

— 2026 —
IIW AWARDS

Honouring significant contributions to welding and joining technology
and the International Institute of Welding

79TH

ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY
AND INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
WELDING AND JOINING

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

— 12-17 JULY 2026 —



Join to the future



At this Opening Ceremony of the 79th Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining is honoring the winners of this year's prestigious IIW Awards and acknowledging their significant contributions to welding and joining around the world.

IIW Awards recognise a wide range of achievements such as outstanding technical accomplishments and contributions to IIW Working Units, illustrious careers in the industry or academia, contributions to global advancement and meritorious service to IIW.

At this 79th Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining, IIW Annual Awards acknowledge not only people with outstanding accomplishments or technical achievements, illustrious careers or long and meritorious service to the IIW around the world, but also encourage promising young professionals who are our future industry and Institute leaders.

IIW is proud to promote and recognise distinction through its numerous prizes and awards, often sponsored by Member Societies. Many are named to pay tribute to eminent individuals who were founding fathers of IIW or champions of its global role, or made significant contributions to the development and implementation of scientific and technical advances in welding and allied processes.

It was the dedication and vision of these famous IIW personalities which set the stage for the organisation to be recognised today as the largest and most prestigious worldwide network for the exchange of knowledge and cooperation in a wide range of joining and related technologies.

Our heartiest congratulations go to the 79th Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining winners whose achievements and professionalism, whether at the peak of the mountains or in the foothills, are outstanding examples of determination on the pathway to excellence.

2026

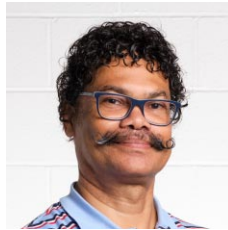
IIW AWARDS



Doug Kautz



Peter Mayr



Warren Migletti



Fumiyoshi Minami



Herbert Staufer



Manabu Tanaka



YuMing Zhang



Patricio Mendez



Yongbing Li



Robert E. Shaw, Jr.



Murali Tumuluru



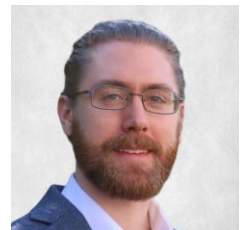
Mike Bernasek



Wataru Mizunuma



Robert E. Shaw, Jr.



Cole Franz



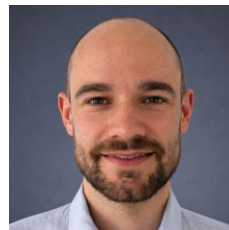
Dongdong Zhang



Mehdi Ghanadi



David Phillips



Michael Clemens



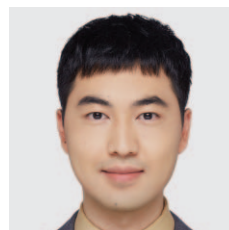
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More information about IIW's recognition of people is found at www.iiwelding.org



FELLOW OF THE IIW AWARD

Sponsored by IIW



Recognises individuals with a minimum of 10 years' active participation in IIW who have made distinguished contributions to welding science and technology and promoted and sustained the professional stature of the field

Doug Kautz

Doug has Bachelor and Master's degrees from Colorado School of Mines in Metallurgical Engineering. He started his career with Rockwell International performing welding development. Following that he moved to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory performing welding research and development, along with supporting development of high-power laser systems. He then moved to Los Alamos National Laboratory where he supported manufacturing development activities across several industrial processes. He is now partially retired and performs consulting work for the U.S. Department of Energy through a contract with Leidos, Inc.



Peter Mayr

Prof. Peter Mayr was born in Salzburg, Austria. He earned both his diploma in mechanical engineering and his Doctorate in Technical Sciences from Graz University of Technology. Following research appointments as a visiting scientist at the National Institute for Materials Science (Japan) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), he was appointed Professor of Welding Engineering at Chemnitz University of Technology. In 2019, he founded the Chair of Materials Engineering of Additive Manufacturing at the Technical University of Munich. His research focuses on establishing process-structure-property relationships for metallic materials and advanced joining and additive manufacturing processes, spanning both fundamental science and industrial applications. Prof. Mayr has been active in the International Institute of Welding (IIW) since 2008, when he was the Chairman of the International Conference in conjunction with the Annual Assembly. He was the long-standing chairman of Subcommittee IX-C (Creep- and Heat-Resistant Welds) and the founding chairman of Subcommittee IX-AM (Metallurgy of Additive Manufacturing). Additionally, he has served on the editorial board of Welding in the World for many years.



