



INTERNATIONAL MICROWAVE POWER INSTITUTE

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Bruce and Chen to Lead Technical Program Committee as IMPI Returns to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for 59th Annual Microwave Power Symposium Next June

June 24, 2024 - The International Microwave Power Institute (IMPI), the leading scientific organization dedicated to connecting the global microwave and RF energy community, will host the 59th Annual Microwave Power Symposium (IMPI 59) at the Westin Edmonton in picturesque Alberta, Canada, from June 24-26, 2025. IMPI 59 will be led by Technical Program Chair, Dr. Ralph W. Bruce, of RWBruce Associates, LLC, and formerly of Vanderbilt University, and Vice Chair, Dr. Jiajia Chen, of the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

The Call for Papers for IMPI 59 will open in early September 2024. Submissions on a range of Mw/RF/Solid State categories, including Fundamentals & Modeling, Industrial Process Equipment, Food Science & Technology, Industrial Processing, and Research & Emerging Technologies, will be considered for oral and/or poster presentation, over the 3-day event.

Dr. Bruce, who served as the Vice Chair of IMPI 58, alongside Dr. B. Reeja Jayan of Carnegie Mellon University, officially joined IMPI's Corresponding Board in May of 2024, but has a long history with the Institute spanning back decades. He received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Santa Clara University and earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, where he served until recently, as a Professor of the Practice of Electrical Engineering, since 2012. He is currently the President of RWBruce Associates, LLC, which supports U.S. government agencies, such as NASA, in the development of microwave materials processing components and systems for ISRU of Lunar and Martian regolith and simulants.

"It will be good to be back in Edmonton, Canada, the origin of our organization – to be truly international again. I hope that this will give us some opportunity to look back, yet, more importantly, to look forward. With recent IMPI conference talks on decarbonization and electrification in and of the fossil fuel/petroleum/energy industries, especially where heat is needed, there is now greater opportunity to expand our efforts. It has been somewhat ironic that in the early days that microwaves would make their most important inroads into industrial processes with domestic food heating being a relatively small player. The opposite has been true. Let's make it otherwise," said Bruce.

Vice-Chair, Dr. Jiajia Chen, first joined IMPI in 2012 as a Student Member, while attending the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Food Science

Department of the University of Tennessee – Knoxville. Chen’s research program specializes in using modeling approaches to develop innovative microwave and radiofrequency processes for food manufacturing. He was appointed as a Corresponding Board Member of IMPI in April of 2023 and shared the following,

“IMPI has been instrumental in providing me with significant opportunities to collaborate with diverse researchers and industry professionals, which have been invaluable to my professional growth. Given my longstanding association with IMPI and my commitment to its vision, I am excited to express my interest in expanding my involvement with the IMPI family.”

The Westin Edmonton is located in the heart of the city’s vibrant downtown district. Edmonton’s river valley and park systems boast over 160 kilometers of trails scattered throughout the city. There is something for everyone in this northern city with a booming culinary, sport, festival and shopping scene. The Edmonton International Airport is located less than 20 miles from the Westin Hotel. This is the first time the Symposium returns to Canada since IMPI 41 (Vancouver, 2007). The last time an IMPI Symposia took place in Edmonton was 1969 (4th IMPI Symposium) and 1966 (1st IMPI Symposium). Thank you to Explore Edmonton for providing [this welcome video](#) for IMPI 59 attendees!

The Call for Papers, registration, exhibition, sponsorship and hotel details will be added to the [IMPI 59 Symposium webpage](#) in the coming weeks.



From left: Dr Ralph Bruce & Dr. Jiajia Chen. Below, Photos of the Westin Edmonton

