

2017 Judging Panel

DuPont Awards for Packaging Innovation

DuPont sets the foundation for the 2017 DuPont Awards for Packaging Innovation with the selection of judges who decide which packaging solutions exhibit excellence in technological advancement, responsible packaging and enhanced user experience from the pool of global nominations.

The panel is instrumental in preserving the integrity of the industry's longest running, independently-judged awards program. Hailing from around the globe and across the packaging value chain, they bring a wide and diverse perspective that enables them to thoroughly assess which entries are game-changing packaging innovations.

Meet the 2017 Judging Panel:

Okday Aral – Global Flexible Packaging R&D Lead, pladis, Turkey



Okday Aral is a Global Flexible Packaging R&D Lead for pladis and the inventor or co-inventor of various patents in the field of BOPP films. Before his work with pladis, Okday worked at Raks Electronics, a major A/V magnetic media manufacturer. He also helped develop various types of magnetic tapes/cassettes for consumer use.

Later, Okday was assigned as R&D group manager of the whole packaging group under the umbrella of Yıldız Holding, consisting of Polinas, Farmamak, which focused on rigid foils and sheet extrusion, and Rotopas, which focused on stretch films and culinary products. Okday studied Chemistry at Middle East Technical University, Ankara.

Jason Barber – Principal R&D Engineer, PepsiCo, USA



Jason Barber is a Principal R&D Engineer for PepsiCo in the Frito Lay division where he is responsible for global converter and film development as well as qualifications. Before his work with Frito Lay, Jason held positions in Process Engineering and Product Development for major US and global suppliers in the areas of multilayer film and converting. Jason received his first patent in 2006 for organoleptic packaging formulations. He graduated with Specials Honors with a B.S. in Biology from Jacksonville State University.

David Luttenberger, CPP – Global Packaging Director, Mintel Group Ltd., USA, LEAD JUDGE



David Luttenberger is a 24-year veteran of the packaging industry. He is currently the Global Packaging Director at Mintel Group, Ltd., the leading market intelligence service serving the global CPG and packaging converter markets. In this role, David leads a team of seasoned packaging analysts and helps guide Mintel's global packaging-related research and analysis efforts.

David is the former VP/Packaging Strategist at CEB Iconoculture and the former Director of the competitive intelligence firm, Packaging Strategies. He has earned "Lifetime Certified Packaging Professional" status and has been recognized by the former Packaging & Technology Integrated Solutions as a Top Packaging Thought Leader. David is widely credited with recognizing the role packaging would play in corporate social responsibility, and he conceptualized, produced, and lead the first sustainable packaging conference in North America in 2003.

Tom Manske – Director, Global Snacks R&D – Packaging Research, Quality, Nutrition and Technology, The Kellogg Company, USA



Tom Manske is currently Kellogg Company's Director of Packaging for Global Snacks Research & Development. In his current role, he leads a team focused on packaging innovation for both savory and wholesome snacks for such brands as Pringles, Cheez-It, Special K, and Nutrigrain.

Tom has 18 years of package development experience across a range of consumer goods. Prior to joining Kellogg in 2012, he led package innovation at P&G for a number of categories including coffee (Folgers, Millstone, Dunkin' Donuts), pet food (Iams and Eukanuba), and snacks (Pringles). Tom received a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Anirban Mukherjee – Director Global Packaging – Asia Pacific, Johnson & Johnson, Singapore



Anirban Mukherjee serves as part of the packaging leadership committee of global Johnson & Johnson. He heads the packaging development & the technical support groups for Johnson & Johnson Consumer HealthCare in Asia Pacific, leading a group that supports a portfolio of products spanning across beauty care, oral care, wound care, OTC medication, women's health, and baby care products.

Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Anirban worked with Procter & Gamble, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer HealthCare, Unilever and Huhtamaki. He has a deep technical understanding of manufacturing of both rigid and flexible packaging, having led technology development portfolios for rigid packaging for Procter & Gamble in Asia and in business development at Huhtamaki. Currently based in Singapore, he graduated in Advanced Physics from Calcutta University, India and holds a post graduate degree from Indian Institute of Packaging.

