Dear DPOLY community,

We have lots of news this fall:

**APS Engage: new website**

Login to [https://engage.aps.org](https://engage.aps.org) to set your profile communication settings and participate in DPOLY discussions. For example, you can receive daily or weekly digests. Please use this resource to post items of interest to DPOLY. As one of our members Kay Saalwaechter said, while announcing a biweekly meeting series, “thanks Amalie and Courtney for launching this great new portal! - finally a form of division updates that does not get stuck in our spam filters ;-)” Check out the DPOLY Discussions for details. This is also the site for the division homepage: [https://engage.aps.org/dpoly/home](https://engage.aps.org/dpoly/home)

**Call for abstracts and nominations**

The March Meeting abstract deadline is October 23 this year. Please submit your abstracts and your nominations for the student Frank J. Padden Jr. Award symposium.

**2021 Padden Award Nominations**

We solicit student nominations for the Frank J. Padden Jr. Award symposium, an annual highlight of the APS March Meeting. As noted on our information page ([https://engage.aps.org/dpoly/honors/prizes-awards/frank-padden-award](https://engage.aps.org/dpoly/honors/prizes-awards/frank-padden-award)), please send nominations by email to Mahesh Mahanthappa ([maheshkm@umn.edu](mailto:maheshkm@umn.edu)) using the subject line "Padden_name of student". The deadline for receipt of all materials is the general October 23, 2020 deadline for March Meeting abstract submission. We especially encourage nominations from underrepresented groups.

Please note that DPOLY reimburses meeting registration for all finalists from overseas.

We are all very excited to hold the first virtual March Meeting. DPOLY will be holding 8 Invited Sessions and 33 Focus Sessions at the 2021 March Meeting program between March 15-19, 2021. Sessions on machine learning for bimolecular design; broadband dielectric spectroscopy; sustainable polymers: applications and design for end-of-life; charged polymers for neuromorphic applications; polymers in extreme environments; optics and photonics in polymers and soft matter; structure-function correlations of porous polymers for membranes; topological effects in soft matter; fantastic polyelectrolytes and how they behave in coacervates are just some highlights from the 2021 virtual program. We look forward to receiving your abstracts for oral / poster presentations by October 23.

Abstract submission: [https://march.aps.org/abstracts/](https://march.aps.org/abstracts/)

Sorting categories: [https://march.aps.org/sorting-categories/#cat-1](https://march.aps.org/sorting-categories/#cat-1)
We encourage poster submissions and flexibility, because the online capabilities of APS will limit the number of live contributed talks (to some large number). DPOLY may want therefore to expand our already robust poster sessions. We are exploring with APS online modalities that will give a good poster experience. With this approach, we are striving to make an excellent meeting. See you there.

**Sorters and Session Chairs**
Please volunteer to serve the community and make a vibrant March Meeting; please contact Pinar Akcora, DPOLY Program Chair ([pakcora@stevens.edu](mailto:pakcora@stevens.edu))

**Town Hall, Oct 19, to discuss your suggestions and concerns**

We will hold a virtual "open house" for all on Monday, October 19, with members of the DPOLY Executive Committee and the March Meeting Program Chair, Pinar Akcora. Our goal is to have informal discussions about any suggestions or concerns you may have about the all-virtual 2021 March meeting, or any other topic concerning DPOLY. Or, just tell us what you've been up to recently! A secondary goal is to try out SpatialChat and get feedback on the platform for future possible DPOLY events. We do not have a set program--instead we plan to mingle and chat with whoever would like to join, during one of the two times below:

- Monday October 19 from 4-4:45 pm EDT
- Monday October 19 from 5-5:45 pm EDT

Join us at this link: [https://spatial.chat/s/apsdpoly](https://spatial.chat/s/apsdpoly)
Password: reptation

When joining, please use your real names and affiliations. The site starts with a short tutorial on how to use it--move yourself around to chat with different people in the "room". We apologize in advance if we exceed the participant limit (50) and you are unable to join--if that happens, feel free to let us know and we can consider further options for future get-togethers.

**Award winners**

The 2021 winner of the Polymer Physics Prize is Professor Samson Jenekhe of the University of Washington, "For pioneering and sustained outstanding contributions to the synthesis, photophysics, and structure-morphology-performance relationships in semiconducting polymers for electronic and photovoltaic applications."
The 2021 winner of the John H. Dillon Medal is Professor Bryan Boudouris of Purdue University, "For fundamental insights connecting polymer structure with charge transport in free radical conducting polymers, organic electronics, and functional block copolymers."

Congratulations to them both!

DPOLY has 5 new APS Fellows this year, congratulations!
Gregory Grason, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Wenbing Hu, Nanjing University
Arthi Jayaraman, University of Delaware
Mahesh Mahanthappa, University of Minnesota
Gunter Reiter, University of Freiburg

DPOLY short course
Physics & Engineering of Macromolecular Formulations
Vivek Sharma and Thomas O'Conner are organizing the next DPOLY short course.
Details will follow.

Virtual Coffee Breaks
Thomas O'Conner (Early Career Member-at-Large) is organizing bi-weekly virtual coffee breaks for early career members, on the spatial.chat web platform for organic and interactive virtual meetups for networking and socializing. Our current capacity of 50 concurrent attendees is working well. We can adapt our schedule and resources if things grow more popular. The next Virtual Coffee Break will be Monday, October 26 at 4 pm (EDT). Recurring access info is:
https://spatial.chat/s/apsdpoly
password: reptation
When joining, please use your real names and affiliations.

