



MDS-Rely

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

Advancing materials reliability through data-driven collaboration between academia, industry, and government

**2026 Spring Meeting
on April 15th in
Pittsburgh: Pioneering
the Next Five Years**

Spring Meeting Activities:

- Tours
- Keynote
- Future Focus Areas



This issue highlights events in our upcoming Spring Meeting, such as Mill 19 tours, the keynote address, and future focus areas.

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Featured Announcements

Spring Meeting 2026 on April 15, 2026 in Pittsburgh

It isn't too late to register!

Our Spring Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 in Pittsburgh at Mill 19.

The theme will be “Pioneering the Next Five Years.” Join us for tours, research presentations and discussions all highlighted in this newsletter issue!

For more details, please visit the meeting webpage ([link here](#)).

[Register here](#) by April 13th so we can know how much food to provide!

Member Engagement Opportunities at the Spring Meeting

MDS-Rely Research and Publication Highlights

9:45-10:45 AM

Hear the center directors share key outputs from the first five years of the organization and then hear lightning talks on emerging areas with a faculty panel. Let's pioneer the next five years together!

Keynote on “Amplifying Human Genius: How Data Intelligence is Supercharging R&D”

11-11:45 AM

Dr. Li Luan, Global Technical Director at PPG, will dive into how cutting-edge data tools are reshaping innovation at PPG through strategic experimentation, materials informatics, and materials ontology.



Tours: Mill 19 Additive Manufacturing Facilities and Robotics Innovation Center

1-2:30 PM

Mill 19 was once the location of the Pittsburgh region's most productive steel mills, and today it is Carnegie Mellon University's headquarters location for the Manufacturing Futures Institute (MFI), a discovery workspace for Carnegie Mellon innovators to work with industry pioneers.

The Robotics Innovation Center is a world-class space for robotics and autonomous systems research and education. It is advancing Carnegie Mellon University's leadership at the intersection of robotics, AI R&D, and automation.

Sign up for these eye-opening tours when you register for the Spring Meeting!



MDS-Rely 2.0: Future Focus Area Targets and Discussion

2:30-3:15 PM

The Center Directors and faculty will present future areas of research!

- AI for alloys
- Materials knowledge graphs/data management
- GPTs and natural language-based design

Poster Symposium and Reception

4-5:30 PM

Stick around to see what research everyone is working on!



Ongoing and Completed Research Projects

Our Project summary document provides detailed summaries of the ongoing and completed research projects. Some senior design projects are also highlighted. Please check it out [here](#).

Biweekly Research Project Meetings

Stay connected through our biweekly Zoom meetings for research updates and discussion. Contact the lead professor if you can't attend. Check the [Center Calendar](#) for meeting dates and times.

| Project Title | Lead(s) | Schedule |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Effects of Aerosol Jet Printing Parameters on the Lifetime Performance of Additively-Manufactured Flexible Circuits | Prof. Janet Gbur (CWRU) | Apr 1, 15 — every other Wed 8:00–9:00 AM |
| Enhancing Battery Degradation Analysis and Thermal Runaway Prediction | Prof. Satish Iyengar (Pitt) | Apr 8, 22 — every Wed 1–1:30 PM |
| Machine Learning Methods for Optimizing and Innovating Structural Color Paints and Coatings | Dr. Paul Leu (Pitt) | Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — every Thur 5–5:30 PM |
| Quantitative Characterization of Chemical Interaction of Solutes with Defects for Predicting Intergranular Corrosion | Prof. Hyeji Im (CWRU) | Apr 1, 15, 29 — every other Wed 2:30–3:00 PM |

Job Openings and Opportunities

Member Job Openings

Explore current openings and internships from MDS-Rely member organizations.

- [Eaton Careers](#)
- [LLNL Internships](#)
- [NETL Opportunities](#)
- [Parker Hannifin Jobs](#)
- [U.S. Army DEVCOM Student and Intern Opportunities](#)
- [NIST Jobs](#)
- [NNL Careers](#)
- [PPG Careers](#)

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Submit Job Openings

*For MDS-Rely members only

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

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

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

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