



Renuka Dhandapani



Stacy Chadwell



Chandler Maness



Brian Edwards



Alyssa McNamara



Brian Shiels

## AATCC Future Leaders Award

The **AATCC Future Leaders Award** recognizes promising young professionals in the fields of textiles, apparel, and related material sciences, provides acknowledgment and recognition to enhance their careers, engages these young professionals in the work of the Association, and brings their insights and needs to the forefront. These young professionals are the future of our industry and the future leaders of AATCC.

Award recipients are determined by each AATCC Interest Group; the interest group may choose a maximum of two individuals to receive this award.

AATCC is proud to introduce you to this year's recipients of the AATCC Future Leaders Award:

### Chemical Applications Interest Group

**Renuka Dhandapani** is Manager in Textile Chemistry Research at Cotton Incorporated. She received her bachelor's degree in Textile Technology from Osmania

University in 2003, MS in Design and Merchandising from Colorado State in 2007, and PhD in Textile Sciences from the University of Georgia in 2013. As a student, she was a recipient of the AATCC Foundation Student Research Support Grant twice, in 2008 and 2010. She also was a winner of the AATCC Herman & Myrtle Goldstein Student Paper Competition in 2011. Dhandapani has been a member of the following test method committees since 2014: Garment Wet Processing Technology; Statistics Advisory; Home Laundering Technology; Evaluation of Materials & Products for End Use Performance; and Antimicrobial Activity. In 2016, she joined the Electronically Integrated Textiles Test Methods Committee. She also serves on the International Test Methods Committee and is chair of the Appearance Retention Test Methods Committee. She is a member of the Technical Committee on Research (TCR) and an Associate Editor for the *AATCC Journal of Research*. She has authored or co-authored nine papers.

**Brian Edwards** is a Senior Development Scientist at Eastman Chemical. Prior to this, he was a Material

Innovation Engineer at Patagonia. Edwards earned his BS in Polymer & Color Chemistry in 2008, MS in Textile Chemistry in 2010, and PhD in Fiber & Polymer Science in 2014 from North Carolina State University (NCSU). While at NCSU, he was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. Edwards has been a member of AATCC since 2016 and has attended several AATCC conferences and committee meetings.

### Concept 2 Consumer® Interest Group

**Stacy Chadwell** is a Lab Services Manager at Shawmut Corp. Prior to this, she worked at Intertek North America and Kayser-Roth Corp. She graduated with a BS in Polymer & Color Chemistry from NCSU in 2009. While a student at NCSU, she was a recipient of the AATCC Piedmont Section Scholarship. She also interned at AATCC, assisting in the lab. Chadwell joined AATCC as a student member in 2009 and became a senior member in 2010. She currently serves on Home Laundering Technology; Dimensional Change; Evaluation of Materials & Products for End Use Performance; Colorfastness to Water; Thermal Regulation; and Electronically Integrated Textiles Test Method Committees. She has also served as secretary of the Concept 2 Consumer® Interest Group since 2017.

**Alyssa McNamara** is a Research and Development Associate at Spoonflower; she has been with Spoonflower since 2013. As an undergraduate at NCSU, McNamara was an Anni Albers Scholar, who double majored, graduating in 2011 with a BS in Textile Technology and a BA in Art and Design. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Textiles Sustainability at NCSU and, this fall, will participate in an Executive Education for Sustainable Leadership certification program from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. McNamara joined AATCC as a senior member in 2011. She is currently a member of the Young Professionals Committee and is chair of the Printing Technology Research Committee.

### Materials Interest Group

**Chandler Maness** is Senior Laboratory Specialist in Advanced Creations and Testing at adidas. In 2014, he earned his BS in Polymer & Color Chemistry, and in 2017, his MS in Textile Chemistry from NCSU. While an undergraduate student, he and two other authors published a paper in the *International Journal of Polymeric Materials and Polymeric Biomaterials*. He won first place in the 2017 AATCC Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Student Paper Competition. He was one of seven inventors who received a patent on creating a "Particulate Resistant Garment." He joined AATCC in 2016 and attends AATCC committee

meetings, conferences, and participates in the Materials Interest Group.

**Brian Shiels** is a Service Line Manager at ArcWear. Prior to this, he worked with PBI Performance Products Inc. first as Senior Development Engineer/Group Leader, and then as Director of Quality Assurance. He also worked as a Research Assistant in the Textile Protection and Comfort Center at NCSU. Shiels earned his BS in Chemistry from the University of South Carolina in 2003 and MS in Textile Chemistry from NCSU in 2005. His professional experience includes development and testing of flame and thermal protective clothing and equipment, as well as quality management. He holds several patents for FR fabrics and PPE. He became a member of AATCC in 2010. In 2013, he joined and continues to serve on the following test method committees: Hand Evaluation; Water Resistance, Absorbency & Wetting Agent Evaluation; Color Measurement; Colorfastness to Atmospheric Contaminant; Fiber Analysis; Colorfastness to Water; Flammability Technology; Home Laundering Technology; Colorfastness to Washing; Lightfastness and Weathering; and Dimensional Change. He joined the Evaluation of Materials & Products for End Use Performance Test Method Committee in 2017 and was appointed to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee in 2021. Shiels has served in key roles with AATCC, ASTM D-13, F23, NFPA, and others.

### The Future Leaders Award

Nominees for the AATCC Future Leaders Award must be AATCC members who are 39 years old or younger and actively engaged in the greater textile or related industries. They must display leadership skills and have a history of service to AATCC or the greater textile and related industries. A key quality of successful candidates is a desire to become more involved with the objectives of AATCC: to increase expertise, encourage research, and establish channels for the interchange of professional knowledge. Nominees must agree to join the AATCC Young Professionals Committee and must participate, as their professional commitments allow, in the work of the committee.

The award includes a framed certificate signed by the AATCC president and the Interest Group (IG) chairs and a special pin. The award will be presented at the AATCC Textile Discovery Summit Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

For additional information about the AATCC Future Leaders Award, to see a list of previous recipients, and to nominate a colleague: [www.aatcc.org/leaders](http://www.aatcc.org/leaders)