



## AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Novi, MI • September 8-10, 2021

Presented by SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions

WORLD'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE  
COMPOSITES FORUM

# DRIVING VALUE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12 APRIL 2021**

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## **SPE® ACCE 2021 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR SPE® ACCE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION**

**ABSTRACTS DUE JULY 1, 2021**

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** - The organizing committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate, undergraduate, community college, and high school students to submit abstracts on innovative composites technologies, for automotive and ground transportation, for its annual student poster competition. The competition will be held during the ACCE at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan (in the Detroit suburbs) Sept. 8 - 10, 2021. Judges who are industry experts, SPE board members, and members of the media will review all posters with student authors on the first day of the conference, Sept. 8, 2021. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be presented to winners in graduate, undergraduate and high school categories during a special ceremony on the event's second day, Sept. 9, 2021.

Students interested in participating in the competition should contact Dr. Uday Vaidya, ACCE student poster competition chair as well as chief technology officer, Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and professor and governor's chair – Advanced Composites Manufacturing at University of Tennessee-Knoxville via [ACCEposters@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEposters@speautomotive.com).

Abstracts are due by July 1, 2021. Digital copies of posters are due by August 20, 2021 for pre-review by judges. Students will need to bring printed copies of their posters to the conference, which they can attend free of charge. All students in the competition will also receive a partial travel stipend and a shared hotel room provided by SPE, as well as free student membership in SPE.

Large multi-poster panels and push pins for displaying the posters in the Student Poster Display area will be provided. The show also provides excellent networking opportunities for those close to graduating who are starting to look for a job.

The poster template is online via <http://speautomotive.com/acce-forms>.

Poster topics may include subjects such as:

- Automotive Composites
- Composites and lightweight materials for trucks
- Bio-composites
- Nanocomposites
- Glass, carbon, and hybrid fibers
- Thermoset and thermoplastic technologies
- Recycling and green technologies
- Multi-materials
- Joining technologies
- Modeling and analysis of lightweight materials
- CAFE standards and mandates
- Cost-effective manufacturing
- Use of advanced materials in innovative applications
- Virtual prototyping and design
- Microstructure, failure and fracture
- Failure envelopes and theories
- Additive manufacturing of composite

Students and their posters are ranked according to the following criteria:

- Content (student and poster demonstrate clarity of topic, objectives, and background);
- Motivation for research and technical relevance to conference theme;
- Methodology and approach to problem;
- Quality of proposed research results/findings;
- Conclusions are supported by information presented;
- Presentation (display aesthetics are pleasing and there is a logical flow between sections);
- Knowledgeable (presenter has a good grasp of the subject);
- Understandability (poster is effective even without student being present to explain it); and
- Overall rank vs. other posters and presenters.

## About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 800 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and networking about advances in transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia/Pacific as well as North America. About 20% of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>

**The mission of SPE** is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see <https://speautomotive.com/>. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see <https://4spe.org/>. For more information on the ACCE Student Poster Competition, contact:

- Dr. Uday Vaidya, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 205.410.2898, [uvaidya@utk.edu](mailto:uvaidya@utk.edu)
- Dr. Douglas E. Smith, Baylor University, 254.710.6830, [Douglass\\_E\\_Smith@baylor.edu](mailto:Douglass_E_Smith@baylor.edu)
- Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, [David\\_Jack@baylor.edu](mailto:David_Jack@baylor.edu)

Please include in the Subject Line – **2021 SPE ACCE Student Poster Competition**

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Barnett

Kulkarni

Sattar

Caylak

Pelster

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3 MARCH 2021**

Media Contact (high res. photos): Teri Chouinard, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair, 248.701.8003, [teri@intuitgroup.com](mailto:teri@intuitgroup.com)

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The first-place winners of the 2020 poster competition are shown above. The first photo shows Philip Barnett, PhD Student, from University of Tennessee – winner in the Design/Modeling/Simulation/Recycling PhD category for his poster titled “Rate and Temperature Effects on the Crashworthiness of Automotive Grade Discontinuous Recycled Carbon Fiber Organosheet Composites.” The second photo shows Apoorva Kulkarni, PhD Student, from Michigan State University - winner in the Nano/Bio/Additive Manufacturing PhD category for her poster titled “Design and Engineering of Humidity Resistant Starch Composite Foams for Automotive Packaging Via Extrusion Technology.” The third photo shows Siavash Sattar, PhD Student from Old Dominion University – winner in the Materials Development/Characterization/Nondestructive Evaluation PhD category for his poster titled “Understanding Size Effects on Flexural Properties in Discontinuous Fiber Reinforced Nylon Composites.” The fourth photo shows Sena Caylak, from Bursa Technical University in Turkey- winner of the Master of Science Category for her poster titled “Effect of Alkyl Ketene Dimer on the Hydrophobic and Mechanical Properties of Natural Fiber Reinforced Biopolymer Composites.” The fifth photo shows Kara Pelster, Undergraduate Student Researcher from University of Delaware – winner of the Undergraduate Category for her poster titled “Hydrolytic Degradation of Aramid Fiber in the Presence of Trace Amounts of Sulfuric Acid.”