



## **TAPPI NET Division Announces Key Award Winners to be Honored at NETInc 2014**

**TAPPI's Nonwovens Engineers & Technologists Division has announced their award winners for the 2014 NETInc conference. The top NET division awards are the Nonwovens Leadership & Service Award and Dow Chemical Company Prize, the Nonwovens Technical Award and Mark Hollingsworth Prize, and the Innovations in Nonwovens Award, sponsored by HERTY.**

**Dr. Behnam Pourdeyhimi, Professor of Materials in the College of Textiles at North Carolina State University, has been named recipient of the Leadership and Service Award and Dow Chemical Company Prize which recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership and exceptional service which have resulted in significant and demonstrable benefits to the Division's members.**

**"Dr. Pourdeyhimi has been a tireless and dedicated member whose efforts have provided great benefit to TAPPI and its members over the course of a highly successful career in academia and research," notes Larry N. Montague, TAPPI President and CEO. "He's made significant contributions to the nonwovens industry as a notable and highly respected educator of many of today's scientists as well as a highly effective researcher and manager. He's a superb choice for the Leadership and Service Award."**



**The William A. Klopman Distinguished Chaired Professor of Materials in the College of Textiles at North Carolina State University, Pourdeyhimi is also Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Associate Dean for Industry Research and Extension. He's the Founding Executive Director of the Nonwovens Institute. Previously he taught at the Georgia Institute of Technology and served on the faculty at the University of Maryland.**

**His research interests include responsive fibrous systems, filtration, computational modeling, materials, failure mechanisms, software algorithms, optics and image analysis. He has published widely on numerous subjects and holds more than 30 patents. He has a PhD from the University of Leeds.**

**He's the recipient of several awards including the Distinguished Achievement Award by the Fiber Society, TAPPI Technical Achievement and Hollingsworth Award and INDA's Lifetime Technical Achievement Award. He's served as the President of the Fiber Society and is a Fellow of the Textile Institute in the United Kingdom.**

**Gajanan S. Bhat of the University of Tennessee is the recipient of the 2014 TAPPI NET Division Technical Award and Mark Hollingsworth Prize. The award is intended to recognize outstanding accomplishments or contributions which have advanced the industry's technology in the awarding division's field of interest.**



**“During his career Dr. Bhat has made tremendous contributions as both an educator of some of the nonwovens industry’s best young scientists and engineers as well as directing ground breaking research into cutting edge nonwovens technology and applications such as nanotechnology,” notes Larry N. Montague, TAPPI President and CEO. “His research and development work has significantly advanced the industry’s technical knowledge in nonwovens fibers, processing and applications and make him an outstanding choice for the Division Technical Award.”**

**Dr. Bhat is currently a Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Director of the Nonwoven Materials Research Laboratory at the University of Tennessee, where he’s been instrumental in expanding research efforts and in establishing the world’s only pilot plant able to evaluate technologies for melt blown nanofiber nonwovens. His research work in nonwovens covers a broad range of areas including melt blown, spun bonded and biodegradable fibers, plastics recycling, nanotechnology and sustainable materials. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses he mentors masters and doctoral students and many of them have gone on to become nonwovens industry scientists.**

**Dr. Bhat has published more than 200 research papers and holds three U.S. Patents. He’s active in several industry organizations including the Fiber Society, Textile Institute and INDA, as well as serving on the editorial boards of professional journals including the Journal of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, Journal of Textiles and Journal of Nanomaterials. A TAPPI member since 2002 he’s served in a variety of roles including developing Technical Information Papers, organizing technical conferences and worked as Education Coordinator. He’s been honored with the Fiber Society’s Distinguished Achievement Award and is a Fellow of the Textile Institute. Dr. Bhat has a Ph. D. in Textile and Polymer Science and M. S. in Textile Engineering from Georgia Tech.**

**Pierre Grondin of Polymer Group Inc. will be presented the 2014 TAPPI NET Division Innovations in Nonwovens Award. The award recognizes an individual who is moving the nonwovens industry forward through innovation. The award, sponsored by Herty, will be presented at the opening session of the 2014 NETINC Conference**



**“During a career spanning nearly four decades Pierre Grondin has made significant contributions to the development of many new applications, products and technology in the nonwovens industry,” commented Larry N. Montague, President and CEO, TAPPI. “TAPPI is very pleased to recognize him for his continued efforts and contributions to the industry by presenting him with this prestigious award.”**

**Grondin has been involved for nearly 35 years with polymer based technologies. For the past 20 years he has been working on the development of nonwovens as a member of the R&D community at Polymer Group, Inc. A graduate from the University of Sherbrooke with a M.S. in Chemistry he also holds several patents and has been involved in the development and commercialization of several successful products. He's been an active participant in the Nonwovens Institute's research consortium where he's also been an instructor.**

**For more information regarding the 2014 NETInc Conference visit [www.netincevent.org](http://www.netincevent.org) .**