



48th SME North American Manufacturing Research Conference, NAMRC 48 (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

## Preface

Livan Fratini<sup>a\*</sup>, Ihab Ragai<sup>b</sup>, Lihui Wang<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

<sup>b</sup>Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

<sup>c</sup>KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39-91-238-61851.

E-mail address: [livan.fratini@unipa.it](mailto:livan.fratini@unipa.it)

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Peer-review under responsibility of the Scientific Committee of the NAMRI/SME.

We are delighted and proud to present the collection of manufacturing research at the 48th North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC 48). NAMRC has a rich tradition, started by a group of distinguished manufacturing researchers, we called them Founders, in North America in 1973. After 48 years, NAMRC is recognized as a preeminent and longest-running international forum for presentations and dissemination of original basic and applied research in advanced manufacturing. Additionally, it is considered the most relevant international forum of researches of immediate industrial interest.

Manufacturing today is considered fundamental for Governments and Communities for their nations' development. Research and innovation are the main keys to empower manufacturing and to strengthen the economy of Nations and of the whole World. Such role and positioning of manufacturing research are globally represented in the quality and quantity of the 168 research papers selected by the Scientific Committee for presentation at NAMRC 48. NAMRC 48 was collocated with MSEC2020/LEM&P, and coordinated by the Conference Coordinating Committee (CCC) involving the host, NAMRI, ASME and JSME. The conference was planned to take place at the University of Cincinnati, OH, USA, June 22-26, 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19

pandemic, after careful consideration, the final CCC recommendation was to cancel NAMRC 48 and the collocated conferences. Discussions started in late February and March 2020 on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on attendance at NAMRC 48. Concern for the safety of attendees prompted discussions to the cancellation of the conference. Carefully considering the situation, NAMRI Board and NAMRI Scientific Committee, with the strong support from SME, determined that the reported scientific outputs of authors deserved timely dissemination to be on the cutting edge, maximizing the impact of their research despite this difficult time. Along the same consideration, ASME and JSME have decided to support the publication of the proceedings for MSEC and LEM&P.

These Proceedings would not have been published without the willingness and support given by Elsevier in this critical situation. NAMRI/SME acknowledge the courtesy and endorsements given by Elsevier and by all other stakeholders who contributed to the uninterrupted publication of NAMRC 48 Proceedings.

The Scientific Committee of the North American Manufacturing Research Institution of SME (NAMRI/SME) is the driving force in organizing NAMRC conference series and managing the quality publications of NAMRC papers.

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39-91-238-61851.

E-mail address: [livan.fratini@unipa.it](mailto:livan.fratini@unipa.it)

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The Proceedings of NAMRI/SME was published in Elsevier's Procedia Manufacturing, an open access venue for manufacturing conference proceedings, for the first time in 2015. The publication in Procedia Manufacturing has broadened the availability of NAMRC papers and helped the widespread dissemination of our manufacturing research findings. Top NAMRC papers are selected by the Scientific Committee and recommended for fast-tracking to SME's Journal of Manufacturing Systems (JMS) and Journal of Manufacturing Processes (JMP), also published by Elsevier.

The association with Procedia Manufacturing shortens the lead-time of fast-tracking to JMS and JMP. In close collaboration with Professors Lihui Wang (JMS Editor) and Shiv Kapoor (JMP Editor), we have fast-tracked 5 and 19 papers from NAMRC 48 for publication in 2020 Journal of Manufacturing Systems (JMS) and Journal of Manufacturing Processes (JMP), respectively.

The Scientific Committee of NAMRI/SME is solely responsible for NAMRC paper review and quality control. Six

thematic tracks are included in the Scientific Committee for NAMRC 48, namely Manufacturing Systems, Manufacturing Processes, Material Removal, Additive Manufacturing, Smart Manufacturing – Processes, Systems and Integration, Industrial Applications and Manufacturing Education, as illustrated in the organization chart in Fig. 1. Several members of the Scientific Committee also serve in JMS or JMP as Associate Editors who can safeguard the quality of fast-tracked NAMRC papers to the journals. The assistance and dedication of the Track Chairs, Co-Chairs and all Members are important to the Scientific Committee and crucial to the success of NAMRC 48. Their services and contributions are greatly appreciated. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fast-tracking support of Professors Lihui Wang and Shiv Kapoor, the professional support of the NAMRI/SME Board of Directors SME staff Suzy Marzano. We also would like to recognize the publishing support of Timo Bazuin of Elsevier. With their support, we are confident and excited about the future of NAMRC conferences and our manufacturing research in general.

