenary sessions, tutorials and technical talks are designed to help convey and expand the relevance of our teaching, research and practice.

We especially thank all the presenting authors - You make this another unique conference in POMS history. Over 1500 abstracts were submitted from more than fifty different countries. We are confident that you will find many interesting talks from which you will learn about the latest developments in your field from researchers around the globe.

This excellent program is the result of countless efforts by the following team of track chairs, to whom we express our great appreciation:

Felipe Caro, Xin Chen, Yin-ju Chen, Kay yut Chen, Dinah Cheng, Ling Dong, Gerry Feigin, Neil Geismar, Steve Gilbert, Jeet N. D. Gupta, Itai Gurvich, Sean Handley, Ming Hu, Tingliang Huang, Justin Zheng Jia, Karthik Kannan, Moutaz Khouja, Subodha Kumar, Guoming Lai, Lauren Lu, Debasish Mallick, Ann Maruchek, Mili Mehrotra, Anant Mishra, Chuck Munson, Tharanga Rajapakshe, and Shaohui Zheng.

We would also like to thank the following colleagues for their support and contributions: Conference co-chairs, Kasra Ferdows and J. George Shanthikumar; Leaders in Practice Session Chair, Chris Tang; Emerging Scholars Program Chair, Jack Kanet; Proceedings Editor, Sriram Narayanan; VP of Meetings, Henrique Correa; Doctorial Consortium Chair, Rachna Shah; Bharat Kaku, VP-Meetings; and Associate VP of Sponsorship, Shailesh Kulkarni. A very special thanks to Ken Klassen, Scheduling Chair, who has been a reliable asset for every track chair, session chair and author, and to Sushil Gupta, Executive Director of POMS, on whom every one of us relies.

Again, welcome to the meeting, and enjoy your time in Washington DC!

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