Warren Miglietti

Dr. Warren Miglietti is a graduate of the University of Pretoria (Ph.D)-South Africa and has 36 years of industry experience. His principal responsibility is the development of novel/cost effective repair techniques and processes for components, operating in advanced gas turbine engines. He has worked for GE, Alstom, ProEnergy, Sermatech (Praxair) and Prince & Izant. He is known for his expertise in Welding (GTAW, Laser and Electron Beam), Brazing, and Heat Treatment of Nickel & Cobalt base superalloys, as well as Titanium, Aluminum and Stainless Steels. Warren supported the international community as chairman of Commission XVII – "Brazing, Soldering and Diffusion Bonding" of IIW. He was past chairman of the Manufacturing, Materials and Metallurgy Committee of IGTI/ASME. He has authored/co-authored the publication of 74 technical papers and has 16 technology patents granted. He won some awards from AWS, ASME/IGTI and IIW, including a few Best Paper Awards.





Fumiyoshi Minami

Fumiyoshi Minami was appointed to an assistant professor at The University of Osaka after getting master's degree in Welding Engineering from Osaka University in 1980. He received a Doctor of Engineering in 1985, became an associate professor in 1990, and was promoted to a full professor in 2002. From 2017 to 2019, he served as the director of Joining & Welding Research Institute. Currently he is a professor emeritus, The University of Osaka. Prof. Minami has made outstanding achievements in the fracture assessment of steel structures based on welding mechanics and fracture mechanics. He dedicated to national and international standardization of a procedure for preventing unstable fracture in welded structures. His noteworthy implementation is found in the constraint-based assessment of fracture, designated as ISO 27306. Prof. Minami served as the president of the Japan Welding Society 2016-18 along with a director of the Japan Welding Engineering Society 2016-26. His current role is the Chairman of Japan Foundation for the Promotion of Welding and Joining Technology. He has made distinguished contribution to IIW as Chair of Com. X, Structural Performance of Welded Joints – Fracture Avoidance 2012-21, as a TMB member 2014-17 and as a member of Board of Directors 2015-18. He has received the 2025 Yoshiaki Arata Award from IIW.



Herbert Staufer

Dr. Herbert Staufer holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Vienna University of Technology (1993), where he subsequently served as a Scientific Assistant at the Institute of Material Science and Testing from 1994 to 1998. During this period, he also completed the European Laser Academy program in Cambridge and Vienna (1997). In 1998, he earned his Ph.D. in Material Science, specializing in fracture mechanics. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Staufer has established himself as a leading expert in laser-arc hybrid welding. Since 2009, he has been Team Leader for High-Performance Welding at Fronius International, where he is responsible for research and development in advanced welding processes for industrial applications. He has authored more than 30 scientific publications presented at international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Welding in the World*. In addition to his industrial work, Dr. Staufer has contributed extensively to international standardization efforts. As a long-standing member of the NA 092-00-21 AA Working Group on Laser Beam Welding and Related Processes (DVS AG V 9.2), he supported the development of key standards, including EN/ISO 12932 and ISO/DIS 23493. Dr. Staufer has played a major role in the International Institute of Welding (IIW). He served as Vice-Chairman (2011–2013) and later Chairman (2014–2022) of IIW Commission IV (Power Beam Processes). He was also a member of the IIW Technical Management Board (2019–2021) and the IIW Editorial Board (2017–2022). From 2022 to 2023 he served as Vice-Chairman of the IIW Working Group Technical Commissions.



Manabu Tanaka



Manabu Tanaka started his career as an Assistant Professor at the Joining and Welding Research Institute (JWRI), Osaka University, in 1992, after earning his BS, MS, and PhD degrees from the same university. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003 and became a Professor in 2008. He served as the Director of JWRI from 2015 to 2017 and again from 2019 to 2023. Subsequently, from 2023 to 2025, he held the position of Executive Vice President of The University of Osaka. Currently, he continues to serve as a Vice Director of JWRI. His contributions to academic societies are equally notable: he served as the Chairman of IIW SG212 from 2012 to 2021 and as a member of the IIW Board of Directors from 2020 to 2023. Since 2024, he has been serving as the President of the Japan Welding Society (JWS). Since 1997, he has participated in 26 Annual Assemblies of the IIW, playing a key role in developing the field of physics of welding arcs. He has published over 880 research papers and received numerous awards, including the Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan in 2021, as well as both the William Spraragen Memorial Award in 2020 and the Professor Koichi Masubuchi Award in 2008 from the American Welding Society (AWS).

YuMing Zhang



YuMing Zhang is a named professor at the University of Kentucky, USA. His research focuses on welding process innovation, monitoring, control, and robotization. He received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees all from Harbin Institute of Technology. Dr. Zhang's research has resulted in 12 U.S. patents, one European patent, and 200+ journal publications. He has received numerous distinctions, including the University Research Professor Award. He is also a Fellow of AWS, ASME, SME, IEEE, Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association (AAIA), and International Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance (AIIA). Dr. Zhang has been actively engaged with the IIW, supporting students in Granjon competition, organizing symposia on intelligent manufacturing, and serving WitW as Editorial Board Member, Guest Editor, and Reviewer.



EVGENY PATON AWARD

Sponsored by the Ukrainian E.O. Paton Electric Welding Institute

Recognizes individual who has made a significant contribution to science and technology through his lifetime dedication to «applied research and development in the field of advanced technologies, materials and equipment for welding and allied processes



Patricio Mendez

Prof. Mendez is the Weldco/Industry Chair in Welding and Joining and Director of Canadian Centre for Welding and Joining at University of Alberta. His teaching and research focus on physics and mathematics of welding and materials processing. Applications include wear protection overlays, procedure development, laser cladding, handheld laser welding, and additive manufacturing, always with an aim of helping people and industry improve quality, productivity, and costs. Before joining the University of Alberta, he was a professor at the Colorado School of Mines and a consulting engineer at Exponent Inc. In 1995 Dr. Mendez co-founded Semi-Solid Technologies Inc. in the US. Prof. Mendez holds a Ph.D. and a M.S. degree in Materials Engineering MIT, and a Mechanical Engineer degree from the University of Buenos Aires. His work is known for its depth into the physics and mechanisms present in welding and additive manufacturing, and has been sponsored by companies and branches of the government in the US and Canada. He is a Fellow of the IIW, AWS, and CWBA, and has received numerous international awards and patents. His students are active leaders in the welding community worldwide.



Yongbing Li

Prof. Yongbing Li is a Distinguished Professor at School of Mechanical Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), and Director of Shanghai Key Laboratory of Digital Manufacturing for Thin-Walled Structures. He obtained his academic degrees from Xi'an Jiaotong University and SJTU, with overseas research experience at the University of Michigan and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Additionally, he serves as a Member of Standing Committee of Welding Branch of China Mechanical Engineering Society and an Associate Editor of Journal of Manufacturing Processes. His research focuses on advanced welding/joining processes and intelligent manufacturing, with a specific emphasis on aerospace, automotive, and rail transit industries.



ARTHUR SMITH AWARD

Sponsored by the UK Delegation



Conferred upon an individual who, over numerous years, has given dedicated service to the objectives of IIW, particularly in the work of the Commissions

Robert E. Shaw, Jr.