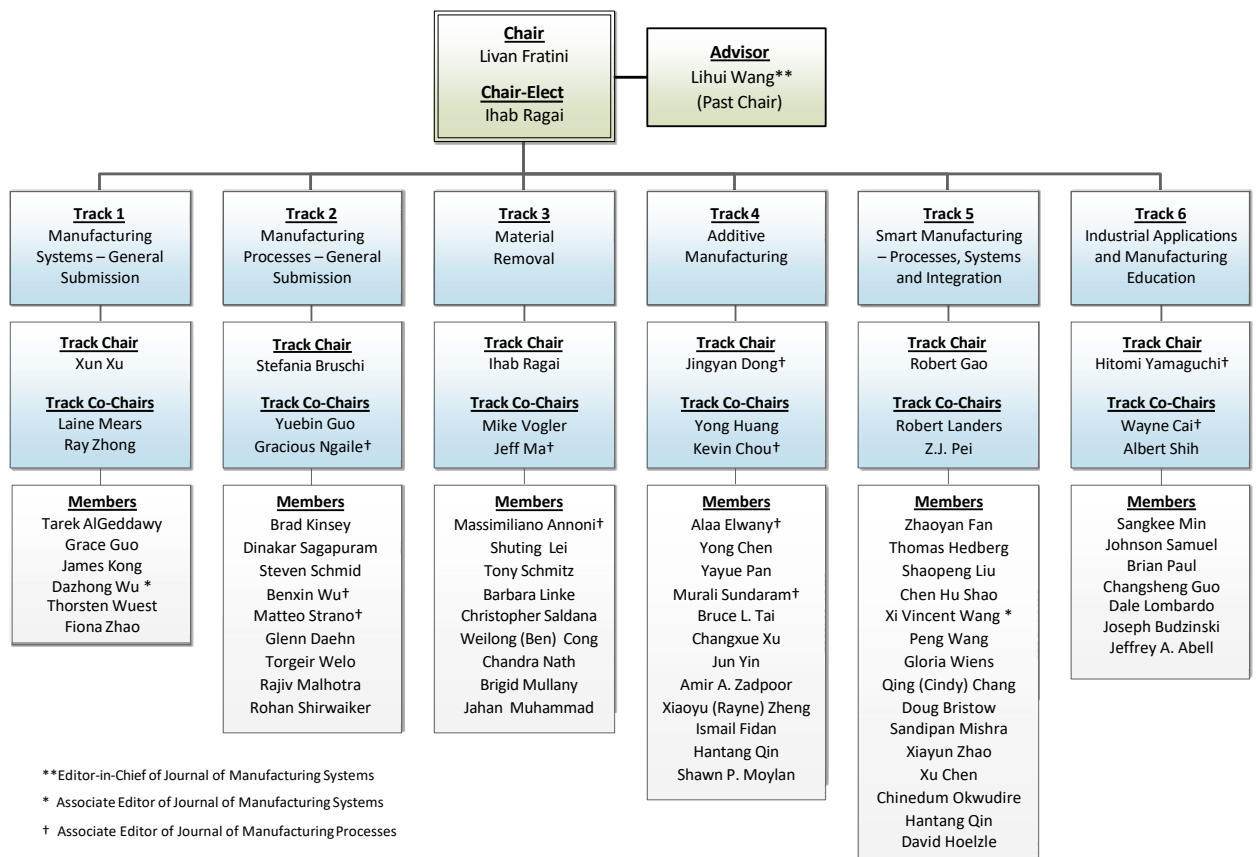


Fig. 1. Organization of NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee.

Livan Fratini

*NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Chair*

*University of Palermo, Italy*

Ihab Ragai

*NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Chair-Elect*

*Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA*

Lihui Wang

*NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Advisor*

*KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden*