

Welcome Message from Associate Executive Director for Global Initiatives & Outreach

It is a great privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to the POMS 27th Annual Conference in Orlando. It is indeed a great time for POMS as we continue to draw a large fraction of participants from across the globe and also experience the growth in attendance that is constantly redefining our new normal. Our planning team has done a fantastic job under the direction of our President, Ed Anderson and our Executive Director, Sushil Gupta. Our General Chair, Nitin Joglekar and Program Co-Chairs, Sriram Narayanan and Rogelio Olivia have worked with great energy and enthusiasm to line up exciting plenary speakers and assemble a wonderful team of track chairs to offer you a high quality experience.



A special thanks to all our leaders and ambassadors in the POMS global community who continue to help us host POMS International Meetings. There is increased interest across the globe from premier schools and academic societies to collaborate with POMS. Thanks to the incredible enthusiasm of our members, opportunities for organizing POMS international conferences, workshops, or practice leaders forum are currently being explored with schools or societies in Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa, among other regions. We have now embarked on a new tradition of hosting an “International Meetings Organizers’ Reception” at POMS Annual Conference on Sunday evening to recognize folks who have led the efforts to organize international meetings of POMS. This year we are recognizing folks from POMS Hong Kong Chapter, POMS India Chapter, ISB, NITIE, and IIT Kharagpur for organizing meetings in 2015 and 2016. This reception is also another great opportunity to celebrate with all our international participants who make a great effort to support this conference year after year.

Of course, all this would not be possible without the efforts of the core planning team, along with the track chairs and various award committees who have worked tirelessly to organize all facets of this meeting. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Bharat Kaku for shouldering immense responsibility as VP Meetings, Shailesh Kulkarni for his critical role as the Associate VP Sponsorship, Kenneth Klassen for his pivotal role as Scheduling Chair, and Amit Kakkad and Christian Rossetti for being Proceedings Co-Editors. Lastly, my hearty congratulations to all the young scholars who have emerged as winners or finalists for the *Emerging Economies Doctoral Student Award*!

Once again, have a wonderful conference!

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