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Vipin Varma joins *TJ* Editorial Board as expert on environmental and sustainability topics

Editor's Note: This column is part of a series that profiles the background and expertise of *TJ*'s editorial board members. These volunteer members spend long hours overseeing the peer review process and contributing to *TJ*. TAPPI would like to express its gratitude to the editorial board members for their hard work and willingness to share their expertise with the forest products community.

— Monica Shaw, Editorial Director

TAPPI and the *TAPPI JOURNAL* (*TJ*) editorial staff would like to welcome a new member to the *TJ* Editorial Board, Vipin Varma, Ph.D., who is vice president, Manufacturing Programs, at the National Council of Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI), headquartered in Cary, NC, USA. NCASI develops technical information that is critical for forest products companies to meet and surpass their environmental and sustainability goals. Vipin will provide expertise on environmental, sustainability, air emissions, and water topics relevant to the pulp and paper industry. In his position on the *TJ* Editorial Board, he succeeds Paul Wiegand, NCASI's vice president for Water and Chemical Management Programs, who served from 2007 to 2022.

Vipin holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Auburn University, with a dissertation topic of "Alkali profiling – A tool to enhance (optimize) delignification." He also received an MBA from The Wharton School in the areas of Corporate Strategy and Entrepreneurship, with a focus on Finance.

Vipin joined NCASI as a senior research engineer in 1998 and managed several research projects on quantifying air toxics emissions and assessing Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) compliance options. He led the industry group in developing compliance ap-



New member of TAPPI Journal Editorial Board, Vipin Varma, Ph.D.

proaches for Phase II of the MACT rule, specifically the Clean Condensate Alternative (CCA). He liaised with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on validating CCA compliance approaches and developed technical information that informed the subpart S Residual Risk and Technology (RTR) review.

In 2011, Vipin rejoined NCASI after a stint at Vorbeck, a graphene startup, where he led technology, product, and market development in the United States and the European Union. He has led the Air Quality and Wood Products programs at NCASI since 2011 and was recently promoted to the

position of vice president, Manufacturing Programs.

As a member of the *TJ* Editorial Board, Vipin brings a deep understanding of the forest products industry, environmental and sustainability topics, and technology and market forces that drive commercial and business success. Through his participation, he expects to benefit from further exposure to research and technology developments.

"I'm always looking for innovative ways to tap into broad-based expertise in unrelated areas and use it as an enabler," he said.

Industry involvement and perspectives

Vipin originally joined TAPPI in 1994 while at Auburn University, because, in his words, "as a graduate stu-

dent, I recognized fairly quickly that TAPPI is a must-have resource for professionals new to the pulp and paper industry.” He has found membership beneficial on multiple levels.

“The breadth and depth of resources available to TAPPI members makes it easy to follow the changes underway in the industry,” said Vipin. “This has enabled me to be better informed and more effective in my technical and leadership roles.”

During his tenure in the industry, Vipin finds that the biggest technical and resource changes include the “modification of pulping technologies to meet emerging market needs, energy and chemical recovery improvements, and the development of chemicals and additives for additional functionality, as well as improved processing technologies for making final products.” When it comes to the challenges facing the pulp and paper industry, he sees scalability of innovation as a top priority.

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— VIPIN VARMA

and advanced biomaterials manufacture are tremendous opportunities for this industry,” Vipin said.

On a personal note, Vipin enjoys reading, sketching, and hiking. In addition, he is an avid stamp collector. He also participates in multiple Alumni Advisory groups and volunteers in several community activities. **TJ**



The graphic features a dark blue background with a subtle wood grain pattern. At the top, the TAPPICon logo is displayed, with 'TAPPI' in white and 'CON' in a large, bold, white font. To the right of 'CON' is a circular icon divided into four colored segments (green, blue, yellow, and purple) with a white border. Below the logo, the text 'APRIL 22 – 26, 2023 • ATLANTA, GA' is written in white. Underneath that, the tagline 'Three Rings of Success: Vision • Technology • Action' is shown in white. The main headline 'GET RECOGNIZED AS AN INDUSTRY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, 'Present at TAPPICon 2023' is written in green. The abstract deadline 'Abstract deadline is November 3, 2022' is in white. At the bottom, 'Learn more at TAPPICon.org' is written in white. On the right side, there is a Venn diagram with three overlapping circles: a green circle on the left labeled 'VISION', a red circle in the middle labeled 'TECHNOLOGY', and a blue circle on the right labeled 'ACTION'.

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