Robert E. Shaw, Jr., PE, has been actively involved in IIW for over 25 years. He served as Chair of C-XV Design, Analysis and Fabrication of Welded Structures from 1996 to 2015, and as Chair of C-XVIII Quality Management in Welding and Allied Processes from 2016 to 2025. He served a total of seven years on the Technical Management Board, and chaired WG-Technical Commissions from 2021 to 2025. Elected to the IIW Board of Directors in 2020, he continued as Vice-President from 2022 to 2025, and served on WG-Governance as Vice-Chair. He chaired the Welding Charity Fund, now the Welding Education and Leadership Development Fund, for two years, and continues as an advisor. He was named an IIW Senator in 2025. Mr. Shaw is a Civil Engineering graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and is President of his consulting firm Steel Structures Technology Center, Inc., specializing in welded and bolted connections in the construction of steel buildings and bridges. He is also actively involved in industry standards, including those of IIW, ISO TC 167 Steel and Aluminium Structures, American Welding Society, American Institute of Steel Construction, Research Council on Structural Connections, and ASTM.



YOSHIAKI ARATA AWARD

Sponsored by the Japanese Delegation

Recognizes individual who has realized extraordinary achievements in fundamental research in welding science and technology and its allied areas, which have been recognized as significant contributions to the progress of welding engineering and related fields



Murali Tumuluru

Murali Tumuluru is a Senior Welding Consultant with Tumuluru Welding Consulting, LLC, bringing more than thirty five years of experience in welding research and engineering. He spent over twenty five years in the steel industry, where his work focused on the weldability of advanced high-strength steels (AHSS). His pioneering research significantly advanced the understanding of weldability and fracture behavior and supported the successful implementation of Generation 1 and Generation 3 AHSS grades in the automotive industry. Tumuluru has published extensively on the weldability of AHSS and has delivered numerous invited presentations and educational seminars worldwide. He holds degrees in materials and welding engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and The Ohio State University. Since leaving the steel industry, he has continued to contribute to the field through consulting in welding science and technology. He has been an active member of the several AWS committees and the International Institute of Welding (IIW), serving in Commission III as Co-Chair of Commission IIIA. He also serves as a Principal Reviewer for the Welding Journal and Welding in the World. Tumuluru has received numerous awards for his contributions to welding research and technology. These include the James F. Lincoln Gold Medal Award (2008 and 2011), the Elihu Thomson Resistance Welding Award (2012), the A.F. Davis Silver Medal Award (2013), the William Irrgang Medal Award (2019), and the R.D. Thomas Memorial Award (2019) from the American Welding Society. In 2023, he received the Evgeny Paton Medal from the IIW in recognition of his lifetime dedication to applied research and development in advanced welding technologies. He is a Fellow of both the American Welding Society (2013) and the International Institute of Welding (2021).



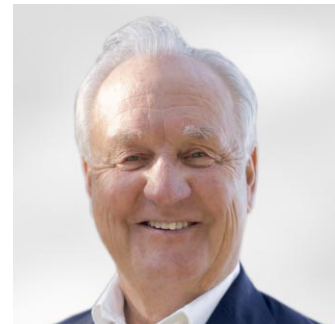
THOMAS MEDAL

Sponsored by AWS



Rewards an individual who has been involved in IIW/ISO international standards activities and can deliver a lecture on the incorporation of global studies into the standardisation for welding technologies

Mike Bernasek



Mike Bernasek is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of ASMEIX Corporation (d.b.a. C-SPEC), headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering (B.S. MetE) from the University of Nevada, Reno (1980). With more than four decades of experience in the welding industry, he is internationally recognized for pioneering the application of computer technology to welding codes and standards. An engineer, innovator, and educator, Mr. Bernasek has authored and presented numerous papers on the integration of software tools into welding engineering and code compliance. Through his leadership at C-SPEC, he developed WeldOffice®, a widely adopted software platform that has transformed the preparation and management of welding procedure and personnel qualification documentation worldwide. Mr. Bernasek plays a leading role in national and international standards development. He chairs ASME Section IX and AWS B2.1 subcommittees on materials and serves as a key contributor to multiple ASME, AWS, and ISO technical committees. As a U.S. delegate to ISO TC 44/SC 10 and SC 11, he has significantly influenced the development of ISO 9606, ISO 15614, and ISO 15608, contributing to the global harmonization of welding qualification practices and material classifications. Earlier in his career, Mr. Bernasek served as a metallurgical and welding engineer on major power, petrochemical, oil and gas, and aerospace projects, including work with Bechtel and Pacific Gas & Electric Company in San Francisco. His career reflects a sustained commitment to advancing welding technology by bridging practical engineering, standards development, and digital innovation, making complex code requirements more accessible to engineers and industry worldwide.



