

## Welcome message from Vice President for Meetings

### Henrique Correa – VP Meetings 2014

On behalf of our planning committee, it is a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to the Production and Operations Management Society 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Washington Hilton. I hope you all are able not only to use this great opportunity to network and enjoy the exciting line up of the conference events and sessions but also to reconnect with old friends and colleagues and, enjoy Washington DC at a beautiful time of the year.



In this conference as in previous ones we expect to attract a substantial number of participants from both academia and industry who will come together to share their thoughts and knowledge. Such sharing is essential for a healthy and productive collaboration between research, teaching and practice, which in turn is key for operations management to maintain and increase its *relevance* for society's progress.

Our planning team has done a great job under the guidance and with the support of our President Asoo J. Vakharia and our Executive Director Sushil Gupta. I would like to thank our conference Co-Chairs Kasra Ferdows and J. George Shanthikumar and our Program Co-Chairs, Annabelle Feng and Glen Schmidt and, our Scheduling Chair Ken Klassen for their hard work and leadership. Thank you also Chris Tang for organizing one more edition of the "Leaders in Practice" forum with a remarkable line up of leaders of industry and Jack Kennet for leading the organization of the "Emerging Scholars Program" one more year. I would also like to recognize the excellent job that our Associate VP of Sponsorship Shailesh Kulkarni did in reaching out so successfully to our so appreciated sponsors. Last but not least, thank you Sriram Narayanan, our Proceedings editor for the hard work putting together our conference proceedings.

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving the society for this past year as your VP Meetings. I wish you all a wonderful and productive conference!

Henrique L. Correa  
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## **Bharat Kaku – VP Meetings 2015**

I took over this position recently and would like to add my welcome to all the participants of the POMS 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference being held in Washington, DC in May 2015. Henrique Correa has covered the important issues regarding the conference in his letter so I would like to simply add a personal note about the Washington, DC area, which has been my home for many years. The city is the source of much of the legislation that affects us all as teachers and practitioners of production and operations management. Healthcare, trade, and security are but some examples of issues that are profoundly affected by what happens here. On the lighter side, Washington offers excellent historical, cultural, and gastronomical experiences. I hope you will be able to find time to enjoy some of them!



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