

# ESA Newsletter

Electrostatics Society of America - The Friendly Society

## President's Message

It is a great honor to write to you as I begin my term as ESA president. I am a professor of chemical engineering and have been with the University of Ottawa in Ottawa in Canada for 18 years. I was introduced to the field of electrostatics while studying for my PhD degree at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where my thesis research was about electrostatic charging in polyethylene gas-phase fluidized bed reactors. I continued working in this field upon finishing my PhD and when I joined the University of Ottawa as an assistant professor. This journey, then brought me to the first electrostatic conference that I attended (Electrostatic 13) which was held in Wales, UK, in 2011. This is where I got a chance to interact with the leading experts in the field, such as Professor Peter Castle who introduced me to ESA for the first time. A year later, I was invited to give a talk at the ESA annual meeting that was held in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. This is where I learned more about our "Friendly Society", and have been part of the ESA community since. While attending the ESA annual meetings, members of my research group and I have always found that interactions with leading experts in the field have tremendously helped our learning and research progress. Over the past decade, I have had the pleasure of serving the ESA community by being the Technical Program Chair for the 2014 conference held at the University of Notre Dame, USA, as well as being the Conference Chair by hosting the ESA annual meetings two times in Ottawa, Canada, in 2017 and 2024. In my new role, I hope to continue the legacy of the great past ESA presidents. With this, on behalf of other ESA members and myself, I would like to thank our previous president, Professor Maciej Noras, for the fine job he has done over the past 3 years especially bringing the electrostatic community together once again after the challenges faced due to the pandemic. With his guidance and the help of all ESA council members and officers, I hope we continue to serve the electrostatic community worldwide.

## Report on ESA 2024

The 2024 ESA annual meeting was held in June at the University of Ottawa, Canada's capital, and it was a great success. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who helped to make it possible. The conference was attended by participants from across the globe, representing 12 countries. A special thanks to Craig Snoeyink, the conference Technical Program Chair, who put together a fantastic technical program, which included 54 oral and poster presentations. The topics ranged from the experimentation and modelling of contact charging and triboelectric effects to its challenges in space exploration, biological applications, and electrodynamics. It was a pleasure to meet our Keynote speakers, Dr. Elain Marie Petro (Cornell University, USA) and Dr. Joshua Rasera (Imperial College of London, UK) who described the applications of electrostatics. Elain gave a fascinating talk about the history and evolution of the application of electrostatics to create propulsion in spacecraft. Joshua talked to us about particle separation based on size by using electrostatics and electrodynamics for the application of space resource utilization as well as mining processes on the earth.

In addition to the regular technical sessions, the conference included two unique events, a full day of tutorial/lecture sessions and a special one-hour session entitled "Panel Discussion: Careers in Electrostatics".

## President's Message (cont'd.)

I would like to give a special thanks to Kelly Robinson who organized the tutorial/lecture sessions that were held on Sunday, the day prior to the start of the conference. This was a full-day program including four sessions: A-Electrostatic Fundamentals (Tatsushi Matsuyama, Soka University, Japan); B-Electrostatic Instruments and Measurements (Maciej Noras, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA); C-Electrostatic Processes, Hazards, and Mitigations (Kelly Robinson, Electrostatic Answers, USA); and D-Electrical Breakdown, Gas Discharges, and Plasmas (Shesha Jayaram, University of Waterloo, Canada). My sincere thanks to Tatsushi, Maciej, Kelly and Shesha for their fantastic lectures. The tutorials were attended by many participants, especially students, young researchers, and colleagues from the industry. Due to the success of this event, we plan to hold similar sessions at future ESA annual meetings every two years.

The panel discussion on "Careers in Electrostatics" was the first-ever event held at the ESA annual meeting. This session was initiated and organized by our Technical Program Chair, Craig who also moderated the session. The panel included Kelly Robinson (Electrostatic Answers), Krystal L. Acosta (NASA Kennedy Space Center), Steve Cooper (GoodSalt LLC/ByoPlanet), and Mamadou Sow (France Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety – IRSN). This one-hour session was held on Wednesday morning as part of the regular technical program and thus, was attended by many attendees. The session started by the panel discussing their career paths and any lessons learned along the way. The discussions with the audience concluded that networking is very important, like those made at ESA meetings, and taking risks to connect with people is essential in a competitive environment. This session was well received by the participants who found it exceptionally well suited for the junior researchers and engineers in our electrostatic community who are about to start a career in the field. The ESA council has invited Craig to hold a similar event in the 2025 ESA annual meeting and make it a regular event at all future ESA meetings. Special thanks to Craig for bringing such an important and unique session to our annual meetings.

This year's conference also included a demo session during the banquet. I would like to thank Kelly Robinson and Steve Cooper for organizing and running this session which was well received by all the participants. Finally, I would like to thank all the student volunteers from the University of Ottawa Electrostatic group who worked hard to ensure the sessions were running successfully.