CHRIS SMALLBONE AWARD

Sponsored by the Member Societies of Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Serbia

Conferred on an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to improve the global quality of life through optimum use and innovation of welding and joining technologies in their region and internationally



Wataru Mizunuma

Prof. Wataru Mizunuma graduated from Department of Precision Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, The University of Tokyo and joined Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. in 1979, where he was involved in the technological development of industrial vehicles and served as project manager for big projects such as the mobile launcher system for the H2A rocket and heavy-duty Automatic Guided Vehicle systems for steel mills. In 2009, he became Executive Vice President of Rocla, a Finnish company that is a comprehensive logistics vehicle manufacturer and became Chief Operating Officer in 2012. In 2013, he joined the Japan Welding Engineering Society, and served as Executive Director for 11 years from 2014, dedicating himself to the development of the industry through technological advancement in the welding field, and worked on human resource development through new education and certification system such as Additive Manufacturing with promotion of the DX (Digital Transformation) of the certification business. He also contributed to international activities related to certification and education at IIW. He retired as Executive Director in 2025 but continues to work for the development of the welding field as an advisor. From 2026, he was appointed Guest Professor, Joining and Welding Research Institute, The University of Osaka.



WALTER EDSTRÖM MEDAL

Sponsored by the Swedish Delegation



Recognizes individual who, at their level of knowledge and responsibility,
have provided a remarkable and distinguished contribution to IIW
comparable with that made by Walter Edström himself

Robert E. Shaw, Jr.



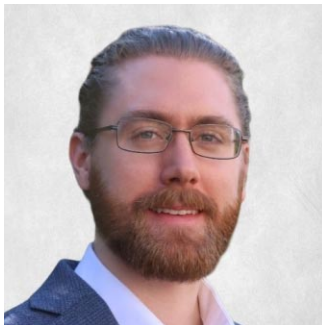
Robert E. Shaw, Jr., PE, has been actively involved in IIW for over 25 years. He served as Chair of C-XV Design, Analysis and Fabrication of Welded Structures from 1996 to 2015, and as Chair of C-XVIII Quality Management in Welding and Allied Processes from 2016 to 2025. He served a total of seven years on the Technical Management Board, and chaired WG-Technical Commissions from 2021 to 2025. Elected to the IIW Board of Directors in 2020, he continued as Vice-President from 2022 to 2025, and served on WG-Governance as Vice-Chair. He chaired the Welding Charity Fund, now the Welding Education and Leadership Development Fund, for two years, and continues as an advisor. He was named an IIW Senator in 2025. Mr. Shaw is a Civil Engineering graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and is President of his consulting firm Steel Structures Technology Center, Inc., specializing in welded and bolted connections in the construction of steel buildings and bridges. He is also actively involved in industry standards, including those of IIW, ISO TC 167 Steel and Aluminium Structures, American Welding Society, American Institute of Steel Construction, Research Council on Structural Connections, and ASTM.



HENRY GRANJON CAT. A AWARD

Sponsored by the French Delegation
CATEGORY A: Joining and Fabrication Technology

In recognition of his outstanding research paper
"Influence of Fine-Scale Plastic Flow on Residual Stresses in Additive Friction-Stir Deposition"



Cole Franz

Dr. Cole Franz is a materials scientist specializing in diffraction-based characterization of residual stress and microstructural evolution in solid-state additive manufacturing. He earned his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. There, he developed high-resolution synchrotron and full-tensor neutron diffraction methods to quantify fine-scale plastic strain accumulation and its role in residual stress development. He also developed an efficient model to predict part-scale thermal history in additive friction-stir deposition and improved uncertainty quantification in neutron diffraction residual strain calculations. He is currently a Post-Doctoral Research Associate focused on predictive modeling and advanced characterization of cold spray additive manufacturing.



