



MDS-Rely

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Spring Meeting RECAP

The semi-annual MDS-Rely Spring meeting brought together leaders from national labs and major manufacturing companies at the University of Pittsburgh to advance innovation in materials science. With keynote speaker [Lou Martinez Sancho](#) of Westinghouse emphasizing the transformative role of AI in materials discovery, the event featured research presentations, collaborative breakout sessions, and strategic discussions on sustainable manufacturing, digital tools, and talent development.

Read more [here](#)



Latest News

CMU Joins MDS-Rely!

We're excited to announce that Carnegie Mellon University has received notice from the National Science Foundation that they have officially joined MDS-Rely as a third site. Professor [John Kitchin](#) will be the site director of the new site and brings expertise in catalysis and soft materials. CMU brings world-class expertise in data-driven materials discovery, along with advanced manufacturing and characterization facilities that enable close collaboration between materials scientists and data scientists.

Westinghouse and PPG Join MDS-Rely



Two iconic industrial companies, Westinghouse and PPG, have joined MDS-Rely. Westinghouse is known for pioneering advancements in electricity and power systems, particularly in nuclear energy today. PPG has evolved into a global leader in paints, coatings, and specialty materials, supplying industries from automotive to aerospace. Both companies have significantly shaped modern manufacturing and continue to drive technological progress through a shared commitment to innovation and industrial excellence.

Laura Bruckman Earns Distinguished Professorship



Join us in congratulating Center Director, **Dr. Laura Bruckman**, on being appointed the Climo Professorship for the Case School of Engineering at the end of last month. The distinguished appointment recognizes her outstanding contributions to data-driven approaches to materials degradation and reliability, with an emphasis on photovoltaic systems. Congratulations Dr. Bruckman once again for your well-deserved recognition.

Two Member-Sponsored Senior Design Projects Win Awards



Congratulations to two of our member-sponsored senior design projects. The project, “**Lunar Intelligence & Reconnaissance Initiative**” under the guidance of Oliver Hinder (Pitt) and Shawn Higbee (Lawrence Livermore National Lab) won first place in the Industrial Engineering

Department. The project, “**Vibration Durability of Printed Electronics for UAVs**” under the guidance of Paul Leu (Pitt) and David Sabonash (US Armaments DEVCOM Center) won first place in the Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Department. If Center members are interested in partnering with us on Senior Design projects, please reach out to Paul Leu (pleu@pitt.edu).

Upcoming Events

MDS-Rely Chicago Summer Forum



Explore new partnerships in the Chicago area with us at Northeastern Illinois University on May 28th! Learn more about MDS-Rely and network with faculty, students, industry professionals, and government lab representatives. Registration is free!

Register [Here](#)

Member Engagement Opportunities

Biweekly Research Project Meetings

Stay engaged with the latest in research and development by joining our biweekly project meetings on Zoom. Each session offers updates and discussion, along with opportunities to mentor PhD students in advanced research. Can't make a session? Contact the lead professor to explore flexible options. Check the Center Calendar for dates and times. Check the [Center Calendar](#) for meeting dates and times.

1. Effects of Aerosol Jet Printing Parameters on the Lifetime Performance of Additively-Manufactured Flexible Circuits

Prof. Janet Gbur

On break until June

2. Non-Invasive Detection of Defects during Coatings Manufacturing

Prof. Chris Wirth

May 9, 23... every other Friday 11:45 - 12:15 PM

3. Enhancing Degradation Analysis and Failure Prediction through Modern Machine Learning Techniques

Prof. Satish Iyengar

May 7, 21 ... every other Wednesday 3:00 - 3:30 PM

4. Machine Learning Methods for Optimizing and Innovating Structural Color Paints and Coatings

Profs. Paul W. Leu, Oliver Hinder, and Jungtaek Kim

April 30, May 14, 28 ... every other Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30 AM

5. Predictive Framework to Indicate the Age of Plastics for Proper Recycling

Profs. Metin Karayilan, Divita Mathur, Sanmukh Kuppannagari

May 9, 23 ... every other Friday 9:30-10:30 AM

6. Quantitative Characterization of Chemical Interaction of Solutes with Defects for Predicting Intergranular Corrosion

Profs. Hyeji Im

April 30, May 14, 28 ... every other Wednesday 2:30-3:00 pm

7. Enhancing Laser Powder Bed Fusion with Graph Models

Profs. Pawan Tripathi and Xiayun Zhao

April 29, May 12, 26 ... every other Tuesday 2:30-3:00 pm

Job Openings and Opportunities

Member Job Openings

- [Eaton's Career Page](#)
- [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Internships](#)
- [National Energy Technology Laboratory Career Page](#)
- [Parker Hannifin Career Page](#)
- [U.S. Army Devcom Student and Intern Opportunities](#)
- [National Institute of Standards and Technology Job Openings](#)
- [Naval Nuclear Laboratory Career](#)
- [Westinghouse](#)

Submit News

Submit Job Openings

*For MDS-Rely members only

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[Fill out a job opening form here!](#)

Interested in partnering with Case Western, Pitt or CMU Professors and students?

Please contact [Dr. Laura Bruckman](#) or [Dr. Paul Leu](#) for more information!

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