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IAWS Bulletin

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Message from the President

Dear Fellows,

It's a great honor to step into the role of president of our esteemed Academy. I sincerely appreciate the trust and confidence you have shown in me to serve our community in this role for the next three years. Since its inauguration in 1966 in Paris, our Academy's main task has been to promote high-level wood research and technology. Fundamental reasons for the formation of IAWS were the maintenance of forests, the consequences of a rising consumption of wood, including the production of new wood-based products, spurred by exceptional contributions from many of our fellows. Even though written 60 years ago, these objectives and responsibilities remain timely. They are increasingly relevant today, especially considering the CO_2-storing capacity of trees and the renewable nature of wood in the context of climate change and resource depletion. Like my predecessors, I am highly committed to serving the Academy in this spirit and enhancing our global network, fostering collaboration among fellows, and mentoring young researchers in the field.

Many thanks to Yoon Soo Kim, who served the Academy for many years and acted as the past president of the last executive committee. Many thanks to the "new past president", Stavros Avramidis, for his leadership during his presidential term. A warm welcome to Andreja Kutnar, who started her term on June 2nd as the new vice president. I also thank our secretary Rupert Wimmer, the chair of the Academy Board, Shusheng Pang, and our treasurer, Bob Ross, for their continuous commitment.

Together, this new Executive Committee would like to further develop our Academy to stimulate collaboration among fellows and the entire wood science community, to support the next generation of researchers, and to simplify and improve processes.

We had a great time at the 60th IAWS Anniversary Conference at ETH Zurich from June 1st to June 4th. The event was a success, thanks to the outstanding presentations from many wood scientists from various countries, some of whom are not fellows yet but joined us in celebrating the Academy. The attendance of more than 40 fellows at the conference also opened up the opportunity to organize an additional fellow meeting. At this meeting, the current status of IAWS was presented, but more importantly, we had very lively discussions on how our Academy could further enhance its vision to globally promote wood science and intensify the collaboration and exchange opportunities among fellows. During the next months, the new executive committee will work on these very useful suggestions and will come up with proposals on how to further develop the Academy in terms of structure, organization, processes, and initiatives. All these proposals will be put to a vote by the fellows.

I look forward to collaborating and connecting with all of you over the next three years. Let's make the most of this journey together.

Your

Ingo Burgert

Message from the Past President

Dear Esteemed Fellows,

as my three-year term as President came to a close on June 2, 2026, I write to you with profound gratitude and a heart full of cherished memories. It has been the greatest honor of my professional life to serve this distinguished body and to work alongside such passionate, dedicated scholars and practitioners.

Together, we have advanced our mission to promote excellence in wood science research, fostered meaningful collaborations across continents, and inspired the next generation of scientists to appreciate the remarkable complexity and potential of wood as a renewable resource. Your unwavering commitment to scientific rigor, innovation, and the sustainable stewardship of our forest resources has been a constant source of inspiration throughout my tenure.

As I step down from this role, I do so with complete confidence in the Academy's future and in the capable leadership that will guide us forward. The bonds we have forged, the knowledge we have shared, and the collective impact we have made will endure long beyond my presidency. I encourage each of you to continue pushing the boundaries of wood science, to mentor generously, and to maintain the collegial spirit that makes our Academy truly exceptional. While my formal duties conclude, my dedication to our shared mission remains steadfast, and I look forward to contributing as an executive committee member as past-president for the next three years.

With deepest appreciation and warmest regards,

Stavros Avramidis

Message from the Editor

Dear Fellows and Friends of the IAWS,

This issue of the IAWS Bulletin has grown to over 52 pages — probably the most voluminous Bulletin we`ve ever had — and I hope you will find it packed with useful information — from an extended report on our 60th Anniversary Conference, an introduction of the newly elected 2025 Fellows, new study programs and science networks, to news from Fellows and their activities and updates on the Academy's ongoing work. This growth is no accident: it reflects a genuinely active year, with many activities taking place across our community, and the generosity of the many Fellows who took the time to contribute reports, updates and news from their corner of the world.

It is with sadness that we must also inform you of the passing of four of our Fellows. Our thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues, and we will remember their contributions to our field and to this community.

As editor, I want to encourage every Fellow to keep this Bulletin growing. Whatever is happening around you — retirement, new job, a conference, a new publication, an award, a project, a visit, or simply news worth sharing — please send it in. It is through these contributions that the Bulletin stays lively and relevant, and it is through this kind of sharing that we keep IAWS a truly connected, active academy, one that continues to pursue its mission together.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to filling many more pages in the issues ahead.

With kind regards,
Rupert Wimmer

Follow us on

Treasurer's Report

Dear Fellows!

I have the following financial report:

1. **Status of Holdings**

We have two accounts with U.S. Bancorp—a money market account and a checking account. We use PayPal as an option for collecting annual dues.

Our contact Information at U.S. Bancorp: Tyler Wood, registered Wealth Management Associate | U.S. Bancorp Investments, Pronouns: He / Him / His, p. 608.827.3275 | m. 608.358.1362 | f. 833.368.0026 | tyler.wood@usbank.com, U.S. Bancorp Wealth Management, West Towne | 402 Gammon Place | Madison, WI 53719 | MK-WI 2014.

Accounts status: I am happy to report that our investments are doing well: Net value (19 June 2026) of money market ($190,370.91), checking ($14,021.07), and PayPal ($712.16) accounts are $205,104.14.

2. **Collection of dues** (annual and lifetime)

Since the beginning of this year (January 2026) we have received annual and lifetime payments from twenty-four fellows. Note that dues can be paid using several options. (I received a $20 bill in an envelope with no name or return address—please note, if sending funds, I need your name and e-mail address for recording purposes—thanks!)

3. Appropriate filing paperwork/requirements for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service have been filed.

4. I am working with an accountant to review our non-profit status, and potential investment options.

5. A reminder--- Please look at the current website and check out the payment options for your annual dues. Specifically, check out the address for sending checks via surface mail. It is:

IAWS
Attention : Dr. Robert Ross
Forest Service Volunteer
Forest Products Laboratory
Email: robert.j.ross@usda.gov
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726-2398, USA
US phone: +1 608-231-9221

I have started to receive checks at this address—and deposit them as received.

A request to YOU dear Fellows, from your Treasurer: Please send me a brief email message when you submit your dues payment…it will help us in recording and tracking membership!
An example— *„Hi Bob. I submitted my dues via (PayPal, check, etc) on (date). Thanks, name and email/contact information."*

Sincerely
Bob Ross

A Milestone for the Academy: Andreja Kutnar as IAWS Vice President

On June 2, 2026 — fittingly, on the very day the Academy marked its 60th anniversary — Professor Andreja Kutnar of the University of Primorska was installed as the Academy's Vice President. In doing so, **Andreja Kutnar became the first woman to hold a position on the IAWS Executive Committee in the Academy's six-decade history, a milestone reached at the same Zurich gathering where Ingo Burgert of ETH Zurich and EMPA took up the presidency.**

Kutnar's path to this role runs through more than fifteen years at the center of European and international wood science. She earned her PhD in 2008 at the Department of Wood Science and Technology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, before joining the University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia, in 2012, where she helped build the university's Sustainable Built Environments master's programme. In 2017 she became director of **InnoRenew CoE**, a research institute established through a competitive Horizon 2020 Teaming grant, which under her leadership has grown into a internationally renowned center for renewable materials research and sustainable, restorative building practices. **InnoRenew CoE** has a team of 65 employees. The institute is highly international, with staff representing over 17 countries and making up half of its workforce.

Andreja‘s own research has focused on wood composites, thermo-hydro-mechanical wood modification, and adhesive bonding, areas in which she has published more than one hundred papers alongside two co-authored books on sustainable and wood-based construction.

Her international engagement extends well beyond Slovenia. She has served as an Executive Board member of InnovaWood, held both the vice presidency and, in 2020–2021, the presidency of the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST), chaired the COST Action "ModWoodLife," and now coordinates the New European Bauhaus Academy Alliance. She was elected an IAWS Fellow in 2020. **Andreja, welcome onboard!**

From Cultural Heritage, Cell Walls to Smart Materials: Wood Science at a Turning Point—A conference report

The Academy held its 60th Anniversary Conference from June 1–4, 2026, hosted and organized by ETH Zurich and EMPA, Switzerland. It brought together 113 Fellows and Non-Fellows from over 19 countries, presenting wood science as a field that is both deeply rooted in anatomical, structural and biological understanding, and rapidly expanding toward circular, digital and high-performance bio-based technologies. Across the presented topics, a clear overarching message emerged: future wood science will depend on connecting fundamental knowledge of wood structure with scalable processing, material design, sustainability assessment and industrial implementation.

The conference was opened by the outgoing president Stavros Avramidis, followed by the Academy Lecture, presented by Akira Isogai, University of Tokyo, Japan, entitled: Wood cellulose nanomaterials: diverse and unique structures, morphologies, and characteristics.

A strong scientific focus was placed on wood anatomy, cell-wall architecture, plant hydraulics and climate responses. Contributions showed how quantitative wood anatomy, dendrochronology, xylogenesis and advanced imaging can reveal how trees respond to drought, elevation, species differences and environmental stress. Wood was repeatedly presented not only as a material, but also as an archive of biological, climatic and cultural information. This was also reflected in presentations on wooden cultural heritage, archaeological wood, shipwrecks and historical timber structures, where wood anatomy was framed as a bridge between material science, conservation, archaeology and history.

A second major theme was the transformation of wood, cellulose and lignin into advanced functional materials. The conference highlighted nanocellulose, lignin-cellulose multiphase plastics, molten-salt-hydrate processing, transparent and translucent wood, superblack wood, bio-based films, foams, hydrogels, aerogels, coatings, adhesives and CNC-reinforced veneers. Several contributions pushed wood beyond its traditional role as a structural material, demonstrating potential in energy harvesting, humidity sensing, thermal and light management, EMI shielding, smart packaging and multifunctional building components.

Outgoing president Stavros Avramidis handing over the certificate of appreciation to Fellow Akira Osigai

Digitalisation and advanced characterisation formed another visible thread. AI, computer vision, µCT, nano-CT, synchrotron methods, NMR, X-ray scattering and high-throughput tomography were used to understand structure-property relationships, automate wood identification, predict mechanical properties, support timber legality control and enable data-driven material development. These approaches show that the future of wood science will increasingly rely on combining expert knowledge with machine learning, modelling and digital workflows.

The construction-oriented contributions addressed timber buildings, engineered bamboo, timber-concrete composites, lattice shells, reclaimed beams, fire performance, bond-line durability, long-term marine exposure and structural reliability. At the same time, many papers emphasized circularity: bio-based adhesives, recyclable binders, PFAS-free packaging, post-consumer wood recovery, myco-composites, alternative raw materials, life-cycle assessment and improved use of hardwoods and residues. The IAWS PhD Award contributions further underlined this direction, with work on cellulose carbon-fibre chemistry and lignin nanoparticles for sustainable packaging.

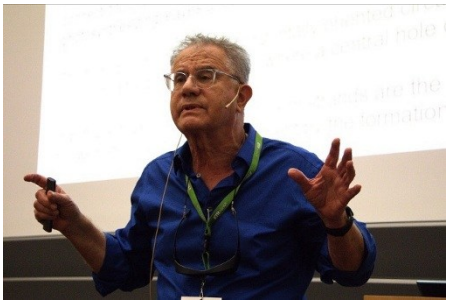
Overall, the conference showed wood science at a strategic turning point. The field is moving from describing wood toward actively engineering wood-based systems across scales: from molecular interactions and interfaces to products, buildings and circular value chains. The strongest impression is that wood science will remain highly relevant if it continues to integrate biology, materials science, processing technology, digital methods and sustainability thinking into one coherent research and innovation agenda.

Academy President Ingo Burgert and his ambitious team organized a truly wonderful conference !

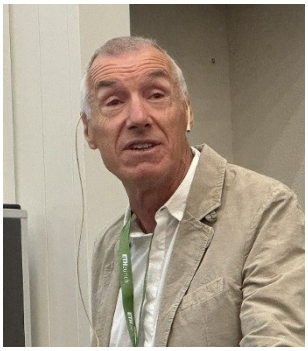
Impressions from the Conference, oral and poster sessions












Impressions from the Conference, oral and poster sessions













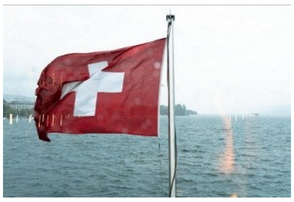




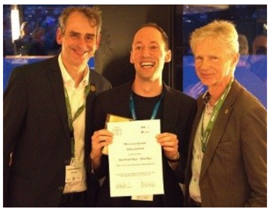




Impressions from the Conferences dinner, on the motor vessel MS Panta Rhei cruising on Lake Zurich





























Impressions from the Conference, oral and poster sessions












Impressions from the Excursion to companies Blumer-Lehmann AG and Kaufmann Oberholzer AG







IAWS Fellows Meeting—Report

The IAWS Fellows held their General Meeting on 3 June 2026 at ETH's Main Building, bringing together Fellows attending the 60th IAWS Anniversary Conference. Bob Ross, the Treasurer, sent his apologies. President Professor Ingo Burgert opened the meeting, welcomed the Fellows, and outlined the agenda: the new Executive Committee, reflections on the Anniversary Conference, an Academy status overview, financial matters, discussion points, and other business.

For 2026–2029, the Executive Committee will be Ingo Burgert (President), Andreja Kutnar (Vice-President), Stavros Avramidis (Past President), Rupert Wimmer (Secretary), Bob Ross (Treasurer), and Shusheng Pang (Academy Board Chair).

Fellows praised the Anniversary Conference's organisation and its value as a chance to exchange the latest wood science research. Suggestions for future events included extending plenary lectures to around 50 minutes for more discussion, better balancing fundamental and applied research, and encouraging greater industry involvement.

Secretary Professor Rupert Wimmer presented the Academy status overview, starting with the Fellow nomination and election process: active Fellows can nominate one candidate per year to the Secretary and President; the Executive Committee screens nominations; shortlisted candidates complete a two -page form circulated to all Fellows for evaluation; and Fellows vote by secret ballot, with the Committee setting the annual number elected. Unsuccessful candidates may be renominated after three years. The process aims to preserve peer recognition, scientific merit, and international balance. The Academy has 630 Fellows ever elected, 421 known to be alive, across 47 countries. Women make up 13% of the Fellowship, and the average age is 73; country, gender, and age profiles were also shown. Fellows were encouraged to build connections with both Fellows and non-Fellows, with LinkedIn recommended as a social media channel. In short, IAWS Fellowship remains a peer-recognised acknowledgement of contribution to wood science, backed by a global network and established governance, though gender, age, and regional balance remain challenges.

On finances, IAWS funds are held with a US bank, totalling US$205,158.39 as of 12 May 2026.

Discussion then covered IAWS's role and self-image today and in future; whether to offer annual financial recognition for the Treasurer's and Secretary's services; how to handle unreachable Fellows; whether to move to age-graded lifetime membership fees; and possible bylaw and constitution amendments. On future activities, Fellows debated running independent IAWS conferences every two or three years versus partnering more with other societies, regional online meetings by time zone, travel support for Fellows from the Global South and retirees, and how to engage young researchers.

On further suggestions included: raising IAWS's global visibility via journal news reports; encouraging participation in conferences like SWST, ACS, and IUFRO; holding IAWS conferences every three years, aligned with the Committee's term; developing online lectures from undergraduate basics to PhD level; establishing regional coordinators; attracting industry involvement; creating task-specific sub-committees; targeted travel grants for PhD thesis award winners; supporting other wood-science conferences; short-term research collaborations; best journal paper awards.

Fellows were in favor to support the President's proposals: (1) to examine annual financial recognition for the Treasurer and for the Secretary, (2) considering graded lifetime membership fees, (3) amending the bylaws and constitution as needed.

Impressions from the IAWS Fellows Meeting, held at ETH Zurich, on June 3, 2026










We are delighted to introduce the fourteen newly elected Fellows in 2025:

Jinzhen CAO, China

Lihui CHEN, China

Mark HUGHES, Finland

Joseph JAKES, USA

Jan-William VAN DE KUILEN, Germany

Carsten MAI, Germany

Orlando ROJAS, Canada

Stephen J. EICHHORN, Great Britain

Yan YU, China

Kenji UMEMURA, Japan

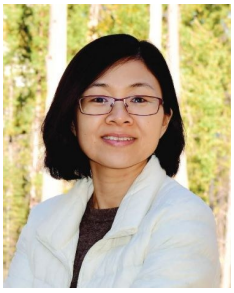
Feng JIANG, Canada

Clemens ALTANER, New Zealand

Dennis JONES, Sweden

Zhaoyang XU, China

We warmly welcome our new Fellows to the Academy ！

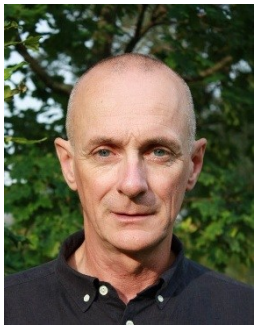


Jinzhen Cao is a Professor of Wood Science and Technology at Beijing Forestry University (BFU), China, specializing in wood preservation and modification. She visited Shimane University (Japan) for on year during her PhD, and after her graduation she visited Michigan State University (USA) for two years, and has been a professor at BFU since 2003. Recognized as a member of China's National Ten Thousand Talents, she has received major national and municipal awards, including the National Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award (2003) and National Excellent Teacher Award (2014).

Internationally, she served on the IRG Executive Committee (2010–2013) and now chairs IRG Science Committee Section 4, while also contributing to SWST education activities. Her research covers mechanisms of wood decay and dimensional instability and develops greener protection/modification strategies with strong industry uptake, including patented technologies transferred to market (e.g., DCOIT microemulsion fungicide).

She has published 279 refereed papers, holds 13 patents, authored key teaching materials, drafted national testing standards, and supervised 24 PhD and 30 MSc students. Her WoS metrics include over 3,444 citations and an h-index of 30.

Professor **Lihui Chen** is Director of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration Key Laboratory for Plant Fiber Functional Materials at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China. He holds degrees in mechanical manufacturing and pulp and paper engineering, including a Ph.D. from South China University of Technology. Since beginning his academic career in 1987, he has progressed from lecturer to professor, dean, and laboratory director. His research focuses on plant-fiber separation, cellulose-based functional materials, and the processing and utilization of bamboo and other agricultural and forestry residues. He has led more than 20 major research projects with total funding exceeding RMB 50 million. His technologies have been implemented by more than ten large enterprises, contributing to cleaner production, energy savings, reduced emissions, and improved resource efficiency. Professor Chen has published more than 200 SCI-indexed papers, receiving over 12,900 citations and an H-index of 63. He has authored four books, and holds more than 50 Chinese invention patents.



Mark Hughes is Professor at Aalto University's Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems, School of Chemical Engineering. He earned a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Portsmouth University in 1984, followed by an MSc in Forest Industries Technology and a PhD in Wood Science from Bangor University, UK. After completing his doctorate in 2000, he spent six years as research manager at Bangor's BioComposites Centre, where he established and led a materials research group. In 2006, he moved to Finland to join Helsinki University of Technology, now Aalto University, becoming a full professor in 2007. His research addresses structure–property relationships in wood and composites, wood modification, and resource-efficient, climate-smart construction, with recent emphasis on energy-efficient buildings, cascading, and circular economy approaches.

While in the UK, Hughes co-founded the Sustainable Composites Network (SusCompNet). At Aalto, he has held several leadership roles, including Director of the School of Chemical Engineering Doctoral Program and coordinator of the school's Creative Sustainability master's program. He has served on Nordic advisory boards promoting wood construction, held a visiting professorship at the Technical University of Munich, and sits on the editorial boards of leading wood science journals. His research contributions include highly cited work on natural fiber-reinforced composites, nanocellulose materials, wood fracture mechanics, plywood adhesion, veneer processing, and the climate and energy benefits of wood construction within circular economy frameworks. A committed science educator, he has supervised around 70 master's theses and several doctoral students, two of whom are now professors. His publication record includes 123 refereed papers and seven book chapters, with more than 8,100 Google Scholar citations and an h-index of 51.

Joseph Jakes is a Research Materials Engineer at the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory. He earned a BS in Chemical and Biological Engineering in 2005, an MS in Materials Science in 2007, and a PhD in Materials Science in 2010, all from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His distinctions include the Fred W. Gottschalk Memorial Award in 2024, the TMS Young Leaders Professional Development Award in 2018, and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2012. Dr. Jakes has contributed extensively to international collaboration and advanced research infrastructure. In 2021–2022, he hosted Fulbright Scholar Dr. Magdalena Broda for research on archaeological wood using nanoindentation and X-ray fluorescence microscopy. From 2013 to 2015, he was a resident user at Argonne National Laboratory's Advanced Photon Source, where he developed forest-products research using synchrotron X-ray methods.

A member of the Forest Products Society and Society of Wood Science and Technology since 2007, he has held several leadership positions, including FPS Executive Board member and Vice President. He has also served on technical committees of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society, as technical editor for JOM, and on the editorial boards of Forests and Maderas: Ciencia y Tecnología. His research examines processing–structure–property relationships in wood cell walls using advanced methods such as nanoindentation, synchrotron X-ray microscopy and tomography, and small-angle neutron scattering. His work has clarified ion transport in wood, moisture-induced glass transitions, wood–adhesive durability, the mechanical roles of lignin and hemicelluloses, cell-wall swelling, and brown-rot decay mechanisms. He has published more than 75 refereed papers and has a Google Scholar h-index of 32.

Jan-Willem Van De Kuilen is Professor of Wood Technology at Wood Research Munich, Technical University of Munich, and is also affiliated with Delft University of Technology. Trained as a civil and structural engineer at Delft, he has pursued an international career in academia, applied research, and standardization, with previous positions at TNO, Delft University of Technology, and the CNR Trees and Timber Institute in Italy. His research has advanced understanding of the long-term structural behaviour of timber, joints, and adhesives under static and fatigue loading. He developed damage-accumulation models incorporating cracking, delamination, decay, and other forms of deterioration. These models have been applied to timber pile foundations, using underwater microdrilling data to estimate remaining service life, and are now used by the Municipality of Amsterdam to assess historic foundation piles.

A further focus is non-destructive timber strength grading. He contributed to image-based systems for softwoods and hardwoods that use fibre orientation, knots, and surface features to create 3D models and predict strength. His work has also produced innovative structural solutions, including trusses made from reject wood, connections using ultra-high-strength steel dowels, and a fully timber highway guardrail with steam-bent wood as an energy dissipator, which received the Netherlands Building Prize in 2005. Prof. Van De Kuilen has held major roles in timber standardization and professional networks, including Chairman of the Dutch Timber Committee and Secretary of the World Conference on Timber Engineering Coordinating Council. He is Co-Editor-in-Chief of Wood Science and Technology and the European Journal of Wood and Wood Products. He has published more than 180 papers, with over 4,000 citations and an h-index of 32.

Professor **Carsten Mai** is a distinguished wood scientist at the Department of Wood Biology and Wood Technology at the University of Göttingen, Germany. He studied chemistry there from 1987 to 1994 and completed his diploma thesis on the synthesis and characterization of copolymers of lignin and other polymeric compounds. He then pursued doctoral research in Technical Mycology, earning his PhD in 1998 for work on lignin-based acrylates and their degradation by white-rot fungi. His academic career continued at Göttingen through postdoctoral research in forest botany and tree physiology, followed by positions as scientific assistant, senior scientist, and, since 2014, extraordinary professor. In 2011, he completed his habilitation on chemical wood modification and its effects on wood properties, receiving the venia legendi in Wood Biology, Wood Chemistry, and Wood Technology.

He became particularly well known for chemical wood modification using silicon compounds, DMDHEU, glutaraldehyde, melamine resins, and phenolic resins. This research addressed dimensional stability, moisture sorption, weathering resistance, mechanical performance, and biological durability. Prof. Mai has also advanced the practical use of modified wood through studies on industrial scale-up, coating performance, and adhesive bonding. More recently, his research has expanded to the modification of wood components, alternative wood resources under changing climatic conditions, mineral-bonded materials, insulation products, and modified wood as a peat substitute. He has served on the editorial boards of leading journals, including the European Journal of Wood and Wood Products, Wood Material Science and Engineering, and Maderas: Ciencia y Tecnología. His publications have received around 11,000 citations, with a Google Scholar h-index of 50. He has also contributed book chapters and several patents.

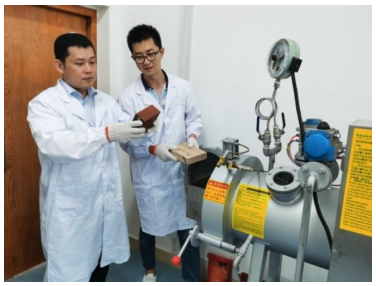
Professor **Orlando Rojas** is a leading scholar in forest bioproducts, wood science, and renewable materials. He is UT–ORNL Governor's Chair for Circular Biomaterials at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Previously, he served as Professor and Canada Excellence Research Chair in Forest Bioproducts at the University of British Columbia, with appointments in Chemical and Biological Engineering, Wood Science, and Chemistry. His international career has spanned Venezuela, Spain, the United States, Sweden, Finland, and Canada.

Professor Rojas has made pioneering contributions across the lignocellulosic value chain, from the fractionation and functionalization of cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin to their use in advanced materials. He is internationally recognized for research on nanocellulose, lignin nanoparticles, wood colloids, and interfacial phenomena. His innovations include super-black wood, optically welded wood structures, compressible wood sponges, triboelectric energy harvesters, luminescent veneers, and sustainable filtration materials. This work has helped establish wood science as a platform for smart, multifunctional, and circular alternatives to fossil-based materials.

His honours include the American Chemical Society's Anselme Payen Award, an ERC Advanced Grant, and election as Fellow of the American Chemical Society, the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, and TAPPI. He has supervised more than 115 graduate students and 52 postdoctoral researchers, hosted over 130 visiting scholars, and developed more than 40 industry-linked research and training programs. His record includes 670 refereed publications, 10 patents, 34 books and chapters, over 61,310 citations, and a Google Scholar h-index of 118.

Stephen Eichhorn is Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom. He earned a BSc in Physics from the University of Leeds, followed by an MSc in Forestry and Paper Industries Technology and a PhD in Paper Science from UMIST, where he studied the deformation micromechanics of regenerated cellulose fibres. Since 1997, his research has focused on the physical and mechanical properties of wood and cellulosic materials. His early work examined molecular deformation in regenerated cellulose fibres and applied Raman spectroscopy. He later developed experimental and modelling methods for determining the mechanical properties of cellulose nanomaterials. His research also advanced synchrotron X-ray diffraction techniques for measuring wood fibril angle and introduced improved cell-wall models for interpreting scattering data. Further work explored cellulose nanocrystals in composites, batteries, and functional materials, emphasizing the importance of interfaces and controlled fibre orientation through magnetic fields and wet stretching. He also contributed to the development of "moldable wood," explaining the role of vessel elements in partially delignified hardwood.

Before joining Bristol as Chair in 2017, he held professorial positions at the Universities of Exeter and Manchester. His honours include the Swinburne Medal, Hayashi Jisuke Prize, ACS Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division Fellow Award, and Rosenhain Medal. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and several leading scientific societies and serves as Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Materials Science. He has published 185 refereed papers, over 50 conference papers, seven book chapters, and edited the two-volume Handbook of Textile Fibre Structure. His work has received more than 20,800 citations, with a Google Scholar h-index of 61.



Yan Yu, is Professor and Dean at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China, and a leading scholar in bamboo and wood science. He received his PhD in Wood Science and Technology from the Chinese Academy of Forestry in 2003. He then spent about 16 years at the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan, progressing from Assistant Professor to full Professor, before joining Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in 2019.

His research focuses on the high-value utilization of fast-growing bamboo and wood resources, combining fundamental studies of cell-wall structure and mechanics with applied work on wood modification and composites. He developed China's first commercialized single-fibre mechanical testing device and established a database of mechanical properties for representative bamboo species. He also introduced nanoindentation into studies of furfuryl alcohol wood modification and led China's first industrial pilot-scale production of furfurylated wood. In bamboo science, Prof. Yu identified major differences between fibres and parenchyma cells in chemical composition, molecular structure, orientation, and pore characteristics. He also developed a quantitative method for determining interfacial shear strength between bamboo fibres and polypropylene, supporting the production of high-strength bamboo-fibre composites.

Regarded as a pioneer of wood and bamboo cell-wall mechanics in China, Prof. Yu has provided a systematic understanding of bamboo's multiscale structure and performance. He has published 161 refereed papers, holds eight patents, has contributed to three books or chapters, and has received 4,840 citations, with a Google Scholar h-index of 41.

Kenji Umemura is Professor at the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University, Japan. He is a leading Japanese wood scientist with internationally recognized expertise in wood adhesion, bio-based adhesives, and wood-based materials. After completing his PhD at Kyoto University in 1996, he held several research and academic positions before becoming Professor there in 2020.

His research has made major contributions to environmentally friendly adhesive systems for wood and bio-based materials. A particularly important achievement was his discovery that citric acid and sucrose can function as effective adhesives. His work clarified how citric acid chemically bonds with wood and other plant-based materials, providing the scientific basis for new formaldehyde-free adhesive technologies. More recently, he has extended this approach to agricultural residues such as bagasse and oil palm trunks, as well as to sugar alcohol-based adhesive systems.

Professor Umemura has produced 153 refereed publications, 20 patents, 10 books or book chapters, nearly 4,000 citations, and an h-index of 36. His achievements have been recognized through several major awards, including the Award of the Adhesion Society of Japan in 2017. He has also held leadership roles in the Japan Wood Society, the Wood Technological Association of Japan, and the Adhesion Society of Japan. In addition, he has served on editorial boards and as Editor-in-Chief of leading Japanese journals in wood science and adhesion. Through his research, leadership, and international collaboration, Professor Umemura has made a significant and lasting contribution to wood science.

Professor **Feng Jiang** is a wood scientist at the The University of British Columbia and holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Functional Biomaterials. His research focuses on converting wood residues and other abundant biomass into high-performance, sustainable biomaterials, including nanocellulose-based products, biodegradable films and foams, cellulose aerogels, and stretchable ionic conductive gels for applications in packaging, green buildings, energy storage, and flexible electronics.

His work combines strong fundamental science with practical innovation, including patented technologies, pilot-scale development, and a UBC spin-off company. He has published 156 refereed papers, received over 16,000 citations, holds an h-index of 64, and has 5 granted patents plus 12 provisional patents (h-index 71, Google Scholar).

His achievements have been recognized through major awards, including the The University of British Columbia Killam Faculty Research Prize, and the TAPPI Nanotechnology Division Mid-Career Award. He also contributes to the field through editorial roles, notably as Editor of Carbohydrate Polymers.

Professor **Clemens Altaner** is a wood scientist at the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. His background spans wood technology, chemistry, biology, and forestry, allowing him to connect wood chemistry with industrially relevant wood properties. His research focuses on cell wall chemistry influences on macroscopic wood performance like stiffness, dimensional stability or natural durability, using methods such as IR and NMR spectroscopy and diffraction techniques.

He also works on applied wood-quality improvement, including fast analytical tools for tree breeding and technical processing solutions. He chairs the Wood Technology Research Centre at the University of Canterbury and serves as science leader of the New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative, which aims to establish a durable hardwood plantation sector in New Zealand. Clemens Altaner has published over 80 refereed papers, authored one book/chapter, and has over 3,100 Google Scholar citations (h-index of 26)

Professor **Dennis Jones** is a wood scientist and engineer at the Department of Wood Science and Engineering, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden. He has over 30 years of international experience in wood science, having worked in the UK, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden. His research focuses mainly on wood modification, wood protection, and composite technologies, with strong involvement in European research networks and collaborative projects.

He has held major leadership roles in several COST Actions, helped establish and develop the European Conference on Wood Modification, and is active in the International Research Group on Wood Protection.

He is Editor-in-Chief of the International Wood Products Journal and serves on the editorial board of Wood Material Science and Engineering. His publication record includes 64 refereed papers, 7 books or book chapters, 1 patent, around 2,678 Google Scholar citations, and an h-index of 25 .

Professor **Zhaoyang Xu** is Dean of the College of Materials Science and Engineering at Nanjing Forestry University, is a leading wood scientist specializing in wood structure, wood properties, and bio-based composites. His research combines anatomical analysis, nano-scale characterization, and mechanical testing to better understand the relationship between wood structure and performance.

He has also contributed to the revision of the Chinese Wood Records, strengthening national knowledge on wood species and their properties. A major focus of his work is the high-value use of wood and lignocellulosic residues, including bioinspired porous materials, functional wood-plastic composites, and sustainable wood-based products. His research has strong industrial relevance, with applications in flooring, wall panels, outdoor products, adsorption, insulation, sensing, and other functional materials.

Professor Xu has published 94 refereed papers, holds several patents, and has received multiple science and technology awards for his contributions to wood science and engineering

How to nominate ?

The nomination process is straightforward: simply complete the Nomination form and send it to the president. To be considered for the upcoming election, nominations must be received no later than 15 September 2026.

Afterward, I will contact the nominee to confirm their willingness to stand for election. The nominee will then complete a more detailed application form. The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they are complete and, in early October, submits the finalized nominations to the membership for an online vote.

Typically, nominees are mid-career scientists showing great promise and achievements or scientists nearing the end of their careers, recognized for significant and ongoing contributions throughout their professional lives.

The Executive Committee is mindful that a nominee's scientific profile is shaped not only by individual merit but also by their field of research, the scientific resources available to them, and the level of funding they can access. Some fields and institutions naturally offer more visibility and output than others, and the Committee works to account for these differences so that the evaluation process remains fair to candidates from varied research environments.

In this spirit, the Executive Committee is also interested in electing wood science managers who have made substantial impacts through their oversight of research activities, even if their number of refereed publications is not typical. Furthermore, the Academy currently has a lower representation of female researchers, and we strongly encourage nominations of qualified female colleagues.

Please consider potential nominees, perhaps by reviewing the Directory and the list of Fellows by country. Since we do not actively promote ourselves to gain members, it is the responsibility of the Fellows within the Academy to help provide candidates for this recognition.

Your Ingo Burgert

New Foundation “HolzForschung Deutschland”

Wood researchers from across Germany gathered in Braunschweig at the Fraunhofer Institute for Wood Research (Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut, WKI) on June 16, 2026, to formally establish the research network **HolzForschung Deutschland** (*Wood Research Germany*). In the months before the founding participants have laid the substantive and organizational groundwork for the association over three preparatory meetings. As now formally estalbished, they now hope for a strong influx of new members from Germany following the launch, with a first general assembly planned for 2026.

HolzForschung Deutschland brings together researchers from universities and research institutes across Germany. Its members span a wide range of disciplines — from materials science, civil engineering, architecture, process engineering, chemical technologies, to social sciences and humanities — reflecting the full breadth of German wood research.

With its founding, the diverse research landscape surrounding the resource wood gains a unified voice for the first time. Given the growing importance of wood for climate protection, sustainable construction, the substitution of fossil raw materials, and the circular economy, the network provides a strong platform for pooling scientific expertise and transferring knowledge to society, business, and policymakers.

The network's goals are to sustainably strengthen the visibility of, and collaboration among, wood scientists in Germany and beyond; to initiate and support joint research and technology-transfer projects; to promote scientific exchange on wood-related topics; and to specifically engage the next generation of researchers. **A further aim is also to foster international collaboration by offering colleagues from other countries straightforward access to the German wood research community!**

Contacts:

Prof. Katja Frühwald-König, Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Markus Rüggeberg, TUD Dresden University of Technology, IAWS Fellow

Prof. Andreas Krause, Director of the Thünen Institute of Wood Research, IAWS Fellow

https://holzforschung-deutschland.de/

(currently in German only)

German wood scientists have gathered to establish the research network *HolzForschung Deutschland*

Wood Science and Technology
Journal of the International Academy of Wood Science

IAWS Best Paper Award (IAWS-BPA) published in the IAWS Journal "Wood Science and Technology"

The Academy board has established an award for two excellent and outstanding research papers, published in the Academy journal *Wood Science and Technology (WST)*. This initiative expresses the long-standing relationship between the Academy and the SpringerNature journal WST (see Bulletin 2025-2). Here are the **guidelines** ruling the selection process:

- The IAWS-BPA recognizes excellence in research and scientific publishing in WST.
- Papers considered are those published in the six issues of one volume WST, starting with volume 59 (January – November 2025)
- Two papers will be awarded annually. The first-place award includes a prize money of $2000, and the second-place award includes a prize money of $1000). Authors receive a certificate signed by the sitting IAWS president.
- Announcement of the awarded papers shall take place in an upcoming scientific IAWS event.
- The selection committee shall consist of four members: the acting IAWS President, the acting IAWS Academy Board Chair, and the two editors-in-chief of the journal. A committee member co-authoring a paper being considered for the award must abstain from voting.

The selection committee's responsibilities are as followed:

A) Evaluate all papers in the respective volume by using the following judging criteria

Scientific quality: Methodological rigor (clean study design, appropriate statistics, reproducibility); Validity of results (logical derivation, robust data, clear limitations); Theoretical foundation (embedding in the current state of research).

Originality and degree of innovation: Novelty of the research question; innovative methods or concepts; overcoming existing limitations in the field

Scientific or social impact: Potential influence on the field, addressing new research directions; Relevance to application; Interdisciplinary

Clarity and quality of presentation: Structured, easily understandable argumentation; Precise language and clear visualisations; transparent presentation of methods and data

B) The committee chair will rank papers based on the average score obtained from each member's scores.

C) Each member re-reviews the five papers with the highest combined scores and participates in a committee discussion to select the first and second place papers.

C) The committee chair will report the selection of the awarded paper(s) to the President, 60 days prior the upcoming scientific IAWS event.

Klaus Richter, WST Editor-in-Chief

Wood Science and Technology
Journal of the International Academy of Wood Science

Springer

IAWS-BPA granted for Volume 59 !

The **first prize winners** of the IAWS Best Paper Award (IAWS-BPA) have been selected and announced in June 2026 during the 60 years IAWS Conference in Zurich. The winning author teams used the opportunity to present their awarded research at the conference, via video conference.

The winning teams are:

Second Prize

Luoyi Yan, Elisa Julien, Benjamin Maillet, Rahima Sidi Boulenouar and Philippe Coussot: *Water penetration in the microstructure of hardwood revealed by NMR relaxometry*. Wood Sci Technol 59, 29 (2025)

First Prize

Royson D. Dsouza, Tero Harjupatana, Arttu Miettinen, Florian Brandstätter, Anni Harju, Martti Venäläinen, Veikko Möttönen, Marc Borrega, Antti Paajanen, Josef Füssl and Stefania Fortino: *Multi-phase model for moisture transport in wood supported by X-ray computed tomography data*. Wood Sci Technol 59, 31 (2025)

We congratulate the winning teams, who have received their certificates, along with the prize money.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF WOOD SCIENCE
1966
Best Paper Award

Further news:

Academy journal impact factor: ranking improved

The **2025** journal performance data from Journal Citations Report (JCR) have now been released. In this most recent JCR release, the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) for *Wood Science and Technology* has increased from 3 to **3.2**; and ranks now 20/92 (Q1) in **Forestry,** and 4/24 (Q1) in **Materials Science, Paper & Wood**. These are truly positive news, made possible by the dedicated and hard work that is going into our journal. Many thanks go to all out authors, the numerous reviewers, and the members of the editorial board!

Klaus Richter, WST Editor-in-Chief

Turning Wood Waste into Clean Water and Energy

by Fellow Alain Celzard, Université de Lorraine

The French Science-Industry Story was already featured in the IAWS Bulletin 2025-1, which introduced the partnership between Groupe Bordet, one of France's oldest charcoal producers, and Institut Jean Lamour (Université de Lorraine-CNRS), all built around a single raw material: *activated carbon made from wood*. A year later, this collaboration is growing and is bearing fruits. In 2025-2026 it reached two milestones: an award-winning doctoral thesis, and an innovation project for water treatment, showing how wood science translates into concrete environmental solutions.

The prize-winning thesis by Luis Fernando Paz López received the 2026 Special Mention of the Journal Carbon (Elsevier), which recognizes this outstanding doctoral thesis in carbon materials science and technology. His thesis, "*Biogas purification with activated carbons*," focused on developing wood-based activated carbons capable of removing sulfur compounds from biogas, a key step in making this renewable energy usable. Born in Colombia, Luis joined the University of Lorraine, in Épinal, to carry out his research within CarBioLab, the joint laboratory created by Groupe Bordet and the Institut Jean Lamour (IJL), a joint research unit of the CNRS and the University of Lorraine (UMR 7198), with the support of the French National Research Agency (ANR).

Award winning PhD student Luis Fernando Paz López

Luis' thesis was supervised by Professors Alain Celzard and Vanessa Fierro. Capturing Micropollutants with Wood-Based Carbon The activated carbon market is still dominated by imported products, of mineral origin or made from tropical resources such as coconut, with a high carbon footprint and limited traceability. Against this trend, Groupe Bordet and IJL in Épinal have developed a 100% plant-based activated carbon, produced in France from PEFC-certified wood. Designed for three types of water (drinking water, urban wastewater and industrial water), the material adsorbs pesticides, pharmaceutical residues and PFAS, the so-called "forever chemicals" increasingly found in the environment. Producing it emits just 0.36 tons of CO_2 equivalent per ton of activated carbon, compared with 7.42 tons for activated carbon of mineral origin. This expertise first took shape in the Eternal PFAS project (2024-2026), led by Groupe Bordet and the IJL, which targeted the removal of PFAS from water. It paved the way for Carb'Eau (2025- 2029), which carries this work from the laboratory toward industrial scale: the program brings together Bordet, the IJL and SUEZ to qualify the activated carbon under real-world conditions and at large scale. Supported by the French State through the France 2030 program and operated by ADEME, Carb'Eau anticipates the European Union's forthcoming water-quality regulations.

From biogas purification to water treatment, the collaboration between Groupe Bordet and the Institut Jean Lamour keeps turning a renewable, locally sourced resource, wood, into concrete industrial applications. Scientific awards and new projects alike point to a partnership built to last.

Reference: Paz, L., Selmi, T., Fierro, V., & Celzard, A. (2025). Optimized wood-based activated charcoal for desulfurization under realistic biogas conditions. *Carbon*, 120963.

Call for nominations for the IAWS PhD Thesis/ Dissertation Awards 2026

The Academy invites nominations for its 2026 PhD Thesis/ Dissertation Awards, which honour exemplary collaborative doctoral research in wood science, wood technologies, and wood-based materials. Nominations must be submitted by **15 September 2026**.

Award structure

- Three awards will be conferred: First, Second, and Third Prize. All recipients will receive certificates signed by the President of IAWS.
- All prize recipients will additionally be eligible for financial support of up to USD 1,000 (amount determined by travel cost/distance) to attend the next international IAWS-related conference (which is the IUFRO Division 5 & SWST Joint Conference in Tartu, Estonia, May 30 to June 3, 2027) at which IAWS is involved in conference organization and/or sponsorship.

Eligibility criteria

- The candidate must have been awarded a PhD by an institution located in a country other than the candidate's country of origin, thereby demonstrating international collaboration.
- The PhD defence must have occurred within the one year preceding the nomination deadline (i.e., between 15 September 2025 and 14 September 2026, inclusive).
- The doctoral research must be in the fields of wood science, wood technologies, or wood-based materials.

Submission requirements (all documents in English)

1. Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages), including: Candidate's full name and email address; candidate's country of origin; country where the PhD degree was awarded; title of the PhD thesis and date of defence (if applicable); name, institutional affiliation, and email address of the supervisor; list of publications and/or accepted/in-press manuscripts related to the PhD research.
2. Extended abstract of the PhD thesis/ dissertation (maximum 1 page).
3. Letter of recommendation from the candidate's supervisor.

Nominators and submission

- Nominations may be submitted by the candidate or by the candidate's supervisor.
- Complete nomination packages should be emailed to both:

1) The IAWS Academy Board Chair, Professor Shusheng Pang, shusheng.pang@canterbury.ac.nz

2) the IAWS Secretary, Professor Rupert Wimmer, rupert.wimmer@mendelu.cz

For inquiries regarding eligibility or submission, please contact Prof. Pang.

Your

Shusheng Pang

Pekka Saranpaa retired from Luke

Our Fellow Pekka Saranpää, Principal Scientist and Research Manager at the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), has retired after a long and internationally recognized career in wood science. Based in Espoo, Pekka Saranpää built his research around the structure and properties of wood — wood density and growth, tracheid characteristics in Norway spruce, cell wall structure and chemistry, and the development of bioproducts from forest biomass — work that has been widely cited and used as a reference point across the field.

Beyond his research at Luke, he served for years as a coordinator within IUFRO Division 5 (Forest Products), including its Working Party on wood and fibre quality, helping to connect Nordic wood science with the broader international community. His retirement marks the close of a career that shaped much of what is known today about wood formation and quality in boreal conifers.

Pekka‘s work was cited roughly 5,500 times - a substantial citation count for a career centered on wood density, tracheid structure, and cell wall chemistry, reflecting how foundational his work on Norway spruce wood quality has become as a reference point in forest and wood science. **Wishing you great times at the Finnish lakes — so much nicer than sitting in front a computer!**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, names Governor's Chair for Circular Biomaterials

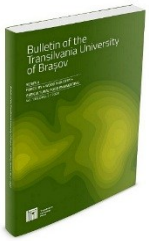
Fellow Orlando J. Rojas will leave his position at the University of British Columbia (UBC) to accept a joint appointment as the University of Tennessee-Institute of Agriculture—and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (UT-ORNL) Governor's Chair for *Circular Biomaterials*. Rojas is an internationally recognized leader in sustainable materials science, and his new position will resume in late 2026. The Governor's Chair program aligns UT and ORNL investments to recruit world-class researchers and accelerate innovation in strategically important fields. **We wish all the best for the new challenge!**

Past President on new paths

Stavros Avramidis has stepped down as Head of the Department of Wood Science at the University of British Columbia, effective July 1, 2026, after a successful 10.5-year term. He will take 18 months of administrative leave and will resume his teaching, research, and service responsibilities on January 1, 2028.

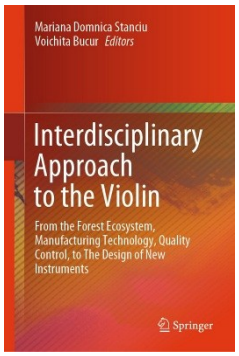
During his leave, Stavros plans to visit academic wood-science departments and research organizations worldwide to discuss future collaborations, deliver seminars, and teach at several Chinese universities with which UBC has special educational agreements. He will remain reachable by email and looks forward to reconnecting with colleagues, friends and academy fellows in person where possible. **Wishing you a great time and wonderful experiences !**

AI helped us to picture Stavros as a world traveller!



Check out the ***open-access*** **BULLETIN OF THE TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRASOV SERIES II,** which publishes high-quality scientific articles and review papers on forestry, wood engineering, and agro-food processing.

https://webbut.unitbv.ro/index.php/Series_II/issue/view/current

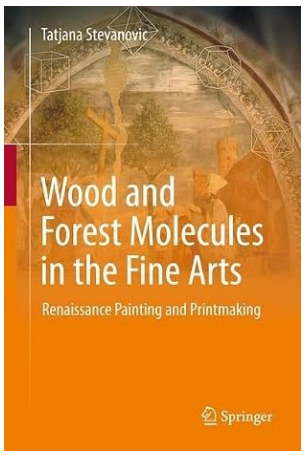


Awarded book out !

Stanciu, M. D., & Bucur, V. (Eds.). (2025). ***Interdisciplinary Approach to the Violin****: From the Forest Ecosystem, Manufacturing Technology, Quality Control, to the Design of New Instruments*. **Springer Nature**

This book received the **Bronze Medal** at the Book salon 2026 - organized under the European - **EUROINVENT** - European exhibition of creativity and innovation - under **Academy of Rumanian Scientists**. The book was selected among 100 books published by international and Rumanian publisher.

Tatjana Stevanovic unites Wood Science and Renaissance Art in New Book



We are delighted to share news of a new book published in August 2026, by Tatjana Stevanovic, forthcoming from Springer Nature, Switzerland. The book **brings together her lifelong passion for the fine arts with her career as a wood scientist**, exploring the vital role of wood and forest products in preserving some of art history's greatest masterpieces — most notably those of the Renaissance.

Celebrating the wood and forest-derived molecules behind Renaissance tempera painting, sculpture, and printmaking, the book pays special tribute to the genius of Piero della Francesca and Albrecht Dürer. As Stevanovic notes, many of the most treasured works of Renaissance art were painted on wood, carved from wood, or created using materials derived from forest trees — and it is thanks to wood and its chemistry that these masterpieces have endured to the present day. The book offers readers a fascinating look at the chemistry of wood constituents and the properties that have made this preservation possible. **Congratulations on this wonderful contribution bridging wood science and art history!**

George Mantanis awarded Fellow of the Hellenic Agricultural Academy of Greece

Our Fellow George Mantanis, Greek professor of wood science and senior researcher at the University of Thessaly, was elected a Fellow of the Hellenic Agricultural Academy of Greece. On 8 May 2026, he delivered a honorary lecture at the Agricultural University of Athens following this election, in recognition of his academic achievements and long-standing contributions to forest-products related sciences. **Congratulations George!**

Honorary Doctorate for Fellow Thomas Rosenau

Fellow Thomas Rosenau, Professor at the University of BOKU University, Vienna, Austria, has received a honorary doctorate in technology at Aalto University in June 2026. This recognises Prof. Rosenau's outstanding scientific achievements in the field of renewable chemistry and his long-standing collaboration with Aalto. His leadership in green chemistry and biopolymer research, and significant contributions to wood chemistry and the study of biopolymers like cellulose and lignin was highlighted. Thomas Rosenau's research has led to fundamental advances and innovations in cellulose chemistry, fiber technology, lignin utilisation, the analysis of cellulose aging and yellowing, and the development of selective green derivatisation techniques. Fellow Rosenau has authored so far over 550 publications with close to 16 000 citations and has supervised more than 90 doctoral theses. **Congratulations, Rosi !**

Stavros Avramidis receives SWST Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Stavros Avramidis for receiving the SWST (International Society of Wood Science and Technology) Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes distinguished contributions to the wood science profession through education, research, technological innovation, and professional service. Stavros received the honour in recognition of his career-long commitment to advancing wood science and technology through his advocacy, teaching, research, and service, including the past decade as Head of the Department of Wood Science. **Thanks Stavros for your continued engagement!**

Holger Militz receives Marcus Wallenberg Prize

The 2026 Marcus Wallenberg Prize is awarded to Fellow Professor Holger Militz for his groundbreaking contributions to research on, and industrialization of wood modification technologies. Prof. Militz's groundbreaking work has directly enabled the commercialization of several sustainable wood protection technologies. The prize will be presented by HM the King of Sweden at a ceremony in Stockholm in October this year. **Congratulations indeed, Holger!**

UT Knoxville Joins $160M NSF Award to Launch BRIDGES Engine for Biobased Innovation

The University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville, is part of a team that has won up to $160 million over the next 10 years from the National Science Foundation for the BRIDGES Engine, a collaborative initiative that will generate millions of dollars in additional annual income for Tennessee farmers and create thousands of jobs across the state. BRIDGES, one of only 12 winning proposals from 300 pre-proposals and more than 70 full proposals, is a winner in NSF's Regional Innovation Engines competition, established to advance transdisciplinary collaborative research development and spur opportunities in regions that have not benefited significantly from recent technology booms.

Niki Labbé, director of the Center for Renewable Carbon, working with a graduate student

BRIDGES is designed to transform underused farmland in rural areas of Tennessee and Alabama into launchpads for biobased innovation by growing specially developed perennial grasses and turning those grasses into bioproducts, i.e. high-demand automotive, construction and packaging products. The project is led jointly by the University of Tennessee, the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Auburn University, AGgrow Tech LLC and long-standing UT partner Volkswagen Group of America. Serveral Academy Fellows are involved in this project. **Congratulations!**

John Ralph elected to National Academy of Sciences

Fellow John Ralph, University of Wisconsin – Madison biochemistry emeritus professor, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

John is internationally recognized for his work on lignin and and biosynthesis pathways in plants. He pioneered novel approaches to understanding the biochemistry of lignin structures, including innovative uses of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). Over the course of his career, Ralph has studied a wide range of plants, revealing variability in lignin structure within and among plants and characterizing previously unknown lignin structures. **Congratulations for this achievement !**

Antje Potthast receives 2026 Anselme Payen Award

Our Fellow Antje Potthast, Full Professor at the Institute of Chemistry of Renewable Resources, BOKU University, Vienna, has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Anselme Payen Award. The award is presented by the Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division of the American Chemical Society to honor and encourage outstanding professional contributions to the science and chemical technology of cellulose and its allied products. Professor Potthast is Deputy Director of the Institute, Scientific Head of the BOKU Core Facility “Analysis of Lignocellulosics” (ALICE), and Speaker of the Doctoral School “Advanced Biorefineries: Chemistry & Materials” (ABC&M).

Her research focuses on the chemistry and advanced analysis of lignocellulosic materials, particularly cellulose and lignin. Through the development and application of sophisticated analytical methods, her work has provided important insights into biopolymer structure, modification, degradation, and preservation, including applications in cultural heritage conservation. The award recognises her outstanding contributions to cellulose chemistry, lignocellulosic analysis, and renewable materials research. **Congratulations Antje, for this remarkable recognition!**

Ningbo CLT Project Wins Energy Globe Award

At a recent Energy Globe Award (China) ceremony in Shanghai — co-hosted by the Austrian Consulate General, Advantage Austria, and UNIDO — a Ningbo-based project became China's sole winner among 2,000+ entries from 141 countries.

Led by Fellow Brad Jianhe Wang of the Ningbo Sino -Canada Low-Carbon Technology Research Institute, "**The 1st Hybrid CLT Residential Complex with Ultra-Low Energy Consumption in China**" combines a reinforced concrete frame with a CLT hybrid structural system across 5,000 m², cutting operational energy use by over 50%. Key innovations: advanced bamboo-wood composite CLT panels, concrete-CLT structural hybridization, integrated floor/wall/roof assemblies, a patented energy-saving roof, and modular prefabrication for faster, safer, cheaper builds. Meeting China's Near-Zero Energy Building standard and passive house requirements, the project offers a replicable "Chinese Solution" for low-carbon retrofits and hybrid CLT construction worldwide. **Congratulations for this award !**

Fellow Y. Xiao's Team Wins Three ASCE AEI Awards for Engineered Mass-Bamboo Public Building

Professor Yan Xiao, IAWS Fellow and a world-renowned authority on bamboo structural research, has led his team to another milestone in engineered bamboo construction. Their latest project, the Double-Water Low-Carbon Community Center in Ninghai, Zhejiang Province, China, is a 2,000 m² public building built with glued-laminated bamboo (glubam) and cross- or twist-laminated bamboo and timber (CLBT/TLBT).

The two-story structure combines glubam frames and steel braces with CLBT/TLBT floors and roof, featuring a 15 m glubam column — the tallest of its kind — and a 16 m glubam girder, the longest span yet achieved. It is among the first engineered bamboo buildings to receive full official construction approval in China, designed by referencing existing timber codes, limited bamboo structural guidelines, and years of accumulated research.

