

MONICA SHAW | EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
mshaw@tappi.org

PEERS/IBBC 2023 Poster Session: a competition for students and young professionals

Originating in the field of scientific research and academia, poster sessions at conferences may date back to the mid-20th century, although the origins aren't quite clear. Some sources have said as early as the 1950s and others later, while the term “poster session” itself may not have been coined until the 1975 American Physics Conference. The original concept behind poster sessions was to provide a platform for researchers to share their work in a more visual and interactive format as compared to the traditional long-form oral presentation.

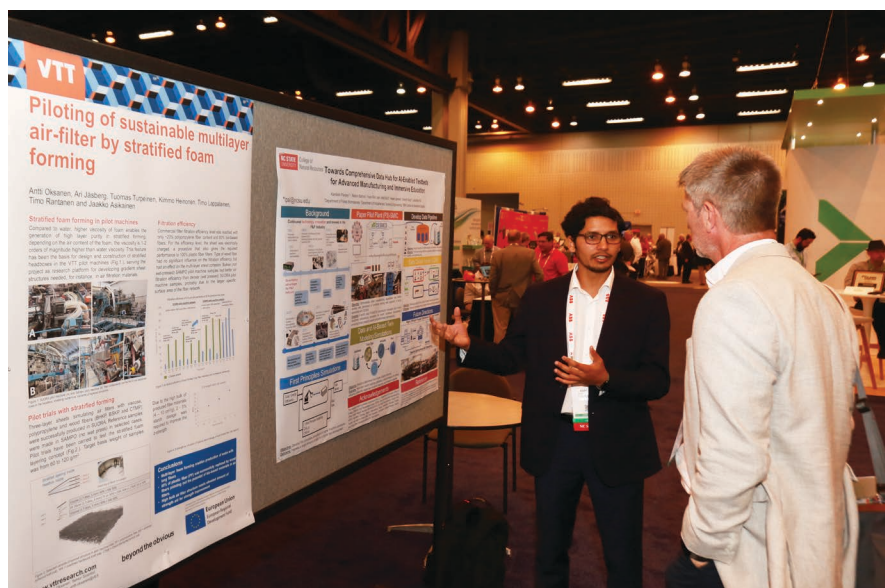
Just as in the past, posters today offer a concise and visually appealing way to display research findings, data, and illustrations in an engaging and accessible way. For students and early career researchers, participating in a poster session offers a number of benefits, and TAPPI is currently soliciting poster abstracts for the 2023 Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling & Sustainability (PEERS) Conference and International Biorefinery & Bioproducts Conference (IBBC), which are co-located November 5-8 in Atlanta.

Why participate in a poster session?

According to Peter Hart, *TAPPI Journal* associate editor and organizer of this current *TAPPI Journal* special issue featur-

“I would encourage all students to submit a poster for their work and attend PEERS/IBBC. The PEERS/IBBC Poster Session provides a structured, yet informal environment where students can discuss their work with the industry.”

— Douglas Coffin, *TAPPI Journal* editor-in-chief and professor at Miami University



Kamlesh Pandey, a graduate student at North Carolina State University, participates in the poster session at the recent TAPPICon in Atlanta. The deadline for submitting a poster session abstract for the November PEERS/IBBC Conferences is August 21.

ing peer-reviewed PEERS content, “PEERS/IBBC Poster Sessions offer students an opportunity to explain their research at a one-on-one level to interested industry and vendor participants. The poster session offers high visibility to an audience who might not necessarily attend a presentation but will stop and chat a few minutes about something that catches their attention.”

If you are a student or early-career researcher, participating in a poster session at a conference is a fun and exciting way to share knowledge and findings in a less formal environment than that of a full presentation. Here are some benefits of presenting:

1. Showcase your research: You can help the pulp and paper industry advance its products and technology by sharing your research with colleagues, all while gaining rec-

ognition for your own unique insights. Such recognition is highly motivating and informative as you move forward in your research path.

2. Develop career skills: Creating and presenting a poster helps you learn to effectively summarize findings and use visuals to clearly communicate complex information, which is important for academic and professional careers. For your CV/resume, participation demonstrates you have spent time developing these skills in a conference environment.

3. Gather valuable feedback: Because conferences bring together researchers from different institutions with different knowledge sets, poster sessions provide new insights on your research. During the session, engaging in Q&A discussions can modify your focus and lead to new collaborations and potential future research opportunities.

4. Build a professional network: Poster sessions are a great way for students to “break the ice” and network with other researchers, professionals, and academics in their field. This networking and exchange of ideas helps connect you with potential mentors, collaborators, and employers.

Poster opportunities at PEERS/IBBC 2023

TAPPI is currently soliciting abstracts for PEERS/IBBC 2023 on topics for innovative solutions to compete in a poster session refereed by industry experts. Examples include, but are not limited to, process improvements in consumption of energy, water, and raw materials or the creation of new sustainable products. Potential presenters with student research, senior design, or internship projects are also welcome to participate.

“I would encourage all students to submit a poster for their work and attend PEERS/IBBC,” said Douglas Coffin, *TAPPI Journal* editor-in-chief and professor at Miami University. “The PEERS/IBBC Poster Session provides a structured, yet informal, environment where students can discuss their work with industry. It offers students an opportunity to engage in technical discussions, make new connections, and gain insights into what aspects/extensions of their work are of interest to their industry.”

To participate in the PEERS/IBBC 2023 Poster Session, [submit the title and 300-word abstract here](#) no later than August 21. All submissions will be peer-reviewed for acceptance, and students could be invited to develop a paper on their findings for potential publication in *TAPPI Journal*. **TJ**

Register by 12 May for Early Bird Rates

Gain solutions and learn how to navigate regulations trending globally from industry experts at **2023 TAPPI International Conference on Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials**

12-16 June 2023 • Vancouver, BC
Canada | Westin Bayshore

Technical Program Now Available

Early Bird Ends 12 May! Register today and reserve your hotel: conference.tappinano.org