HENRY GRANJON CAT. B AWARD

Sponsored by the French Delegation
CATEGORY B: Materials Behaviour and Weldability

In recognition of his outstanding research paper
"Elimination of Reheat Cracking in Advanced Low-Alloy Heat-Resistant Steel T23
by Regulating Carbon and Boron"



Dongdong Zhang

Dr. Dongdong Zhang received his Ph.D. in Materials Processing Engineering from Wuhan University under the supervision of Professor Xue Wang. His doctoral research focused on the mechanism and suppression strategies for reheating crack sensitivity in low-alloy heat-resistant steels. Currently, Dr. Dongdong Zhang works at the Institute of Materials, Henan Academy of Sciences, where he continues to conduct in-depth research on the welding metallurgy and failure mechanisms of novel heat-resistant steels. He is dedicated to advancing the engineering application of novel heat-resistant steel materials under high-temperature and harsh service conditions.



HENRY GRANJON CAT. C AWARD

Sponsored by the French Delegation
CATEGORY C: Design and Structural Integrity



In recognition of his outstanding research paper
“Exploring Size Effects in the Fatigue Behaviour of Lightweight Welded Structures”

Mehdi Ghanadi



Dr. Mehdi Ghanadi received his PhD from the Division of Material and Structural Mechanics at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. Currently, he is a CAE engineer at Volvo Construction Equipment in Sweden, where he works extensively on the fatigue and stress analysis of welded components for Articulated Haulers and Wheel Loaders. His PhD research focused on size effects, with particular emphasis on the thinness effect in fatigue-loaded welded structures, and incorporated finite element modelling, probabilistic modelling, and fatigue testing. The research focus, and the outcome of the research are top priority and importance for IIW, particularly Commission XIII. The results of his research will contribute to improving IIW recommendations regarding the application of high-strength steel materials, as existing fatigue design rules are often overly conservative for thin-walled welded structures. Furthermore, his work highlights the critical relationship between weld profile geometry and fatigue strength, which is essential for evaluating thin-walled welded joints under cyclic loading.



HALIL KAYA GEDIK AWARD

Sponsored by the Turkish Delegation

Recognises a scientist or engineer's significant contributions to the advancement welding science and technology



David Phillips

Dr. David Phillips is a professor in Ohio State's Welding Engineering program whose career reflects sustained excellence and leadership in Welding Engineering education. He is the sole author of "Welding Engineering: An Introduction", a popular Wiley-published textbook being used as a foundational educational resource for students as well as engineers. His excellence in teaching has been recognized through multiple teaching awards at the department, college, and national levels, and he was recently inducted by the American Welding Society as an AWS Counselor. Dr. Phillips holds a PhD, MS, and BS in Welding Engineering, is a licensed Professional Engineer and International Welding Engineer, and was also an AWS Certified Welding Inspector for 12 years, reinforcing his strong connection to industrial practice. Over 18 years at Ohio State, he has taught more than ten different Welding Engineering courses spanning the sophomore through graduate levels, drawing on extensive industrial experience to enrich his teaching.



WELDING IN THE WORLD BEST PAPER AWARD

Sponsored by the IIW



Category A: Welding Processes and Additive Manufacturing

In recognition of his outstanding research paper

"Recent developments of laser beam submerged arc hybrid welding in the thick sheet range"

Michael Clemens

Michael Clemens, M.Sc. (IWE) has been working as a research engineer at the Welding and Joining Institute (ISF) at RWTH Aachen University Germany since 2020. His field of work includes process development in the area of laser and laser-arc hybrid welding processes. His current research focuses on the further development of laser beam submerged arc hybrid welding (LUPuS Hybrid), created at the ISF, to enable more efficient processing of thick-walled sheets. Alongside public research, he and his colleagues support industrial projects involving laser and laser-hybrid welding.



