



## Preface

Lihui Wang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Livan Fratini<sup>b</sup>, Albert J. Shih<sup>c</sup>

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

<sup>b</sup>*University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy*

<sup>c</sup>*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA*

We are delighted and proud to present the collection of manufacturing research at the 45th North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC 45). NAMRC has a rich tradition, started by a group of distinguished manufacturing researchers, we called them Founders, in North America in 1973. After 45 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.

Manufacturing has regained global recognition and increased investment in research funding support due to its impact to positively transform the society. The renaissance of manufacturing research globally is represented in the quality and quantity of the 132 research papers presented at NAMRC 45 held at the University of Southern California on June 4-8, 2017 in Los Angeles, California, USA. The Scientific Committee of the North American Manufacturing Research Institution of SME (NAMRI/SME) is the driving force in organizing the NAMRC conference series and managing the quality publications of NAMRC papers.

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 Neil Duffie (JMS Editor) and Shiv Kapoor (JMP Editor), we have fast-tracked 8 and 20 papers from NAMRC 45 to JMS and JMP, respectively, in 2017.

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 45, as illustrated in the organization chart below. 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.

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\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +46-8-790-8305.

E-mail address: [lihui.wang@iip.kth.se](mailto:lihui.wang@iip.kth.se)

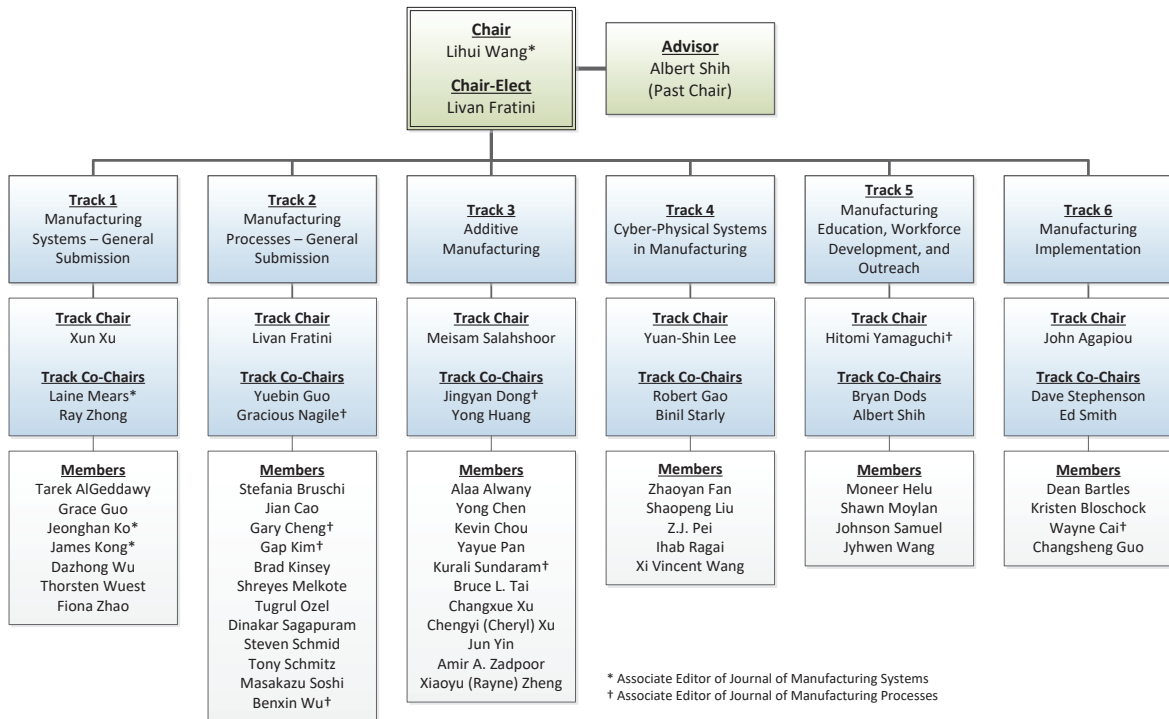


Fig. 1. Organization of NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee.

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 45. Their services and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fast-tracking support of Neil Duffie and Shiv Kapoor, the professional support of the NAMRI/SME Board of Directors and SME staff Suzy Marzano. We also would like to recognize the publishing support of Gaia Lupo and Timo Bazuin of Elsevier. With their support, we are confident and excited about the future of NAMRC conferences and our manufacturing research in general.

Lihui Wang  
NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Chair  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Livan Fratini  
NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Chair-Elect  
University of Palermo, Italy

Albert J. Shih  
NAMRI/SME Scientific Committee Advisor  
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, USA