Engineered bamboo building – Ninghai Double Water Low Carbon Community Center

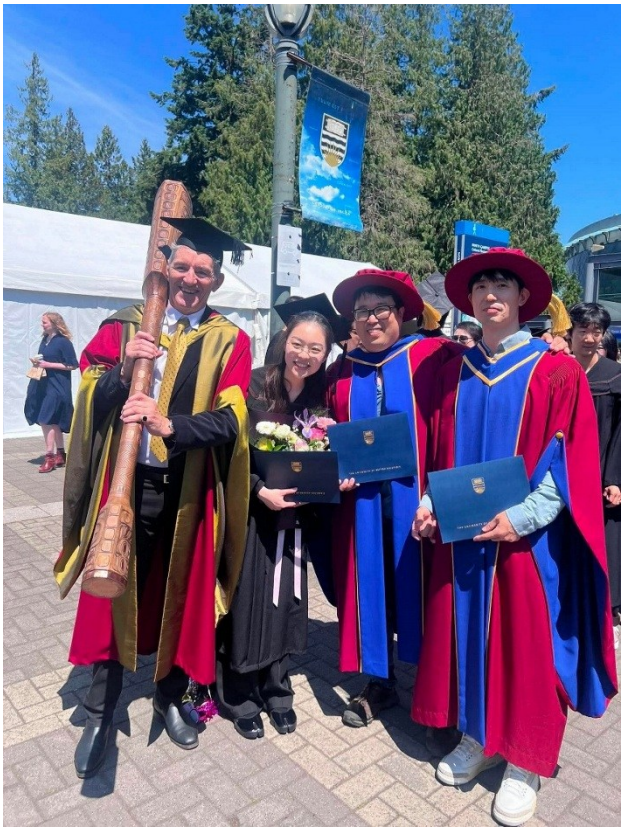
The project has now won three ASCE Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) awards: Excellence in Structural Systems Design, Merit in Sustainability, and the Most Innovative Project special award. Fellow J.H. Wang's company, Sino-Canada Corporation Ltd. of Ningbo, China, also contributed as subcontractor, manufacturing the CLBT slabs. **Congratulations to the team!**

Reference: Dai et. al. (2026). Design and construction of a large-scale multifunctional building with engineered bamboo. *Engineering Structures*, *359*, 122753.

Cultivating the Next Generation

At UBC's graduation ceremony on May 28, 2026, Fellow Phil Evans led the procession bearing the ceremonial mace of Pacific yew, wearing his University of Wales gown, ahead of a proud moment for the Academy: two new PhDs crossing the stage under his supervision. Dr Joseph D. W. Kim's thesis examined the suitability of plantation-grown Fijian mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) as an alternative to old-growth genuine mahogany in electric guitar construction, while Dr Kenneth J. Cheng's research explored high-energy plasma etching of wood surfaces to create super-black wood finishes. Also pictured is co-op student Sara Xu, recipient of the Charles Larre Award for the top undergraduate in the wood products program.

Together, the day captured what the Academy holds central: cultivating the next generation of wood scientists.



Fellow Phil Evans with his sucessful students. Phil is bearing the ceremonial mace made from Pacific yew, and wearing his University of Wales gown.

New study program at University of Primorska

New Bachelor of Science study program „Wood Innovation for Sustainability“

The National Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Higher Education (NAKVIS) accredited a new higher education professional study programme, "Wood Innovation for Sustainability," to be implemented at the University of Primorska's Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technology. The programme addresses current needs in the Slovenian and European woodworking industry, promoting innovative technologies and human resource development to meet the sector's growing demand for digital competencies and sustainable approaches. Enrolment will open for the 2026/2027 academic year.

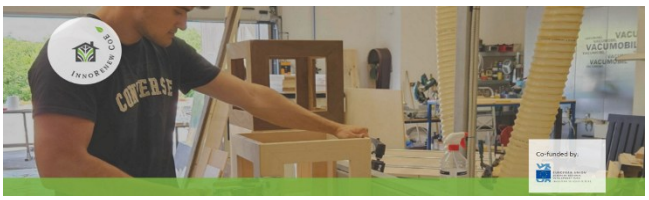
The three-year programme covers six areas: basic knowledge subjects, core professional subjects, digital skills for wood handling, business/economic skills and sustainability, wooden built environments, and a practical training and mobility window. The mandatory mobility window gives students structured international experience, supporting Slovenian and EU goals for cross-border mobility, including the Resolution on the National Higher Education Programme until 2030, the Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education and Science until 2030, and the EU's EHEA strategy and mobility recommendations. It will run in cooperation with 12 foreign universities and companies across Austria, Belgium, Italy, Germany, and the USA, alongside practical training at 12 leading Slovenian wood-processing companies.

The programme was designed around interdisciplinarity, combining knowledge across fields to address complex industry challenges, using teaching methods such as case studies, group research, and project work.

The program comprises 22 courses (126 ECTS), practical training (24 ECTS), a mobility window (24 ECTS), and a final seminar (6 ECTS), organized into:

- **Basic knowledge** (36 ECTS): mathematics, English, chemistry, engineering mechanics, statistics, experimental methods
- **Core professional subjects** (33 ECTS): physical/ mechanical wood properties, engineered wood products, advanced manufacturing, performance modelling, ergonomics in furniture design, wood modification
- **Digital skills** (21 ECTS): computing, digital prototyping, data analytics, AI/machine learning
- **Business, economics, and sustainability** (24 ECTS): communications, project management, sustainability assessment, entrepreneurship/ marketing
- **Wooden built environments** (12 ECTS): timber building systems, New European Bauhaus-driven design
- **Practical training** (24 ECTS): work-environment placements in semesters four and five, or via the mobility window

The programme reflects the 2024 WoodPoP policy document "*A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe*" and was developed under the GDI UP project (Green, Digital and Inclusive University of Primorska), co-financed by Slovenia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and the EU's NextGenerationEU fund, as part of Slovenia's Recovery and Resilience Plan.



https://innorenew.eu/2025/11/introducing-new-study-programme-wood-innovation-sustainability/

From Forests to Heritage III
Klagenfurt, Austria

The 3rd „From Forests to Heritage“ (FFTH) conference was held in Klagenfurt, Austria, **from 19 to 22 May 2026**. The event was organised jointly with the 2026 World Wood Day Symposium and the 8th IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium https://fromforeststoheritage.dendro.at/ .

The head of the organising committee, Michael Grabner, during the opening ceremony

From Forests to Heritage is a conference series that brings together researchers studying forests, timber, and wooden cultural heritage. It covers a wide range of disciplines, including forest research, forest history, architectural history, cultural heritage studies, dendrochronology, art history, forest and wood education, literature studies, and related fields.

The 3rd FFTH attracted 104 participants from approximately 30 countries across five continents. Attendees presented 55 oral presentations and 24 posters, with numerous opportunities for discussion, networking, and social interaction. The presentations addressed topics including forest history and human–forest interactions, wooden architecture and constructions, wood used in artworks, furniture and tools, traditional handicrafts, restoration of wooden objects, non-wood forest products, and innovative methods for the analysis of wooden cultural heritage. Particular emphasis was placed on the transfer of knowledge through museums, forest education, citizen science, and cultural institutions. The abstract book is available at:
https://fromforeststoheritage.dendro.at/programme-and-abstract-book.

The “Kärnten Museum” in Klagenfurt, located in the Austrian region of Carinthia, proved to be an optimal conference venue due to its proximity to forests, Carinthia’s strong reputation for forest education, innovative forest owners, and long-standing woodworking tradition. It was therefore fitting that the mid-conference excursion included a visit to the Carinthian Open-Air Museum in Maria Saal, the oldest museum of its kind in Austria, which preserves and displays traditional peasant houses and farm buildings from various parts of the country.

Before the conference, attendees could visit Austrian forest sites, or the global wood industry *Hasslacher Norica Timber*, along with the *Pyramidenkogel*. Post conference excursions were taking participants to the prehistoric Hallstatt salt mine, or to the Ribnica Handicraft Centre and Ljubljansko barje near Ljubljana, Slovenia, with visits to the Morostig Museum in Ig, Slovenia, and the reconstruction of a 3rd-millennium BC pile dwelling.

Overall, the 3rd FFTH demonstrated how archaeological, historical, dendrochronological, forestry, and heritage research can be combined to better understand past and present uses of forest resources. It also highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in preserving, interpreting, and sustainably utilising wood-related cultural heritage for future generations!

Katarina Cufar

Conference participants at the Carinthian Open-Air Museum in Maria Saal.

24th International Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation of Wood, Symposium, ERDC-WERX Convention Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA, May 19-22, 2026

The 24th International Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation of Wood Symposium was held in Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA, from **May 19–22, 2026**, at the ERDC-WERX Convention Center. Co-organized by Mississippi State University, the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, IUFRO Division 5, and ERDC/ERDC-WERX, the symposium provided an important global platform for advancing nondestructive testing and evaluation technologies for wood and wood-based materials. The event brought together international researchers, users of NDT technologies, government representatives, industry stakeholders, and other experts to exchange scientific findings, discuss practical applications, and showcase emerging tools and methods.

A technical workshop introduced modern NDE technologies for wood structure inspections, including demonstrations and case studies related to historic wooden ships, beginning with a visit to the USS Cairo at Vicksburg National Military Park. The scientific program featured sessions on log and timber grading, urban tree inspection and risk assessment, mass timber and engineered wood products, cultural heritage and historic wood structures, and wood quality assessment in forestry.

With presentations from participants representing numerous countries across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa, the symposium underlined the growing international relevance of nondestructive evaluation for improving wood quality assessment, structural safety, heritage conservation, and the sustainable use of wood resources.

Bob Ross

2026 SWST International Convention,
Seoul, Korea, June 7–12, 2026

The this years SWST International Convention was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from June **7–12, 2026**, under the theme "Innovating with Wood: Science and Materials for a Sustainable Future." The convention brought together wood scientists, researchers, students, industry representatives, educators, policymakers, and international partners to discuss how wood science and technology can contribute to climate-change mitigation, carbon neutrality, sustainable material use, and the transition toward a bio-based economy. Hosted with strong Korean institutional involvement, including the National Institute of Forest Science and the Korean Society of Wood Science and Technology, the event highlighted Korea's growing role in sustainable wood utilization, timber construction, wood-based biomaterials, and emerging digital technologies.

SWST President Matthew Schwarzkopf—opening address

A central message of the convention was that wood is not only a traditional material, but also a key renewable resource for addressing modern environmental and societal challenges. The welcome messages emphasized wood's capacity to store carbon and substitute for more carbon-intensive materials such as steel, concrete, and plastics. They also placed wood science within a wider innovation framework, including sustainable forest management, cascading wood use, bio-based materials, tall timber construction, energy-efficient processing, and the integration of artificial intelligence into wood science and industry.

The scientific program was broad and ambitious. Keynote presentations addressed sustainable wood utilization policy in Korea after 50 years of reforestation, wood as cultural heritage, wood as a "smart material," and whether society is prepared for a renewed "age of wood." Technical sessions covered wood physics and mechanics, chemistry and biorefining, biology, drying and preservation, machining and finishing, advanced timber engineering, hybrid structural systems, bio-based nanocomposites, circular economy, climate mitigation, socio-economic impacts, biodiversity, cultural perceptions of wood use, education, digitalization, and smart processing technologies. A dedicated IUFRO Division 5 session strengthened the international exchange on wood properties and utilization.

