Preface

The 31st Annual Technical Conference of the American Society for Composites (ASC) was held in conjunction with the annual ASTM Committee D30 meeting at the Williamsburg Lodge Hotel from September 19 to 22, 2016.

The conference provided a forum for the composites community to present the latest developments in the field as well as to discuss the challenges and future outlook associated with composite materials and structures. A total of 280 technical papers were presented in 83 sessions. The conference also featured two panel sessions, three plenary talks, two keynote presentations and one topic overview presentation. Two ASTM D30 Committee meetings were held in parallel with the conference on the morning of September 21st, and 8 more D30 meetings were held on September 22nd. During the afternoon of September 21st, an optional "VIP Tour" of NASA Langley Research Center was offered in which approximately 80 people participated.

The plenary speakers and their presentations were: Dr. Brian Cox of Arachne Consulting, *Stochastic Virtual Tests for Multiple Scales*; Dr. Tia Benson Tolle, Director, Advanced Materials, Boeing Commercial Aircraft, *Composites in the Mainstream*; and Dr. Jack Gillespie, University of Delaware and the 2016 Recipient of the ASTM D30 Wayne W. Stinchcomb Memorial Award, *Carbon/Thermoplastic Composites for Automotive Applications*. In addition, astronaut Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg gave a presentation entitled *Engineering Challenges in Human Spaceflight* at the ASC Dinner Banquet on September 21st.

A special symposium was organized in memory of Jeffery Schaff, a longtime contributor to the field of composite materials, who lost a valiant battle against appendix cancer on December 15, 2014. Jeffery was a wonderful person who will be greatly missed.

The success of this conference is due to the strong contributions of many individuals, including topic organizers, advisors, editorial assistants and conference organizers. The names of these individuals are provided below.

We would also like to thank and recognize the conference sponsors: Syracuse University, The University of Utah, ASTM Committee D30, the International Association for the Engineering Modelling, Analysis and Simulation Community (NAFEMS), the Composites Design and Manufacturing Hub (cdmHUB), DEStech Publications, Inc., and the National Institute of Aerospace.

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Barry D. Davidson, Syracuse University
James G. Ratcliff, NASA Langley Research Center
Michael W. Czabaj, University of Utah
September 2016

Topic Organizers, Advisors and Contributors:

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