Eric Pavone, Business Development Director - Web-fed, BOBST, Switzerland



Eric Pavone is the Business Development Director of the Business Unit Web-fed at BOBST. Eric is responsible for developing the overall business of the BOBST organization in the flexible materials industry and for gaining market share through the development of global new market opportunities and strategic partnerships worldwide. He is especially focused on Flexo, Gravure and Coating & Laminating, Label and Metallisation products.

Eric started his career within BOBST in 1990 and held various senior managerial positions – including Gravure Product Line Manager and Gravure Customer Service Manager for BOBST North America – before being appointed as Business Director of Business Unit Web-fed in 2011. As of January 1, 2017, Eric dedicates his time fully to business development across the Business Unit Web-fed in order to fulfill the increasingly high demands of the markets. Eric holds a Master's degree in Enterprise Studies at IMD, Switzerland, and has successfully completed the Management Executive Education program at INSEAD Business School, France.

Hari Reddy, Vice President R&D, Bemis North America, Bemis Company Inc., USA



Dr. Hari Reddy is Vice President R&D for Bemis North America, a position he has held for the last three years. Dr. Reddy currently partners with the Bemis North America business leadership team and Bemis Global R&D organization to drive short- and long-term growth programs, support key global leveraging activities, as well as an enhanced product development stage gate process.

Dr. Reddy began his career with Dow Chemical nearly 20 years ago, where he held a number of roles, including Corporate Research Scientist, Research Manager for Corporate Materials Research Group, General Manager Asia Pacific R&D for Dow Building Solutions, and General Manager Global Insulation Products. Dr. Reddy has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Osmania University, India, and a MS and PhD in Engineering Mechanics and Materials Engineering Science, respectively, from Virginia Tech. Dr. Reddy has also completed an Executive Program at MIT's Sloan School with a focus on "Strategy and Innovation."

Claire Sarantopoulos – Senior Scientist, Center of Packaging Technology of the Food Technology Institute, Brazil



A professor of Packaging Engineering at Maua Institute of Technology – São Paulo, Brazil, Claire Sarantopoulos brings over 30 years' experience working in packaging in both RD&I and academia. In her role as a packaging researcher, she focuses on studying plastic packages with a special focus on barrier properties, active and intelligent packages, and packed food and beverage preservation. As a sought-after packaging expert, Claire has recently led four studies on consumer trends related to the packaging of foods and beverages.

Claire also serves as editor in chief of the Brazilian Journal of Food Technology and collaborates frequently with Brazilian Packaging Magazines. Over the course of her career, she has authored or co-authored 44 books and over 50 original research papers on package performance and shelf life of packed foods. She earned her degree as a Food Engineer from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas - UNICAMP, Brazil.

Richard Smith - Manufacturing Systems Manager, Amcor Flexibles Asia Pacific, Australia



Based in Melbourne, Australia, Richard Smith serves as Manufacturing Systems Manager for Amcor Flexibles' Asia Pacific Australian business unit, with responsibility for innovation in manufacturing to drive excellence in quality and customer responsiveness. Previously, he served as Director of R&D and Innovation Excellence for Amcor Flexibles Asia Pacific, based in Singapore, with responsibility to drive growth for Amcor's regional customers through best-practice in R&D and Innovation. He was also Sustainability Leader for Amcor Flexibles Asia Pacific, working with Amcor's customers to explore how to address their sustainability goals through responsible flexible packaging solutions.

Since completing a degree in Chemical Engineering at Melbourne University in 1985, Richard has worked both regionally in Asia Pacific and internationally in packaging-related industries. In 2013, he was named a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Packaging for the significant contributions he has made to the development of polymers and innovative plastics packaging across a diverse range of packaging mediums, including rigid containers, closures, trays and, more recently, flexible packaging.



For more information, visit

packagingawards.dupont.com