The convention placed strong emphasis on students and early-career researchers through Early Stage Researcher three-minute talks, a student poster competition, and networking opportunities. This reflected the role of SWST and KSWST not only as scientific societies, but also as communities supporting education, mentoring, career development, and long-term international collaboration. Beyond the lecture rooms, field trips and technical visits connected scientific discussion with culture, research infrastructure, and industry. Participants visited Gyeongbok Palace, the National Palace Museum of Korea, the National Institute of Forest Science, and Hongneung Forest. Optional tours included wood-sector companies, research facilities, Seoul National University, Hyundai Livart, and cultural destinations such as the Korean Folk Village.

Overall, the 2026 SWST International Convention demonstrated the vitality and breadth of contemporary wood science. It showed that the field is moving beyond classical material characterization toward integrated solutions involving climate policy, circular economy, digital transformation, advanced engineering, bio-based innovation, and societal engagement. Its strongest contribution was framing wood science as a bridge between fundamental research, sustainable industry, cultural values, and global climate action.

Book of Proceedings

Cellulose International Summit

The Cellulose International Summit was held from **June 29 to July 2, 2026**, in Grenoble, France, at the LGP2 laboratory facilities. The conference was about cellulose and cellulose derivatives, new advanced cellulosic materials, and sustainability aspects.

The international conference was co-organized by LGP2, Kanazawa University, Japan, the Cellulose Valley consortium, and the DurInnPack PRIMA project. Some of the talks were also on mycelium technology and marine ecosystems, such as coral restoration and microplastic degradation. The conference had a good balance between keynote lectures (3 per day) and talks given by younger researchers and PhDs. The next Cellulose International Summit will take place in 2028 at Kanazawa University.

22nd European Conference on Composite Materials (ECCM22)

The 22nd European Conference on Composite Materials (ECCM22) was held from **June 21–25, 2026,** at the Oslo Congress Center in Norway. This year's event set a record, bringing together over 1,600 attendees from 58 countries and featuring 1,000 talks across 11 parallel sessions.

The conference focused on sustainability and bio-derived composites. It also covered how these materials are used in fields like aerospace, automotive, energy, and building construction. Overall, it was a great event that facilitated exchange between academia and industry on the future of high-performance materials.

International Drying Symposium 2026, Paris, France, **25-28 August 2026**, https://ids2026.org/

2026 themes include: Simulation, AI, and advanced technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of drying in a resource-constrained world

18th European Workshop on Lignocellulosics and Pulp (EWLP), Vienna, Austria, **12-24 September 2026,** https://www.ewlp2026.org/

EWLP is a biennial event that brings together researchers, students, and industrial participants to discuss the latest advancements in lignocellulosic research. The conference covers a wide range of topics, including wood chemistry, lignocellulosic structures, analytical techniques, biorefinery technologies, and biotechnological approaches for producing new materials and products.

12th European Conference on Wood Modification (ECWM12), Dresden, Germany, on 26-27 October 2026, https://www.ecwm12.eu/

Conference includes topics such as thermal, chemical or impregation modifications, with technologies such as microwave, plasma, enzymatic processes, and more.

Joint Conference of IUFRO All-Division 5 and SWST, at the Estonian National Museum, May 30th- June 3rd, 2027

The next IUFRO (The International Union of Forest Research Organizations) **All-Division 5 (Forest Products) conference**, 2027, "*Future Forest Use: Advancing Wood Science and Forest Products for a Circular Bioeconomy*" will be jointly organised in cooperation with **SWST** and the Estonian University of Life Sciences.

The conference will address the numerous aspects of forest products as represented in 11 active research groups of Division 5, which can be summarised into key topics as follows: Future Wood, Wood Science, Wood Valorization, and Non-Wood Products. It goes beyond wood, emphasizing the efficient, science-based use of forest resources for the good of mankind. To date, there are more than 25 sessions have been accepted for organisation. Abstract submission is due by October 26th.

There will be a **special session organized by the Academy**. Session title: "From *Wood Anatomy to Circular Wood Products: New Pathways in Wood Science and Technology*".

Conference website
https://www.iufro-div5-2027.ee/

THE INNORENEW COE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
2026

5-6 November 2026 | Izola, Slovenia

This conference provides a forum for exploring renewable materials and their use in creating healthy and sustainable buildings, while also placing special emphasis on supporting the career development of **PhD students and early career researchers.**

This year's thematic sessions include advanced manufacturing, information processing, creativity and society, buildings, health, and materials. Other related topics are also welcome. Submissions of abstracts are due 15 August 2026.

For more information:

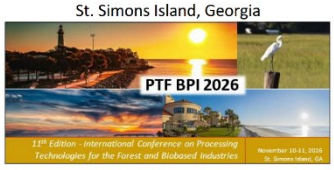
https://innorenew.eu/2026/06/innorenew-coe-iam-organizing-iric2026-conference/

PTF BPI 2026

Processing Technologies for the Forest and Biobased Panel Industries

November 10-11, 2026

St. Simons Island, Georgia



The 11th edition of the PTF BPI 2026 Conference Series (Processing Technologies for the Forest and Biobased Products Industries) will be held at St. Simons Island, GA on November 10-11, 2026, see https://agdatascience.tennessee.edu/ptf-bpi-2026/. The theme of this year's conference is '**Advancing Innovation Applications in AI for Resilience in a Circular Economy'**. Please feel free to submit an abstract to Tim Young at tmyoung1@utk.edu.

Afro-European Wood and Bark Anatomy Conference (AFEWBA) 2026, University of Johannesburg, November 17th-21st, 2026

The Afro-European Wood and Bark Anatomy Conference (AFEWBA), hosted by the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, will go back to the tradition of the Afro-European Regional group of IAWA (International Association of Wood Anatomists), and continue to provide this important academic platform for the wood anatomy community. The theme of the conference is origins, form and function of wood, bark and related tissues throughout the plant body. The deadline for abstract submission is September 1st, 2026.

Visit https://conferences.uj.ac.za/AFEWBA2026/

Obituary Paul Morris, 1957/58 – 2026

It is with great sadness that IAWS shares news of the passing of Dr. **Paul Morris**, who died on 17 June 2026 at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, Rae Collins.

Paul completed his PhD on the biological control of decay in poles under the supervision of Dr. David Dickinson at Imperial College London. In 1986, he and Rae emigrated to Vancouver, Canada, following an invitation from John Ruddick to join his research group at Forintek/UBC. There, Paul built a long and distinguished career within Forintek's Wood Protection group, based on the UBC campus, rising from scientist to Research Leader as the organisation evolved into what is now FPInnovations.

Paul was widely respected across the wood science community for his sharp mind, his good sense of humour, and — to those who knew him socially — his dance skills. He was very active in the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG), authoring or co-authoring 74 papers between 1981 and 2017, and also helped organise several IRG meetings. In 2013, he received the Award of Merit from the American Wood Protection Association, its highest honour, in recognition of his many contributions to wood protection standardization. In 2015, he became a Fellow of the IAWS.

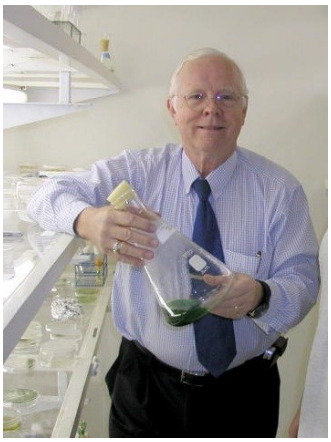
Beyond his professional accomplishments, Paul was above all a people person. He cared deeply about those around him and worked to help colleagues, staff and clients succeed, devoting much energy to mentoring younger researchers and developing his team.

He shared his passions widely — for wood science, the outdoors (gardening, hiking, backpacking and telemark skiing), and craft beer and home brewing. An excellent storyteller, he enjoyed a laugh with friends old and new.

Paul's contributions to wood protection science leave a lasting mark on our field. He will be greatly missed by the IAWS community and by colleagues around the world.

Stavros Avramidis, Rupert Wimmer

Obituary Richard Malcolm Brown Jr., 1939 – 2025



The wood science and cellulose research community mourns the loss of **Richard Malcolm Brown, Jr.**, who died on December 20, 2025, at the age of 86. His discoveries in cellulose biosynthesis reshaped our fundamental understanding of how nature's most abundant biopolymer is made — the very molecule that underlies the science of wood.

Born on January 2, 1939, in Pampa, Texas, Brown earned his PhD in botany from the University of Texas at Austin in 1964 and joined its botany faculty the following year. In 1968 he moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where, as an associate professor, he founded a laboratory dedicated to plant ultrastructural research centered on the biosynthesis of cellulose. It was there, together with student David Montezinos, that Brown achieved one of the defining breakthroughs of the field: the first direct visualization of a cellulose-synthesizing terminal complex, observed at the tip of a growing microfibril in the alga *Oocystis apiculata*. This finding gave physical form to what had until then been only a hypothesis — that ordered enzyme complexes embedded in the plasma membrane govern the assembly and orientation of cellulose microfibrils. Brown and his coworkers went on to characterize the "rosette" terminal complex, later shown to be the universal cellulose-synthesizing machinery of land plants, including mosses, ferns, liverworts, and certain green algae.

Promoted to full professor in 1973, Brown returned to the University of Texas at Austin in 1982 as the inaugural holder of the Johnson & Johnson Centennial Endowed Chair in Plant Cell Biology, a position he held for the remainder of his career. His research broadened to encompass cellulose biosynthesis across the tree of life — from vascular plants to bacteria, including his isolation in 1981 of a highly efficient cellulose-producing strain of *Gluconacetobacter (Acetobacter) hansenii* from a sugar mill in North Queensland, Australia, a strain that became a standard research organism still used in bacterial cellulose studies today. Later in his career, Brown's laboratory reported the discovery of cellulose biosynthesis in cyanobacteria, extending the known origins of the pathway and opening new lines of inquiry into cellulose-producing microbes as feedstocks for biofuels.

Across more than four decades, Brown authored and co-authored a substantial body of work on the structure, biosynthesis, and evolution of cellulose synthase and related glycosyltransferases, edited the reference volume *Cellulose: Molecular and Structural Biology*, and held patents on cellulose-related technologies. His research provided much of the molecular foundation on which modern understanding of wood and plant cell wall formation now rests, and his terminal-complex imaging remains a touchstone result cited throughout the cellulose and wood science literature.

Colleagues and former students remember him as an enthusiastic and generous mentor who supervised generations of graduate researchers. Beyond the laboratory, he was an accomplished pianist and composer, a gardener, and a photographer.

Rupert Wimmer

Obituary Takeshi Okano, 1938 – 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Emeritus **Takeshi Okano** of the University of Tokyo, a distinguished member of this Academy, on March 14, 2026, at the age of 87. We extend our heartfelt condolences and offer our sincere prayers for his peaceful repose.

