



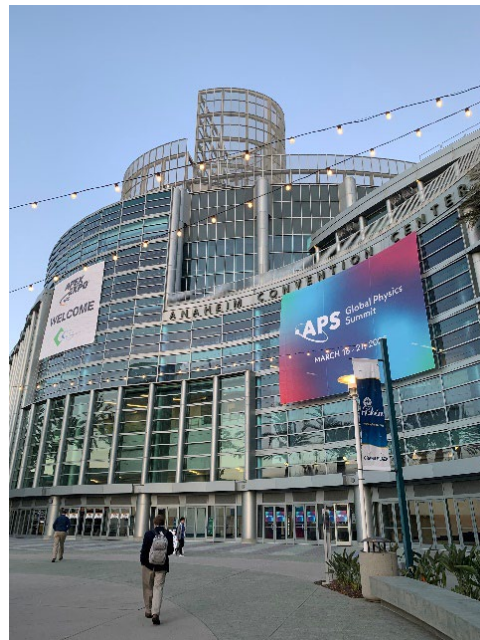
Chair's Message

Thank you all for making the 2025 Joint March Meeting and April Meeting Global Physics Summit in Anaheim a success starting from the Saturday Short Course and Sunday Squishy Science Event through the final session on Friday! I want to take this opportunity to thank our 2025 Program Chair Lisa Hall, Program Vice-Chair Rafael Verduzco, and DPOLY Past Chair Rachel Segalman for their outstanding leadership and our DPOLY Executive Committee members Liliana Bello, Rod Priestley, Karen Winey, and Ryan Hayward for their service to the community.

Planning for the 2026 March Meeting is underway! The deadline for Focus Sessions and Invited Sessions is quickly approaching (**May 30th**). Information on how you may contribute is provided in this newsletter, but feel free to reach out to 2026 Program Chair Rafael Verduzco. Included in this Spring newsletter: a “Year in Review” of our recent March Meeting, the 2025 DPOLY T-shirt giveaways for members from the past five years, and the DPOLY Industry Panel held on Wednesday. The second Squishy Science Sunday event drew nearly 500 attendees with 100 volunteers!

The Awards Nomination deadlines are quickly approaching, **June 2** for Polymer Physics Prize, Dillon Medal, and APS Fellowships with more details in this newsletter. As a reminder, DPOLY membership levels are critical to maintaining the vibrancy and impact of our division within APS. Please be sure to renew your membership in DPOLY, and encourage your colleagues, collaborators, and students who may not be members – the first year is free! This year we enhanced our T-shirt give-away and cool DPOLY swag at our membership table managed by our outstanding volunteers, especially early- and mid-career researchers. We thank them and you all for creating such a vibrant and diverse community.

Sincerely,
Moon Park
2026 DPOLY Chair



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 DPOLY March Meeting Program

The next APS Global Physics Summit, which combines the APS March and April meetings, will be held in Denver, CO from March 15 – 20, 2026.

We are looking for volunteers and visionaries to help DPOLY develop our Invited and Focus Sessions. Individuals or small groups can propose to organize sessions in a certain topic area, which may or may not be similar to previously popular topics. Depending on the areas and number of suggestions, the Program Committee will combine groups and make selections to create a balanced program. The identified groups will then be given instructions to create a session description, invite speakers, advertise their session, and later sort the submitted abstracts.

You can find last year's focus sessions through this [link](#):

Please suggest Invited and/or Focus session topics by **May 30, 2025** by filling out this [Google Sheets form](#). Contact our 2026 Program Chair Rafael Verduzco (rafaelv@rice.edu) and co-Chair Charles Schroeder (cms@illinois.edu) with any questions. We look forward to hearing from many of you.

Award Nominations DUE JUNE 2, 2025

Please consider nominating your colleagues for the following 2025/2026 DPOLY Honors:

- Polymer Physics Prize (<https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/prizes/polymer.cfm>)
- John H. Dillon Medal (<https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/prizes/dillon.cfm>)
- APS Fellowship (<https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/>)

For complete information, see <https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/nomination.cfm>. Note that self-nominations are not accepted. Nominators need not be APS members, however, *all DPOLY awards require active APS membership at the time of nomination and DPOLY unit affiliation*. Note that each member can support only one nominee for each award in a given year. Nominations are typically considered over a two-year period, with the option of updating carryover nomination packages by the June 2 deadline. Please check the Rules & Eligibility website for the John H. Dillon Medal, which was updated with a policy for extensions for research career breaks.

Complete nomination packages should be submitted through the online APS Honors portal by no later than June 2, 2025:

<https://apsphysics.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>

Undergraduate Travel Award: several weeks before MM abstract deadline



Frank J. Padden, Jr. Award: same as MM abstract deadline

Chang Ryu Travel Award: slightly after MM abstract deadline

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2025 March Meeting

We had a busy March meeting, with 62 DPOLY-led sessions, including 44 DPOLY focus sessions, and a total of 706 DPOLY abstracts. Many thanks to 2025 DPOLY Program Chair Prof. Lisa Hall for putting together an outstanding DPOLY meeting schedule. Thanks also to our hard-working session chairs and organizers, and to all our speakers who helped make the meeting a success. DPOLY technical sessions, together with those of DSOF, DBIO, GSNP, GMED, DFD, and DCP, are now generally called Soft, Polymeric, Living, Active, Statistical, Heterogenous, and Yielding (SPLASHY).

2025 DPOLY Prize Winners:

2025 Polymer Physics Prize: Scott Milner, Penn State University		
<i>“For insightful contributions to the theory of polymer brushes, copolymers, molecular entanglement rheology, interaction parameter estimation, and polymer crystallization.”</i>		
2025 John H. Dillon Medal: Robert J. Hickey, Penn State University		
<i>“For pioneering work in creating nonequilibrium structured soft materials.”</i>		




2024 APS Fellows:

Zahra Fakhraai, University of Pennsylvania	
	<i>“For innovative experiments that advance the fundamental understanding of polymer thin films, nanoconfinement, and amyloid aggregation.”</i>
Du Yeol Ryu , Yonsei University	
	<i>“For insightful studies on block copolymer phase behavior, pivotal interfacial phenomena, and the impact of block copolymer nanostructure in advanced technology.”</i>
Rafael Verduzco , Rice University	
	<i>For new concepts in the molecular design, development, and understanding of electrochemically-active and stimuli-responsive polymers.”</i>

Frank J. Padden Jr. Award:

The Frank J. Padden, Jr. Award Session featured 11 exciting research presentations by graduate student members of DPOLY. We congratulate Broderick Lewis (Northwestern University) as the 2025 Padden Award winner and all the finalists for maintaining a high standard of research with their inspiring presentations. We are grateful to the University of Akron for sponsoring the finalists' dinner!



<u>2025 Undergraduate Travel Award</u>	<u>2025 Chang Yeol Ryu Travel Fund</u>	
Iris You Rutgers University Advisor: Prof Jonathan Singer	Jie Zhu University of Oxford Advisor: Prof. Laurence Brassart	Geeta Pokhrel University of Delaware Advisor: Prof. Chelsea Davis
		

2025 DPOLY Best Poster Awards

This year we had 105 DPOLY posters! We thank Prof. Rafael Verduzco for organizing the poster session and competition and volunteer judges. This year DPOLY sponsored the poster prizes that included gift cards and certificates awarded to:

First Place: Poster 53, "High-Throughput Mechanical Characterization of Ultra-Soft Biological Materials Using Puncture and Needle-Induced Cavitation," Jennifer R Quigley (presenter), Hsu Shwe Yee Naing, Alfred J Crosby, Shelly Peyton, Gabriela M Lana

