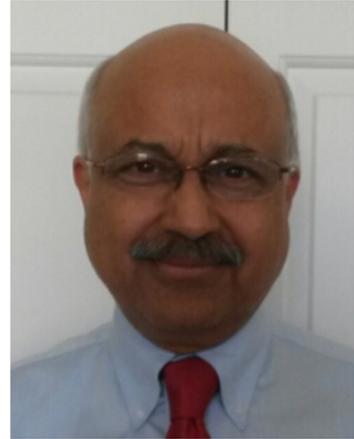


Welcome Message from the Vice President for Meetings

On behalf of the planning committee it is my pleasure to welcome participants to the 27th Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) at the Hilton Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The theme for our conference this year is “Innovative Operations in an Information and Analytics Driven Economy.”

The planning committee has provided a rich array of presentations featuring recent advances in our field. Highly popular features of past conferences that return to the Orlando meeting include the Practice Leaders forum, the Emerging Scholars program, and the Doctoral Consortium. Five of our colleges have organized mini-conferences and two have organized site trips to Orlando companies.



I would like to acknowledge the members of the planning committee for their hard work and vision in putting this conference together.

- Nitin Joglekar (General Chair), Sriram Narayanan and Rogelio Oliva (Program Co-Chairs) for taking the overall lead.
- Ken Klassen (Scheduling Chair) for successfully navigating the complex task of assigning tracks and sessions to the calendar and space.
- Gerald Burke (VP of Colleges) for coordinating the college mini-conferences.
- Shailesh Kulkarni (Associate VP for Sponsorship) for another year of increasing sponsorships.
- Nagesh Murthy (Associate Executive Director – Global Initiatives) for working with our international chapters.
- Amit Kakkad and Christian Rossetti (Proceedings Co-Editors) for compiling the Proceedings.
- Nicole DeHoratius and Mohan Sodhi for organizing the Practice Leaders sessions.
- John J. Kanet for returning as Chair of the Emerging Scholars program.
- Rachna Shah for her continued commitment to the Doctoral Consortium.
- Sushil Gupta (Executive Director) for making sure that all the parts work together.

I would like to thank Asoo Vakharia (Past President) and Ed Anderson (President 2016) for their support and guidance.

We have an exciting addition to the services offered at the conference for parents of young children who wish to bring them along to Orlando. Under an initiative spearheaded by Sriram Narayanan, POMS has arranged for childcare facilities on the hotel premises during the conference.

I would also like to acknowledge Ram Tewari, Ashley Ellison, Matthew Miller, and Matthew Smith for staff support.

Finally, given that Orlando is a major tourist attraction, I am sure that you will be able to find activities to enjoy outside of the conference. The conference website provides more information.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference!

Bharat K. Kaku
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