

**Know Before You Go:
Important information for conference participants**

***Ceramic Matrix Composites II:
Science and Technology of Materials, Design, Applications,
Performance and Integration***

November 7, 2022

To: Participants – Ceramic Matrix Composites II
From: Barbara Hickernell, CAE, ECI Executive Director

On behalf of Engineering Conferences International and the conference chairs, **Dr. Ram Darolia** (GE Aviation, US – retired), **Prof. Jon Binner** (University of Birmingham, UK), **Prof. Dietmar Koch** (University of Augsburg, Germany), **Prof. Yutaka Kagawa** (Tokyo University of Technology, Japan), **Prof. Rishi Raj** (University of Colorado, US), and **Prof. Gerard Vignoles** (University of Bordeaux, France), we are looking forward to your participation in this conference. **Ram Darolia** will also represent the ECI Conferences Committee and both **Kathy Chan** and I (**Barbara Hickernell**) will be the ECI on-site staff. This note conveys several items that need to be brought to your attention.

HOTEL

[LaFonda on the Plaza](#), 100 East San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 – Phone: +1-505-982-5511

COVID-19

Our community thrives by engaging with each other face-to-face (or now mask-to-mask) but we wish to be safe in doing so. Thus, as safety is our first priority, we require proof of Covid-19 vaccination prior to registration for participants and guests and strongly suggest getting the available boosters.

In addition, we strongly suggest:

- *All conference participants and guests self-test prior to the conference to assure as safe a conference environment as possible.*
- *All participants and guests wear KN95 masks at conference functions (except when eating or drinking or making a presentation) to protect the most vulnerable among us and have included in each conference packet one KN95 mask. Additional ones are available. The meeting and poster rooms will be spaced out as much as possible to allow for social distancing. In addition, we have asked the hotel to provide optional outdoor seating for meals. If you are part of the most vulnerable population, please see the ECI staff so that we can arrange special accommodation.*
- *That you bring some Covid home tests with you. Should you test positive or feel unwell at any time during the conference, please contact me (+1-914-484-7349) so that I can assist you and notify the hotel.*

We cannot make guarantees but we can assure you that ECI will follow the health and safety guidance of health authorities, consult best practices in the meetings community, and try to provide as “normal” a conference as possible during these circumstances.

If you test positive once you arrive home, please contact us so that we may inform fellow participants.

AIRPORT TRANSFER AND DRIVING INFORMATION

Santa Fe is located approximately 60 miles north of Albuquerque.

The New Mexico Rail Runner Express carries passengers in and out of Santa Fe between Albuquerque and points south. There is no direct train service from the Albuquerque (Sunport) Airport. You must take a shuttle or taxi to the Albuquerque Train Station and catch the train north from there. Visit the [New Mexico Rail Runner](#) website for details. For more information, you may also call 1-866-795-RAIL.

Groome Transportation (formerly **Sandia Shuttle**) makes 13 trips a day to fit your travel schedule. They drop off and pick up at all major hotels. Visit their website for further information or to make reservations www.groometransportation.com/santa-fe/

All reservations must be guaranteed by a major credit card. You may also call them at 1-505-474-5696. Please contact them at least 24 hours in advance of your shuttle need. One way is \$39 and round trip is \$78.

There are also smaller transportation services offering reliable 24 hour service such as Rob's Rides (1-505-310-9027). Call or text to make a reservation. (7-person vehicles available). This company also offers individual or small group day trips to Bandelier National Monument and Taos.

Driving directions from the [Albuquerque International Airport](#): (about 65 minutes, if no traffic)

Reduced overnight parking in the Hotel's garage for conference participants is \$10 per vehicle per night.

- Take Interstate I-25 North
- Take exit #284 (Old Pecos Trail) from I-25
- Turn left onto NM-466 N/Old Pecos Trail (signs for Santa Fe)
- Proceed North to the third traffic light, bear right to stay on Old Pecos Trail (1.6 mile)
- Slight left onto Old Santa Fe Trail
- Turn left on E Water Street
- Turn right on E San Francisco Street – the hotel will be on your right
- Proceed to the hotel's parking garage at the end of the block, on the right side of the street.

