



MONICA SHAW | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
mshaw@tappi.org

Looking forward, looking back

Much like 2020, 2021 was another year of remarkable highs and lows delivered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines, variants, and infection surges altered the way we behaved personally and professionally last year.

As we move into 2022, we are now grappling with health and business concerns from the omicron variant that has overwhelmed hospitals in some areas and contributed to a global supply chain crisis. The ability to adjust has once again become a key skill in adapting to our shifting “new normal.”

Conferences adjust to the times

Keeping an eye on health and safety, TAPPI modified its conference schedule in 2021. There was a virtual TAPPICon in the spring of last year and an in-person TAPPICon in the fall. The TAPPI International Conference on Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials (TAPPI NANO) was virtual, and the 2021 Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling and Sustainability (PEERS) Conference was rescheduled for 2022.

This year, however, the hope is to meet in person for

Looking forward to the coming year, we will see research on the lignin-based biorefinery, effects of ultrasound on paper drying, foam forming, and black liquor concentration, to name a few.

all conferences. [TAPPICon 2022](#) is scheduled for April 30-May 4 in Charlotte, NC. From June 13-17, [TAPPI NANO](#) will be held in Helsinki. TAPPI [PEERS](#), co-located with the International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference ([IBBC](#)), is set for October 30-November 2 in Providence, RI. Both the [PEERS call for papers](#) and [IBBC call for papers](#) are still open, with an abstract submission deadline of March 14.

TAPPI Journal highlights

As we move into 2022, it's interesting to look at the research topics that were covered the previous year in *TAPPI Journal* (*TJ*), as well as to look forward to topics that will be covered this year. Highlights from last year include special issues created by members of the *TJ* editorial board on Papermaking Additives, along with research

TJ editorial board, reviewers, and authors — Thank you!

TAPPI and the *TJ* staff would like to thank the 2021 Editor-in-Chief Peter Hart, Associate Editor Douglas Coffin, and all of the editorial board for their tremendous help this past year in providing expertise and handling the peer review process so *TJ* can provide readers with cutting-edge research in the forest products and related industries. We'd also like to thank all of the authors and peer reviewers who participated in this important process. Your efforts in advancing research in this field are very much appreciated.

As of January 2022, Douglas Coffin assumes the role of *TJ* editor-in-chief, and Peter Hart will become associate editor. This year, *TJ* readers can expect to see more special content organized by our editorial board. Stay tuned for another year of interesting new research in *TAPPI Journal*!



Peter Hart



Douglas Coffin

submitted for the 2020 PEERS Conference. Both were peer-reviewed for publication in *TJ* through our regular process.

Organized by *TJ* Editorial Board Member Scott Rosencrance and Guest Editors Joe Mahoney and Lebo Xu, the [January 2021 Paper-making Additives issue](#) covered a range of topics that would be highlighted at TAPPICon 2021.

These topics included a device for applying foamed wet-end additives to handsheets, laboratory methods for studying wet tear strength, spray starch technology, addition level and location optimization, and microfibrillated cellulose.

The [March 2021 issue](#) featured peer-reviewed papers from PEERS 2020. Organized by *TJ* Editor-in-Chief Peter Hart and *TJ* Editorial Board Member Brian



Brogdon, this issue covered recycling of pizza boxes, a recovery boiler retrofit, bleaching, black liquor evaporator upgrades, and multi-jet nozzles for smelt shattering in a recovery boiler.

Looking forward to the coming year, we will see research on the lignin-based biorefinery, effects of ultrasound on paper drying, foam forming, and black liquor concentration, to name a few. Of note in this issue on p. 23 is a paper from researchers in India and *TJ* Editorial Board Member Seshadri Ramkumar of Texas Tech University on the microbial loads carried by various types of face masks, reflecting the ongoing concerns of the pandemic. Also, we will be naming the winner of the *TAPPI Journal* Best Research Paper and Honghi Tran Prize for 2021 this spring. **TJ**

For information on publishing in *TAPPI Journal*, contact mshaw@tappi.org or tjournal@tappi.org. You can submit your papers to our online peer review system at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/tappi/>.

18TH BIENNIAL TAPPI EUROPEAN PLACE CONFERENCE

POLYMERS – LAMINATIONS – ADHESIVES – COATINGS – EXTRUSIONS

INVITATION TO PRESENT • Abstract Deadline: March 31, 2022

Suggested topics include:

- › Packaging & Society
- › Leaving Beaten Tracks in Recycling
- › Robust Sustainability Solutions
- › Extrusion Coating – New Approaches
- › New Paths to Packaging Function
- › Barrier Performance
- › Converting Process Simulation
- › Surface Treatment and Activation

Technical Questions? Contact:

Linda Van den Bossche, linda.vandenbossche@exxonmobil.com;
Petra Hollacher, petra.hollacher@ineos.com; or
Guenther Schubert, guenter.schubert@speira.com

[Submit Abstracts Here](#)

For more information on the Call for Abstracts, get details [here](#).

Conference information: events.tappiplace.org