Second Place: Poster 69: "Stabilizing the Double Gyroid at Room Temperature in Neat Ion-Containing Multiblock Copolymers for Enhanced Ionic Conductivity," Margaret K Brown (presenter), Viola A Burlein, Sharin K Rashid, Stefan Mecking, Karen I Winey

Third Place: Poster 77: "Controlled Structure Formation of Sequence-Defined Materials with Reinforcement Learning," Wesley Oliver (presenter), Michael A. Webb

2025 DPOLY Short Course: “Physics of Charged and Ion-Containing Polymers”

The 2025 DPOLY Short Course was a huge success with maximum capacity of over 65 participants thanks to our terrific Organizers and DPOLY members!



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
**PRITZKER SCHOOL OF
MOLECULAR ENGINEERING**



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StorageX Initiative

Topics included thermoplastic extrusion, volumetric 3D printing, direct write printing, powder bed fusion and fused deposition modeling, bioprinting/embedded direct write printing, stereolithography, and digital light processing. More than 30 early career travel awards and

numerous speaker travel awards were made possible due to our generous sponsors: [National Science Foundation](#), [University of Pennsylvania Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering](#), [Stanford StorageX Initiative](#), [The University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering](#)

2025 Sunday Reception for Members Sponsors

Many thanks to our sponsors that made it possible to hold our reception in honor of all our award winners!



PennState
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CHEMICAL
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and Mineral Sciences

MATERIALS SCIENCE
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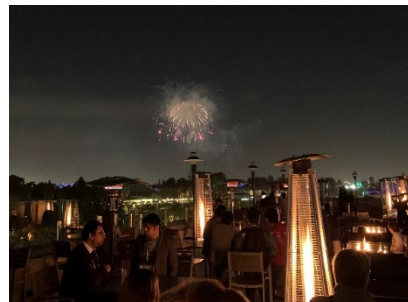


xenocs

Exploring the very small



Soft Matter

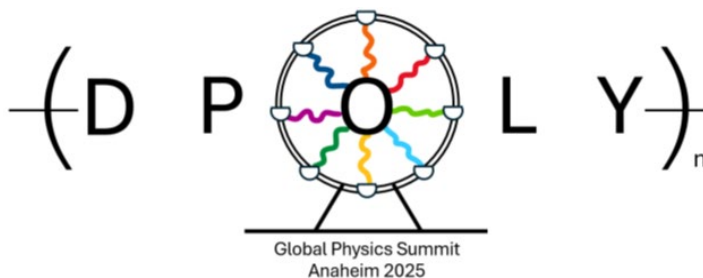


DPOLY Industry Panel: Careers in Polymer Physics

DPOLY is very fortunate to have an industrial advisory board that have deep roots in polymer physics. This year we organized a panel to provide students and post-docs with a forum to learn about different careers available to those with polymer physics backgrounds. The panelists included August Bosse (ExxonMobil), Kim Chaffin (Medtronic), and Elayne Thomas (Saint-Gobain), who represent a range of career levels, provided their perspective on the transition from academia to industry and how the training obtained in academia translates to different career paths.

DPOLY T-shirt contest

Our second T-shirt design contest and give away was a huge success! Our numerous membership desk volunteers neatly folded and handed out 300 T-shirts to our long-time members and DPOLY volunteers. We also offered chances to win a T-shirt by spinning a wheel. Congrats to Jester Itliong, PhD candidate, Michigan Technological University, who was selected for the best design concept and received free APS registration sponsored by DPOLY.



2024 Fall Election Results

We welcome our newest executive committee members

Vice Chair Chinedum Osuji UPenn	Member-at-Large Charles Sing UIUC
	
Early Career-Member Shayna Hilburg NIST	Councilor Glenn Fredrickson UCSB
	

and re-election of Sec-Treas. Vivek Prabhu. Thank you to Lynn, Jian, Pierre, Mark, and Eric for their willingness to serve.

Best Regards,

The DPOLY Executive Committee