



# Keynote & Guest Speaker Biographies

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Michael Goergen**  
**Vice President – Innovation**  
**Director, P3Nano**  
**U.S. Endowment for Forest and Communities**

Michael joined the Endowment in September 2013 to lead their efforts in innovation and technology. Currently, his projects include taking cellulosic nanotechnology from the lab to the market, advancing mass timber construction, and bringing together partners in the public and private sectors to accelerate the development of new uses of forest materials. His efforts in this space are gaining public awareness, including securing a spot on the TEDx stage to discuss the opportunities that new forest technologies present.



**Dr. Robert J. Moon**  
**Materials Research Engineer**  
**USDA Forest Service – Forest Products Laboratory**

Robert is a Materials Research Engineer at the USDA Forest Service - Forest Products Laboratory, and is an Adjunct Professor in both the School of Materials Engineering (at Purdue University), and in the School of Materials Science and Engineering (at Georgia Institute of Technology). He is currently stationed at the Renewable Bioproducts Institute at Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Moon is an expert in processing-structure-property relationships as they apply in various aspects of cellulose nanomaterial (CNs) research. He is an internationally recognized researcher in the area of CNs, where he has over 40 peer reviewed journal publications, 1 critical review, 2 patents, an editor of 1 book, has given 3 keynote/plenary and 50+ invited talks at conferences, universities and research centers worldwide. Recent work has focused in the areas of CN characterization, and CNs as additives in cementitious materials, composites, and flexible electronics.

## INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS



**Dr. You-Lo Hsieh**  
**Distinguished Professor & Chair, Textiles and Clothing**  
**University of California, Davis**

You-Lo is a Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Textiles and Clothing Department at the University of California-Davis. Dr. Hsieh researches polymer chemistry, fiber engineering and bio-based materials. Integrating polymer chemistry with materials engineering, she and her team develop strategies for deriving 0D and 1D bio-nanomaterials and engineering 1D to 3D structures, including hierarchical and hybrid nanofibers, micro-meso-porous fibers, thin films and networks such as hydrogels, aerogels and membranes. These approaches expand soft material potentials to create new structures, functional nanomaterials and sustainable materials that offer versatile and environmentally-friendly solutions and meet future demands for advanced materials.

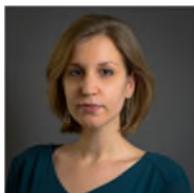


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**Alper Kizilits**  
**Research Scientist**  
**Ford Motor Company**

Alper Kiziltas is a Research Scientist with the Plastic Research group at the Ford Motor Co. where his particular interests lie in sustainable materials such as: bio and recycled resins, natural fibers composites and nanofillers reinforced foams. He is a graduate of the University of Maine where he received his master's and Ph.D. degrees in School of Forest Resources. He published over 50 papers and presentations in peer-reviewed journals and conferences and holds five patent disclosures.



**Dr. Nathalie Lavoine**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**North Carolina State University**

Dr. Nathalie Lavoine is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest biomaterials, at North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC USA). She is an emerging leader in producing high-performance materials from wood and other biopolymer based sources as an alternative to petroleum-based plastics. Her specific research interests are in the area of nanocellulose production/characterization, nanocellulose-based advanced materials, active and intelligent packaging, drug delivery systems, and sustainable materials processing.

Prior to her appointment at NC State, Nathalie Lavoine was a Research Fellow from 2016-2018 in Materials Chemistry at Stockholm University, in the Department of Materials and Environmental Chemistry, in Stockholm, Sweden. Under the direction of Professor Lennart Bergström, she developed new strategies for producing super-insulating nanocomposite foams. From 2014-2016, she was an International Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, at The University of Tokyo, Department of Biomaterials Science in Tokyo, Japan. Under the direction of Professor Akira Isogai, she created TEMPO-oxidized cellulose nanofibrils (TOCNs) that were surface modified by amine-functionalized compounds to improve their thermal properties in order to develop thermoresponsive materials for drug delivery applications.

Nathalie Lavoine received her Ph.D. in 2013 at the Laboratory of Pulp and Paper Science and Graphic Arts (Laboratoire du Génie des Procédés Papetiers (LGP2)) in Grenoble, France, under the direction of Dr. Julien Bras and Dr. Isabelle Desloges. In her thesis work, entitled "Design, Processing and Characterization of Innovative Functional Bio-nano-materials for Packaging," she developed antibacterial bio-nanomaterials using cellulose nanofibrils (CNF) as a controlled release system for food packaging.



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**Christopher O. Luetttgen, Ph.D.**

**Professor of the Practice**

School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, College of Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

**Associate Director**, Pulp, Paper, Packaging and Tissue

Renewable Bioproducts Institute, an Interdisciplinary Research Institute at GT

**Director**, GT Pulp and Paper Engineering Undergraduate Certificate Program and

Foundation

Luetttgen has 25 plus years of industry experience, with Scott Paper and Kimberly-Clark Corp., where he most recently served as North American Innovation senior manager for the Kimberly-Clark Professional business sector. He has held positions in product development and innovation as well as in capital project management and manufacturing facility leadership.

For several years, Luetttgen has served on the Georgia Tech Renewable Bioproducts Institute Industry Board of Advisors, and as the Chairman of the Board of the Technical Association of the Pulp & Paper Industry (TAPPI). He earned his bachelor's degree in Paper Engineering at Western Michigan University ('85), his master's degree at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, WI ('87), and his Ph.D. in Surface Chemistry at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology - now the Renewable Bioproducts Institute at Georgia Tech ('91).

He rejoined Georgia Tech in November 2014 as a Professor of the Practice in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Associate Director of Pulp, Paper, Tissue and Packaging at RBI. He also serves as the Director of the undergraduate Pulp and Paper Certificate Program and its Foundation.

Areas of research interest include: Recycled fiber, renewable cellulosic feedstocks, nanocellulosic materials in consumer products, tissue/towel manufacturing and converting and manufacturing leadership / operational excellence