Professor Okano graduated from the Department of Forest Products, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tokyo, in 1963. He subsequently devoted his academic career to the University of Tokyo, serving as Research Associate, Associate Professor, Professor in Wood Physics Laboratory, and finally Professor in Biomaterial Laboratory until his retirement in 1999. Professor Okano was a pioneer in the field of wood physics and cellulose science. His research focused on elucidating the structure of cellulose, a fundamental determinant of the mechanical and physical properties of wood. Among his many achievements, his collaboration with Professor A. Sarko at Syracuse University, State University of New York, was particularly influential. Their studies on the crystalline transformation of alkali cellulose gained international recognition and became a landmark contribution to resolving the long-standing parallel –antiparallel problem in cellulose crystallography. Through his lectures and mentorship, he trained many researchers who would later play central roles in advancing cellulose science internationally. Beyond his scholarly accomplishments, Professor Okano made outstanding contributions to the scientific community through his leadership and service. He served as President of both the Japan Wood Research Society and the Cellulose Society of Japan, contributing significantly to the advancement of cellulose science, wood science, and related disciplines.

Even after his retirement, he remained actively engaged in promoting the utilization of wood and sustainable bioresources. For nearly two decades, he continued to contribute to society through human resource development, public outreach, dissemination of scientific knowledge, and educational activities. Professor Okano was admired not only for his intellectual achievements but also for his personal character. His lifelong commitment to learning, his willingness to embrace new challenges, and his warm encouragement of younger generations left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of working with him.

Through his pioneering research, dedication to education, and leadership in building the foundations of the scientific community, Professor Okano made an enduring contribution to the development of cellulose science and helped establish its international prominence. We express our profound gratitude for his remarkable achievements and lasting legacy. As we remember his many contributions and his exemplary life, we extend our deepest respect and offer our sincere prayers for his eternal peace.

May he rest in peace.

Junji Sugiyama, Kyoto University

Obituary Sergei R. Loskutov, 1951–2026

With deep sorrow, we announce that on February 20, 2026, outstanding scientist, Doctor of Chemical Sciences, Professor, and Fellow of the IAWS, **Sergei Redzhinaldovich Loskutov**, passed away. He made an enormous contribution to wood science in Russia and abroad.

Sergei R. Loskutov was born on June 14, 1951, in Krasnoyarsk. After graduating from the Faculty of Physics at Krasnoyarsk State University in 1973 with a degree in biophysics, he devoted his career to the study of wood.

His scientific life was tied to the V. N. Sukachev Institute of Forest, SB RAS, where he rose from young researcher to Head of the Laboratory of Physicochemical Biology of Woody Plants and Deputy Director for Research. He also taught at Siberian State Technological University (later Reshetnev Siberian State University of Science and Technology), inspiring new generations of specialists.

He defended his Candidate of Sciences dissertation in 1984 on the state of water in larch wood at positive and negative temperatures, and in 1999 earned his Doctor of Chemical Sciences degree for work on wood's interaction with physically active low molecular weight substances — research that became a fundamental contribution to the field. He authored or co-authored more than 150 publications, including the monographs Physical Foundations of Wood–Water Interaction (1989), Interaction of Wood with Physically Active Low Molecular Weight Substances (2004), Commercial Products from Coniferous Bark (2010), and Essays on Ornamental Woody Plants: The Arboretum of the V. N. Sukachev Institute of Forest, SB RAS (2021). He founded a scientific school whose ideas his students and colleagues continue to develop.

In 2001 he was elected a Fellow of IAWS. He served on the editorial board of the Siberian Journal of Forest Science and reviewed for journals including BioResources and Forests. His honors include the Certificate of Honour from the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences (1999) and the Honorary Badge "Silver Sigma" from the Presidium of SB RAS (2007).

An active member of the Regional Coordination Council of Wood Science under IAWS, he organized the 6th International Symposium in Memory of B. N. Ugolev, "Wood Structure, Properties, and Quality – 2018," in Krasnoyarsk, and served on program and scientific committees at conferences worldwide.

Colleagues remember him as a wise mentor and brilliant, deeply empathetic scientist of inexhaustible optimism. A connoisseur of music who wrote poetry, played guitar, and even roller skated, he stayed young at heart. Within his family he was a pillar of warmth and wisdom. His depth of thought, simplicity, humor, and inner nobility will be remembered by all who knew him. His memory will live on in the history of national and global science, in his students and colleagues, and in the traditions of his scientific school.

Galina Gorbacheva, Olga Shapchenkova, Xavier Deglise, Peter Niemz, Victor Sanaev

Journal Ranking—Wood Science & Technology (Google Scholar, by July 16, 2026)

- **h5-index** is the h-index for articles published in the last 5 complete years. It is the largest number h such that h articles published in 2020-2024 have at least h citations each
- **h5-median** for a publication is the median number of citations for the articles that make up its h5-index.

	Publication	h5-index	h5-median
1.	Cellulose	80	99
2.	Journal of Bioresources and Bioproducts	50	122
3.	BioResources	40	54
4.	Wood Science and Technology	33	42
5.	Journal of Renewable Materials	32	56
6.	European Journal of Wood and Wood Products	31	45
7.	Journal of Wood Science	28	41
8.	Wood Material Science & Engineering	28	38
9.	Holzforschung	26	34
10.	Journal of Textiles, Coloration and Polymer Science	24	38
11.	Maderas. Ciencia y Tecnología	19	25
12.	International Association of Wood Anatomists Journal	18	29
13.	Wood Research	17	24
14.	Nordic Pulp & Paper Research Journal	17	23
15.	Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology	16	25
16.	Cellulose Chemistry and Technology	16	20
17.	Floresta e Ambiente	15	18
18.	Advances in Bamboo Science	14	25
19.	Forest Products Journal	14	20
20.	International Wood Products Journal	13	18

Country	Fellows	Females
Australia	17	1
Austria	17	3
Bangladesh	1	0
Belgium	2	0
Brazil	5	1
Canada	47	4
Chile	4	0
China	41	6
Costa Rica	1	0
Czechia	2	0
Denmark	5	0
Egypt	1	0
Ethiopia	1	1
Finland	18	3
France	37	7
Georgia	1	0
Germany	46	1
Greece	3	0
Hungary	1	0
India	10	0
Indonesia	1	0
Ireland	0	0
Israel	4	0
Italy	5	2
Japan	59	1
Kenya	0	0
Korea, South	8	0
Latvia	2	0
Malaysia	2	1
Mexico	2	1
Netherlands	2	1
New Zealand	16	1
Norway	4	0
Philippines	3	0
Poland	7	0
Portugal	1	0
Romania	5	1
Russia	16	2

Country	Fellows	Females
Slovakia	3	0
Slovenia	3	3
South Africa	5	1
Spain	2	2
Sweden	35	3
Switzerland	13	2
Taiwan	5	1
Turkey	1	0
Ukraine	1	0
United Kingdom	9	0
USA	156	8
Some statistics		
Total	630	100%
Deceased Fellows	214	34%
Fellows alive	416	66%/100%
Active Fellows	322	77%
Lifetime Fellows	173	41%
Retired Fellows	229	55%
Male Fellows	361	87%
Female Fellows	55	13%

Average age	Years
All Fellows	73
Male Fellows	74
Female Fellows	66

Affiliated Members elected in 2021
BioProducts Institute, UBC
Zhejiang Agricultural & Forestry University

Affiliated Members elected in 2020
International Association of Wood Anatomists
Korean Society of Wood Science & Technology, Korea
South West Forestry University, China
National Institute of Forest Science, Korea

Affiliated Members elected in 2017
International Wood Culture Society, USA
Department of Wood Science – UBC, Canada

Fellows elected in 2025
Jinzhen CAO, China
Lihui CHEN, China
Stephen J. EICHHORN, Great Britain
Mark HUGHES, Finland
Joseph JAKES, USA
Jan-William VAN DE KUILEN, Germany
Carsten MAI, Germany
Orlando ROJAS, Canada
Yan YU, China
Kenji UMEMURA, Japan
Feng JIANG, Canada
Clemens ALTANER, New Zealand
Dennis JONES, Sweden
Zhaoyang XU, China

Fellows elected in 2024
Marius BARBU, Austria
Alan CRIVELLARO, Italy
Notburga GIERLINGER, Austria
Lidia GURAU, Romania
Hoon KIM, USA
Fangong KONG, China
Ahmed KOUBAA, Canada
Meng-Zhu LU, China
Roger MEDER, Australia
Fidel Alejandro ROIG, Argentina
Zhaohui (Julene) TONG, USA
Pradeep VERMA, India
Wenji YU, China

Fellows elected in 2023
Stergios ADAMOPOULOS, Sweden
Dilpreet BAJWA, USA
Charlotte Gjelstrup BJORDAL, Sweden
Andreas KRAUSE, Germany
Kecheng LI, USA
Shengquan LIU, China
Lee Ann NEWSOM, USA
Yann ROGAUME, France
Markus RUEGGEBERG, Germany
Ge WANG, China

Fellows elected in 2022
Pavlo BEKHTA, Ukraine
Rowland BURDON, New Zealand
Laurent MATUANA, USA
Nicole STARK, USA
Yan XIAO, China

Fellows deceased in 2026
Paul MORRIS, USA
Okano TAKESHI

Fellows deceased in 2025
Richard Malcolm BROWN Jr., USA
T. Kent KIRK, USA
Robert M. KELLOGG, Canada

Fellows deceased in 2024
Pieter BAAS, The Netherlands
Olaf SCHMIDT, Germany

Fellows deceased in 2023
Walter LIESE Germany
Benhua FEI, China

Fellows deceased in 2022
Frank BEALL, USA
Günter SCHULTZE-DEWITZ, Germany

Affiliate Members shall be educational, research, industrial, or governmental organizations and individuals, who are actively engaged in carrying out or promoting research in wood science or the enhanced utilization of wood on the basis of scientific or technological principles and practices. The importance of Affiliates to the Academy is two-fold:

• The Academy derives direct contact with organizations and individuals actively engaged in the utilization of wood and wood products.

Contact details are available on the IAWS website.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS LIST

- BAUMAN MOSCOW STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY/MYTISHCHI BRANCH , Russia, www.bmstu.ru/en
- BIOPRODUCTS INSTITUTE, UBC, Canada, https://bpi.ubc.ca/
- CHINESE ACADEMY of FORESTRY (CAF), China, www.caf.ac.cn
- CIRAD FORETS (French Agricultural Research Center for International Development), France, www.ur-bois-tropicaux.cirad.fr
- DEPARTMENT OF WOOD SCIENCE – UBC, Canada, www.wood.ubc.ca/
- ESB- ECOLE SUPÉRIEURE DU BOIS, France, www.ecoledubois.com
- FRAUNHOFER-INSTITUTE OF WOOD RESEARCH, Germany, www.wki.fraunhofer.de
- HOLZFORSCHUNG MÜNCHEN, Germany, www.holz.wzw.tum.de
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOD ANATOMISTS, www.iawa-website.org
- INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF BAMBOO AND RATTAN, China, www.icbr.ac.cn/en
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- KYOTO UNIVERSITY, Japan, www.rish.kyoto-u.ac.jp
- MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, USA, www.cfr.msstate.edu/forestp
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOREST SCIENCE, Korea,
- OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, USA, www.woodscience.oregonstate.edu
- RISE - RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF SWEDEN, Sweden, www.ri.se/en
- SCION, New Zealand, www.scionresearch.com
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- UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, Germany, www.holz.uni-goettingen.de
- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, USA, www.bbe.umn.edu
- US FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY, USA, www.fpl.fs.fed.us
- VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY, HANOI, VIETNAM, Vietnam, www.vnuf.edu.vn
- WOOD TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE, Poland, www.itd.poznan.pl
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