



The [EMI 2016 / PMC 2016 conferences](#), i.e., the annual EMI conference and the quadrennial Probabilistic Mechanics and Reliability Conference were held on May 22-25, 2016 at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Counting the registered attendees, the plenary keynote lecturers, the award winners, the Vanderbilt University graduate students assisting with the organization of the conference, Vanderbilt University and EMI staff, there were about 700 attendees at the event.

[Two one-day short courses](#) were offered on May 22: “*Theory and Practice of the Generalized/eXtended Finite Element Method*” by C. Armando Duarte and Angelo

Simone (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and “*Bayesian Model Updating and Uncertainty Quantification: Theory, Computational Tools, and Applications*” by Babak Moaveni (Tufts University). The EMI Board of Governors and all the EMI committees but one met on the occasion of the conference.

The [conference technical program](#) included **697 presentations from 25 countries** organized in 38 EMI and 19 PMC mini-symposia, as well as [six plenary keynote lectures](#). Most of the time there were 13 or 14 parallel sessions. For the last afternoon session on Monday, May 23 and Tuesday, May 24, the PMC conference didn’t have parallel technical presentation sessions but had instead two well-attended panel discussion sessions.

Several social events took place at the conference. An Ice-breaker reception was held in the evening of May 22. The attendees were treated to country music by twice Grammy winner Jim Lauderdale at the Welcome reception in the evening of Monday, May 23. The banquet and awards ceremony in the evening of May 24 included the presentation of [seven Society awards](#) including the [first Zdenek P. Bazant Medal for Failure and Damage Prevention Medal](#), the EMI Leonardo da Vinci award, the recognition of one EMI Fellow, and the presentation of certificates to the winners of the six student competitions (*see photos below, courtesy Amar Chaker*)



Computational Mechanics Student Poster Competition
 Winner: **Andreas Krischok**, Stanford University, with Prof. Caglar Oskay (from left)
 Runner Ups were: Juan Londono, Columbia University, and Miguel Arriaga, Columbia University



Dynamics Student Paper Competition
 Winner: **Reza Yaghmaie** Johns Hopkins University, with Prof. Ivan Au (from left)



Granular Materials Student Poster Competition
 1st place: **Andrew Druckrey**, University of Tennessee with Prof. Anthony Rosato (from left)
 2nd place: Mr. Yu-Feng Su, National Taiwan University



Modeling Inelasticity & Multiscale Behavior Student Paper Competition Winner: **Xiang Zhang**, Vanderbilt University, with Prof. Cusatis (from right)
 Runner Ups: Amrita Kataruka, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and SeonHong Na, Columbia University



Probabilistic Methods Student Paper Competition
 Winners: **Chenzhao Li**, Vanderbilt University, **Christos Vlachos**, Columbia University, Prof. Alex Taflanidis, and **Wei Cui**, Northeastern University (from left)



Structural Health Monitoring & Control Student Paper Competition
 Prof. Babak Moaveni, Winner: **Yizheng Liao**, Stanford University, and JS Chen, EMI President
 2nd place: Giovanni Capellari, Politecnico di Milano
 3rd place: Carl Malings, Carnegie Mellon University (from left)

On the occasion of the conferences, a [collection of the 10 most downloaded articles from EMI journals](#) prepared by ASCE Publications was made available for free from one month before the conferences until August 31. **Twitter** was used extensively by the attendees. Many pictures of the various conference events are at <https://twitter.com/EmiPmc>. Additional pictures of the keynote lectures and of the awards presentation ceremony are available: [EMI 2016 / PMC 2016](#).

The **Conference4me** smartphone app provided easy access to up-to-date conference data. The app provided the title, author(s), time, location and abstract of each presentation and plenary keynote lecture, the list of committee meeting times and locations, a campus map, the capability of searching for presentations by author name, and the capability of creating one's own agenda for the event.

The two conferences were clearly a great success. Many thanks to the two co-chairs, Prof. Sankaran Mahadevan and Prof. Caglar Oskay, and to their entire team for organizing such an outstanding event!

EMI/ASCE Awards Presentation



2016 Maurice A. Biot Medal Recipient
Prof. Ronaldo I. Borja, Stanford University,
and JS Chen, EMI President (from left)



2016 Jack E. Cermak Medal Recipient
Prof. Qiusheng Li, City University of Hong
Kong (CityU), and JS Chen, EMI President
(from left)



2016 Alfred M. Freudenthal Medal
Prof. Ahsan Kareem, University of Notre Dame
(for Bruce R. Ellingwood, Ph.D., P.E., F.SEI,
Dist.M.ASCE, NAE), Prof. Glaucio Paulino, and
JS Chen, EMI President (from left)



2016 Nathan M. Newmark Medal
Prof. Mircea D. Grigoriu, Cornell University,
Prof. Glaucio Paulino, and JS Chen, EMI
President (from left)



2016 Zdeněk P. Bažant Medal for Failure and Damage Prevention
Prof. Subra Suresh, Carnegie Mellon University, Prof. Glaucio Paulino, and JS Chen, EMI President (from left)



2016 EMI Leonardo da Vinci Award
Prof. Matthieu Vandamme, Laboratoire Navier, Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées, Prof. Glaucio Paulino, and JS Chen, EMI President (from left)

EMI 2016 Fellow Election



Prof. Arif Masud, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Prof. Glaucio Paulino, and JS Chen, EMI President (from left)