



# Newsletter

June 2019

Dear SoFE members:

## CoFE 18

The last time many of us met was at the Conference of Food Engineering 2018 (CoFE18) in Minneapolis. We had a successful meeting, with a total of 223 attendees, from 17 countries. Congratulations to Roger Ruan, Kumar Mallikarjunan and Paul Chen, of the University of Minnesota, who, together with their capable student volunteers, put together an excellent meeting.



## Sponsors

Major thanks to the sponsors of CoFE 18, Formulaction, LZL Engineering, LLC, and McCormick. Thanks also, to Abbott Nutrition, who helped sponsor the Career Panel, and to Wiley, who provided books for the winners of the student poster competition.

## Elections

During CoFE 18, we held elections, and elected the Executive Committee, consisting of the following:

President: Sudhir Sastry

President-elect (appointed): Kumar Mallikarjunan

Past President (appointed): Gönül Kaletunç

Secretary: Gail Bornhorst

Appointments were made, since this was the first-ever election for the Society, and being a new society, we do not, of course, have a real Past-President!

In addition, the membership elected the following Members-at-Large: Stella Alzamora, Gustavo Barbosa-Cánovas, Gönül Kaletunç, Francesco Marra, Carmen Moraru, Kesavan Niranjana, Julia Spotti, and Pawan Takhar.

Thanks also go to the Nominations Committee consisting of Ashim Datta, Osvaldo Campanella, and Peter Edwards, and the Elections Committee, with members Romel Somavat, Soon-Kiat Lau, and Ashim Datta, for organizing the election, soliciting nominees, and conducting the electronic balloting process.

Many thanks to the caretaker Executive Committee that were part of the original formation of the Society. The members of that committee were Carmen Gomes, Gönül Kaletunç, Romel Somavat, Steve Lombardo and Sudhir Sastry. With this group, we

were able to go through the baby steps of forming the Society. SoFE was officially formed on August 2, 2017, as a registered not-for-profit in the State of Ohio. We have since been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

### **CoFE 2020**

Since the completion of CoFE 18, we have decided on the venue for the next CoFE (CoFE 20), which will be Raleigh, North Carolina, September 13-16, 2020. Details will be forthcoming on <http://socfoodeng.org>. Thanks to KP Sandeep, of North Carolina State University for identifying and selecting a venue. We hope you will all participate, and encourage others to join SoFE and strengthen our efforts in the years ahead.

### **Educational Needs Initiative**

Another very important activity has been in identifying educational needs for food engineering. Currently, the industry hires a significant number of engineers, of a variety of disciplines. Many of these come from backgrounds other than food engineering, and need training (either on-the-job, or via continuing education) to gain knowledge of food engineering. The need for coursework and materials for such training has been expressed as a need by industry.

During the past months, our education team (Chris Koh & Chris Graham of PepsiCo; Romel Somavat of Unilever; Helen Joyner, University of Idaho; Gonul Kaletunc and Sudhir Sastry, Ohio State; Bill Conway of McCormick, Girish Ganjyal of Washington State University; Peter Edwards of ConAgra; Paul Singh, UC Davis emeritus, and Francesco Marra of the University of Salerno, Italy) have developed and conducted a survey of stakeholders to determine the knowledge needs of engineers. We received about 30% response, a very good number. These needs have been identified, and we are currently discussing next steps towards development of educational materials and course offerings. More details as we analyze and interpret the data and take our next steps.

### **Research Needs Identification**

Another objective of SoFE is the identification of research funding priorities in food engineering, and related areas, to feed back to federal funding agencies. We are seeking volunteers for this effort. Bala Balasubramaniam has kindly agreed to chair this effort. Please contact Bala ([balasubramaniam.1@osu.edu](mailto:balasubramaniam.1@osu.edu)) if you would like to volunteer.

### **Contact SoFE with Questions/Suggestions**

The society depends on member-driven initiatives to succeed. If you have questions, suggestions or are looking to get involved, please contact us at: [societyoffoodengineering@gmail.com](mailto:societyoffoodengineering@gmail.com)