

First PAPTAC International Lignin Conference

Lignin is an amorphous, three-dimensional polymer composed of phenyl propane units bonded together via several possible linkages. It is the most abundant renewable aromatic polymer on earth comprising 15-35 wt% of most plants. It serves as a cementing matrix between wood fibers, as a stiffening agent within fibers and as a barrier to the chemical or biological degradation of the carbohydrate components of cell walls. Despite its multiple useful functions in plants, lignin has not been utilized to any great extent in industrial applications largely because of its structural complexity and lack of availability in purified forms of consistent quality.

In the last 10 years, a resurgence in lignin interest has been observed in response to issues such as the depletion of petroleum resources, climate change and energy security. As a result of this renewed interest, several processes have been developed, demonstrated and/or implemented for the extraction of purified lignins from residual pulping liquors or other biomass processing operations. Furthermore, great progress has been made in elucidating lignin structure and reactivity as well as incorporating lignin as a component or additive in various industrial products or processes.

The purpose of the First PAPTAC International Lignin Conference is to invite researchers to discuss their recent progress in all aspects of lignin chemistry and utilization in any one of several sessions including:

- Lignin analysis and characterization methodology
- Lignin extraction from pulping liquors or other biomass processing operations
- Lignin process integration into pulp mill or other biomass processing operations
- Lignin depolymerization and/or modification
- Lignin applications and products

The First PAPTAC International Lignin Conference will take place in Edmonton, Alberta on September 18-20, 2018. In a site visit during the last day of the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the first installation of the LignoForce System™ at the West Fraser, Hinton mill in Alberta, Canada.

Those wishing to present a paper or poster at the Conference should submit an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) providing a title, name of authors, author affiliation, geographical address, e-mail address of main author and an overview of the topic to be presented. Notification of abstract acceptance will be provided by April 30, 2018. If an abstract is accepted for oral presentation, a preliminary Powerpoint presentation is required by June 30, 2018. A paper manuscript (also due on June 30, 2018) is strongly encouraged but not obligatory. Detailed guidelines will be provided to authors of the selected abstracts for both the oral or poster presentations".

Abstracts for oral presentations or posters are due by March 30, 2018. Submissions should be sent to: admin@paptac.ca

The option will be offered for selected papers from the Conference to be published in J-FOR in a special issue devoted to lignin.