Other Virtual Meetings
Please look for future announcements in your messages from engage.aps.org. Several symposia have been held in the summer and fall.
- Polymer Physics Symposium (July 28-29)
- Membranes for Selective Transport of Gases, Ions and Water (Aug 4)
- Polymer Nanocomposites (Sept 3)
- Biweekly Polymer Physics and Polymer Spectroscopy ("P3S") Webinar (ongoing)
Physics of Foams (October 16)
Sustainable Polymers (Nov 6)

(A summary of some events is given below.)
If you want to organize another virtual event, please contact DPOLY chair, Amalie Frischknecht, for information. For example, Thomas Gartner (Princeton University), Emily Lin (University of Pennsylvania), Thomas O’Connor (Sandia National Laboratories), and Kevin Shen (University of California Santa Barbara) are organizing a polymer physics journal club/mini workshop series. Please fill out this Google Form, to volunteer or contribute your ideas to them. This idea was hatched during the Early Career Coffee Breaks.

Elections
We have a full slate of candidates for 5 open positions on the DPOLY Executive Committee. We are grateful to the Nominating Committee. If you want to nominate someone for any of these open positions, please gather at least 14 additional supporters and send your nomination to Steve Hudson, DPOLY Sec/Treas, steven.hudson@nist.gov, by October 26.

For Division Councilor:
- Murugappan Muthukumar (U Mass)
- Karen Winey (U Penn)

For Vice-Chair:
- Enrique Gomez (Penn State U)
- Ryan Hayward (Colorado-Boulder)

For Secretary/Treasurer:
- Vivek Prabhu (NIST)
- Mark Dadmun (U Tennessee, Knoxville)

For Member-at-Large:
- Valeriy Ginzburg (Dow, retired)
- Rob Riggleman (U Penn)

For Early Career Member-at-Large:
- Konane Bae (Princeton U)
- Whitney Loo (U Chicago)

The election will open in a few weeks.

UKPPG nominations

2021 UKPPG/DPOLY Lecture Exchange Nominations

We solicit nominations from early career scientists to represent DPOLY and give a lecture at the Fall 2021 UK PPG meeting in the UK, this year in London. Please send nominations by email to Amalie Frischknecht (alfrisc@sandia.gov) by December 31, 2020. Information on the nomination packet can be found here: https://engage.aps.org/dpoly/honors/prizes-awards/lecture-exchange

Other Future Conferences

Summer School on Neutron Scattering will be held virtually, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, February 3 -12, 17, and 19, 2021. This school is devoted to methods and
applications of small angle neutron scattering (SANS) and neutron reflectometry (NR) techniques. See https://www.nist.gov/ncnr/chrns/education-and-outreach/chrns-summer-school-neutron-scattering and sub-pages to apply (deadline Nov 16) and for more details.

Complex Active and Adaptive Material Systems (GRC and GRS) will be held in Ventura in June 2021; the GRC is chaired by Rich Vaia. Please see the GRC website for contact and registration details.

**More about Virtual Meetings**

**Biweekly Polymer Physics and Polymer Spectroscopy ("P3S") Webinar (ongoing)**
organized by Rongchun Zhang, Toshikazu Miyoshi, and Kay Saalwachter
For abstracts and the Zoom link see here:
http://www.physik.uni-halle.de/upcoming-p3s-webinars/
More information can be found on the main website:
http://www.physik.uni-halle.de/p3s-webinar/

**Virtual Polymer Physics Symposium**

Whitney Loo (UC Berkeley, now U Chicago) and Konane Bay (Princeton) organized the Virtual Polymer Physics Symposium for graduate students and postdocs that took place over two days from July 28-29 on Zoom. The goal of the symposium was to bring together graduate students and postdocs studying polymer physics.

On Day 1, they kicked off the symposium with a mentoring panel on “Becoming Interdisciplinary Leaders in Polymer Physics.” The mentors, Russell Composto (UPenn), Nathaniel Lynd (UT Austin), Debbie Audus (NIST), and Michelle Sing (Braskem America), gave insightful answers to questions from attendees. Over 230 grad students and postdocs attended the panel. Over the two days, 18 oral presentations from graduate students and postdocs were presented in four different sessions led by eight discussion leaders. An average of 160 graduate students and postdocs attended the talks over the two days. Additionally, on both days, an informal zoom networking break was held to allow attendees to make new connections within the polymer physics community.

On Day 2, the keynote event was the “Dispersity and Diversity” discussion hour organized by Melody Morris (MIT), Alexa Kuenstler (UMass Amherst), and Ben Yavitt (Stony Brook). The discussion hour was a platform for grad students, postdocs, and early career researchers (ECR) to discuss the necessary changes to increase diversity and inclusion in the field of polymer physics. Participants responded to the pre-readings and engaged in thoughtful discussions within small breakout room environments led by 19 discussion leaders. Each breakout session was tasked with identifying three key takeaways (interesting observations, helpful resources, or proposed changes) as actionable items were presented to all 77 participants at the conclusion of the session, and these takeaways are currently being compiled to be shared with the DPOLY executive committee.

The symposium organizers would like to thank all of the panelists, speakers, discussion leaders, and the organizers of the Dispersity and Diversity Discussion Hour. We’d also like to acknowledge APS DPOLY and zmurl for the technical support.

Best regards,
The DPOLY Executive Committee