If you take a taxi from Albuquerque, be warned that the typical minimum charge is about US \$200; thus, we highly recommend the shuttle.

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN AND OPENING CONCERT/RECEPTION/DINNER

Conference check-in will be from 16:30 – 18:45 on Sunday, November 13 in the Mezzanin. That will be followed by a welcome reception with music from local Native American musician, **Sky Redhawk** (of Native Sounds). Dinner will follow with welcoming remarks from the chairs. . Please be at La Terraza at 6:30 pm.

Reminder: Please wear your conference badge throughout the conference as this identifies you to other conference participants, hotel staff, and will also admit you to meals.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

If you bring a guest at the last moment, you must first see the ECI staff at check-in, pay for your guest, and then give ECI proof of payment to the hotel.

SPEAKERS

Our standard equipment is a computer projector and a PC laptop for PowerPoint presentations. Please bring your presentation on a USB key/flash drive. Our audio-visual graduate student is **Christopher Ferguson** who will assist speakers in loading their presentations on the conference laptop.

Be sure that you have provided your session chair with a *brief* biography for introductions.

It is essential to the conference schedule that you keep to your given time, allowing enough time for questions/discussion. Keeping in the tradition of these conferences, please be available during the conference for discussion and questions. Meals and social hours are perfect times for discussion and questions.

INTERNET ACCESS

Complimentary high-speed wireless Internet access (via password) is in guest rooms, meeting rooms and public areas of the hotel.

WEATHER

You can expect sunshine each day and high temperatures to be in the low to-mid 50s F (13°C) and lows to be around 25°F (-3°C). Check www.weather.com for the latest forecast. Typically it is a dry, brisk cold. Bring appropriate clothing. If it snows, the sun typically melts the snow by the afternoon.

SANTA FE ELEVATION

Santa Fe is in the high desert, about 7,000 feet above sea level and it is important to keep hydrated. If you don't already drink lots of water every day, begin upping your intake a few days before arriving. Keep on drinking lots of water while you are in the area. Limit your alcohol intake for the first day or so. Symptoms of altitude sickness are tiredness, slight headache, nausea, dizziness and trouble sleeping. There is complimentary bottled water in every guest room.

EARLY ARRIVALS

ECl does not make pre/post conference reservations - that is the responsibility of the participant. Please contact Kathy Chan (Kathy@engconfintl.org) for instructions.

SANTA FE TOURISM

Check the conference [website](#) and www.santafe.com for tourism information. The best site for authentic Native American direct craft purchases is in the long colonnade around the Palace of the Governors. The craftspeople there are all certified and it is a wonderful way to meet local Native American artists and learn about their work. Among the museums of interest is the New Mexico History Museum (nmhistorymuseum.org), New to Santa Fe is "Meow Wolf's House of Eternal Return" – an interactive art experience. The company commissions painters or sculptors to curate murals or installations. Being in a space and looking at things that you've never seen before, such as an Alice in Wonderland-like fireplace that is a portal into the next room. It's a fun and very different experience.

The hotel website has an on-line history of this historic hotel as well as a listing of things to do in Santa Fe. This year the hotel is celebrating its 100th anniversary. (www.lafondasantafe.com) We highly recommend that participants take advantage of the reading about the art works on display at the hotel. The website has information that can be downloaded.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- If you have any special dietary needs (e.g., vegetarian, allergies, etc.) that you didn't communicate to us on your registration form, please be sure to inform Kathy Chan immediately so that she can update the information that has been sent to the hotel (Kathy@engconfintl.org)
- As Santa Fe is renowned for its restaurants, we have scheduled a meal on your own. Tuesday dinner).
- ECl conferences are informal and we discourage suits and ties. Casual dress is preferred.
- An electronic conference evaluation/questionnaire will be sent out Thursday. Please complete and return it as your comments will be very useful to ECl and the chairs of future conferences. Please use this form to suggest topics for other conferences which may benefit from the ECl format.
- Smoking is not allowed at any conference functions.
- We ask you to turn off (or turn to vibrate) your cell phone during technical sessions.
- Audio taping, videotaping and photography of presentations are prohibited.

I wish you all an intellectually stimulating, productive and enjoyable conference!