As always, our society was well attended by young researchers. There were nineteen student presentations spread over both poster and oral sessions, making up 1/3rd of the program. Thanks to our industry sponsors, Advanced Energy/Trek/Monroe as well as GoodSalt LLC/ByoPlanet for their generous contributions for the student paper awards. The first-place winners of the student paper competition were:

- Chadi El Hamdouchi
- Juan Carlos Sobarzo
- Otome Obukohwo
- Sue Shi

At the banquet, we celebrated the achievements of our colleagues. This year's award winners were:

- Dr. Kazimierz Adamiak, ESA Honorary Life Member Award
- Dr. Wamadeva Balachandran, ESA Honorary Life Member Award
- Dr. Elena Besley, ESA Lifetime Achievement Award

Finally, I would like to introduce the new ESA Officers and Executive Council members. James Chen is our Vice President, Steve Cooper kindly continues to be our Treasurer, Manoj K. Patel is our Secretary, Monayem Mazumder is the Newsletter Editor, and Xuewei Zhang is the Webmaster. This year we have decided to welcome new executive council members from across the globe. Bilge Baytekin, Thiago Burgo, Scott Waitukaitis, Feng Lai, Holger Grosshans, and Nadarajah Manivannan, along with Maciej Noras (past president) form the Executive Council.

## President's Message (cont'd.)

**2025 ESA annual meeting** will be a “joint conference on electrostatics”, bringing the ESA, the Institute of Electrostatics Japan (IEJ), la Société Française d'Electrostatique (SFE), and the Electrostatic Processes Committee (EPC) of the IEEE Industrial Applications Society together. The conference will be held at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, on June 22 – 26, 2025. St. Catharines is located in Canada's Niagara Region, a short drive from Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, and is surrounded by world-class wineries. Bill Vosteen who has kindly agreed to be the Conference Chair.

**2026 ESA annual meeting** will be hosted by the NASA electrostatic group from Kennedy Space Center. The conference will be held at Cocoa Beach, Florida, USA on June 14 – 17, 2025. Dr. Monica J. Hooks from the Kennedy Space Center has kindly agreed to Chair this Conference.

I look forward to meeting you in future ESA annual meetings.

Poupak Mehrani

President, ESA

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## ESA Officers & Executive Council Members

### President

Poupak Mehrani, University of Ottawa (Canada)

### Vice President

James Chen, University of Buffalo (USA)

### Executive Council

Maciej Noras, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (USA)

Feng Lai, University of Oklahoma (USA)

Scott Waitukaitis, Institute of Science and Technology (Austria)

Bilge Baytekin, Bilkent University (Türkiye)

Thiago Burgo, São Paulo State University (Brazil)

Holger Grosshans, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, (Germany)

Nadarajah Manivannan, Brunel University (United Kingdom)



**2024 ESA Annual Meeting, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada**



## 2025 Electrostatics Joint Conference



**Brock University**  
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada  
June 22-26, 2025



The Electrostatic Society of America (ESA), the Institute of Electrostatics Japan (IEJ), la Société Française d'Electrostatique (SFE) and the Electrostatic Processes Committee (EPC) of the IEEE Industrial Applications Society (IEEE-IAS) are pleased to announce the 2025 Joint Conference on Electrostatics. Presentation and paper contributions are invited in all scientific and technical areas of electrostatics, ranging from fundamental physics and new developments to applications in industry, atmospheric and space sciences, biology, medicine, energy, and other fields utilizing electrostatic phenomena.

- Atmospheric and space applications
- Breakdown, gas discharges and plasmas
- Charge motion and static dissipation
- Contact charging and triboelectric effects
- Triboelectric nanogenerators (TENG) and energy harvesters
- Microelectromechanical devices (MEMS)
- Dielectrics and insulators
- Electrets
- Electrohydrodynamics
- Electrospinning and electrospraying
- Electrostatic processes and technologies
- Measurements and instrumentation
- Electrostatic manipulation of particles, droplets, and biological cells
- Biological and medical applications
- Electrostatic precipitation
- Safety and hazards

Conference information, including abstract submission, registration, travel and lodging, is available at

<http://www.electrostatics.org>

**Student paper competition:** Presentations by students (undergraduate and graduate) are eligible; please indicate participation when submitting abstract.

Attendees have an option to submit a manuscript for publication in IEEE-Xplore.

### Important dates:

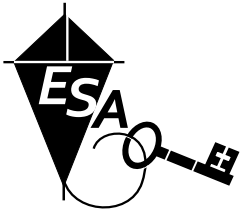
September 15, 2025	Abstract submission opens
February 28, 2025	Abstract submission deadline
April 30, 2025	Early registration deadline
June 22, 2025	Conference starts with informal evening reception
June 23, 2025	Technical sessions begin

### Conference steering committee

Poupak Mehrani, ESA, University of Ottawa, Canada  
 Takayuki Ohshima, IEJ, Gunma University, Japan  
 Gérard Touchard, SFE, University of Poitiers, France  
 Hak-Joon Kim, IEEE-IAS EPC, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials, South Korea

**Technical Chair:** Craig Snoeyink University of Buffalo, USA ([craigsno@buffalo.edu](mailto:craigsno@buffalo.edu))

**General Chair:** Bill Vosteen ([bill.vosteen@gmail.com](mailto:bill.vosteen@gmail.com))



### ESA Information

ESA Home Page: <http://www.electrostatics.org>

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