Category B: Materials and Metallurgy

In recognition of his outstanding research paper

"Microstructural insight into the coarse grained heat affected zone of a high-strength all weld metal: development of a continuous cooling transformation diagram"

Daniel Schrittwieser

Daniel Schrittwieser obtained his MSc in Materials Science from the Technical University of Leoben. During his studies, he initially worked on fundamental research on titanium aluminides (TiAl) before shifting his focus towards the development of welding consumables for creep resistant steels as part of his master's thesis. Throughout his academic training, he completed several national and international internships and spent a semester abroad at Tampere University in Finland. He is currently close to completing his PhD at the Chair of Physical Metallurgy at the Technical University of Leoben, where his research focuses on the development of high strength welding consumables, with a particular emphasis on high resolution microscopy and the investigation of microstructural phenomena using synchrotron radiation.





Category C: Welding Design and Fitness-for-Purpose

In recognition of his outstanding research paper

"The use of the JV parameter for the fatigue life prediction in complex welded joints"



Paolo Livieri

Paolo Livieri is an Associate Professor of Machine Design at the Department of Engineering, University of Ferrara. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Padua with full marks (110/110 cum laude). On July 11, 1997, he obtained his PhD from the University of Florence, defending a dissertation entitled: "Influence of Elasto-Plastic Behavior on the Strength Characteristics of Mechanical Components." Since November 1998, he has been with the University of Ferrara as a Researcher in Machine Design, carrying out both research and teaching activities. In November 2006, he was appointed Associate Professor at the same university. In 2001 and 2006, he received awards from the Italian Association for Stress Analysis. Since 2012, he has been one of the coordinators of the AIAS Ph.D. School, which involves faculty members from around the world and students from across Europe. His research activity focuses on the structural reliability of mechanical components, fracture mechanics, and notch effect analysis in both linear and nonlinear regimes. He also collaborates with industrial partners on the experimental validation of components subjected to fatigue loading.



ANDRÈ LEROY AWARD

Sponsored by the French Delegation

In recognition of Weld VR



Asun Valiente

Maria Asuncion Valiente Bermejo (in short Asun Valiente) is an Associate Professor at University West (Sweden), specializing in welding metallurgy, stainless steels, and additive manufacturing. She has authored over 55 scientific publications and has received prestigious awards such as the Henry Granjon Prize in 2012 and the Welding in the World Best Paper Award in 2021. She has led and contributed to national and international research projects, serves as vice-chair in C-IX-H, and has extensive teaching experience at both industrial and university levels.





THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ONLINE 2026

Sponsored by IIW

In recognition of his outstanding overwork: "Improving Out-of-Distribution Generalization for Online Weld Expulsion Inspection Using Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINN)"



Yu-Jun Xia

Dr. Yu-Jun Xia is an Associate Professor at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). He received his B.S. degree in Welding Technology and Engineering and M.S. degree in Materials Processing Engineering from Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) in 2014 and 2016, respectively. He joined SJTU in 2016 and earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 2021. Currently, he is affiliated with the Shanghai Key Laboratory of Digital Manufacturing for Thin-Walled Structures at SJTU. His research interests focus on process monitoring, online inspection, and real-time control of spot joining processes, particularly resistance spot welding. In recent years, he has dedicated his work to the development of AI-driven monitoring technologies and instrumentation for welding quality control in the manufacturing of automobiles, rail trains, and spacecraft.

2026
IIW AWARDS

A WORLD OF JOINING EXPERIENCE

Presented to

Yoshinori Hirata

30 years

Seiji Katayama

Professor Emeritus

20 years

Hisashi Serizawa

20 years

Prof. Manabu Tanaka

20 years

Dr. Susanne Baumgartner

10 years

Dr. Baohua Chang

10 years

Ing. Peter Ďurík

10 years

Christoph Gerritsen

10 years

Dr. Matteo Pedemonte

10 years

Tomoyuki Tachibana

10 years

Zhuyao Zhang

10 years

IIW MISSION

To advance welding and joining through a worldwide network

IIW VISION

The leading global community linking industry, research and education to the advancement of welding and joining for a safer and sustainable world



Join to the future

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