



ACLCA Announces 2020 Award Winners: Sangwon Suh, University of California, Santa Barbara Wesley Ingwersen, US EPA, Carrie Pearson, 3M, Bhavik Bhakshi, The Ohio State University, Brandon Kuczenski, University of California, Santa Barbara Honored for Innovation and Impact on the Advancement of LCA.

September 24, 2020

ACLCA2020 LCA Awards Ceremony honors individuals and organizations that have demonstrated excellence in advancing LCA and life cycle thinking.

ACLCA announced today that Sangwon Suh, Wesley Ingwersen, Carrie Pearson, and Bhavik Bhakshi have received the 2020 LCA Award for their leadership, innovation and impact on the advancement and application of life cycle assessment (LCA).

“We are honored to celebrate these incredible leaders in LCA, recognize the difference they make and bring the LCA Awards to audiences around the world with our first-ever virtual awards show,” said Bill Flanagan, Board Chair, ACLCA.

This year’s LCA awardees include:

Rita Schenck Lifetime Individual LCA Leadership: Sangwon Suh, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Sangwon Suh is a Professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management of the University of California, Santa Barbara. He directs the CLiCC Program, an Industry-University partnership on life cycle assessment (LCA) of chemicals. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Ajou University in South Korea and PhD, with distinction, from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Over the last two decades, Dr. Suh devoted his professional career to the advancement of LCA in science and practice.

As a scholar, Dr. Suh contributed primarily to the methodological foundations of LCA. His contribution encompasses various areas of LCA including solving an LCI problem, allocation, uncertainty characterization, consequential LCA, and hybridization between process and input-output approaches. The mathematical algorithms and analytical approaches that he presented through his books and articles have been adopted by various commercial LCA software tools and databases. He authored and co-authored three books, 120 peer-reviewed journal articles, several dozens of book chapters and editorials on LCA. His works have been cited over 24,000 times according to Google Scholar. The impact of his research was recognized with the ‘Highly Cited Researcher’ designation by Thomson-Reuters, which is given to top 1% of researchers in the world based on field-weighted citation records.

Dr. Suh has been at the forefront of the international science-policy interfaces advocating life-cycle thinking. As a Coordinating Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he co-led the Drivers and Trend chapter of the Assessment Report 5, where life-cycle-based metrics appeared for the first time in the history of IPCC’s Assessment Reports. He served the UNEP International Resource Panel as a member, where he led several global assessments that use LCA.



As an educator, Dr. Suh developed and taught LCA and carbon footprint courses at various universities including Carnegie Mellon University, University of Minnesota, UC Santa Barbara, Seoul National University, Hong Kong City University, and Harvard University. He mentored 17 PhD students, 9 postdoctoral scholars, and dozens of master students on LCA.

As a citizen of LCA community, Dr. Suh is a proud member of the American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA). He also serves its board and education committee. He worked for the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment and the Journal of Industrial Ecology as an Associate Editor, and he is leading a new journal, “Frontiers in Sustainability” as the Editor-in-Chief.

LCA Leadership Awards Government: Wesley W. Ingwersen, Ph.D., Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development

Dr. Wesley Ingwersen has served as an Environmental Engineer in the US EPA's Office of Research and Development since 2010, developing methods, models, and tools for life cycle assessment and materials management.

Dr. Ingwersen co-led an international guidance document on product category rules. He has led the development of a standard elementary flow list and EPA's data quality guidance for LCA. He has conceptualized and directed advancements in LCA software including in openLCA and through the creation of an open-source tool ecosystem for LCA. Since 2015 he has led the development of the economy-wide LCA model USEEIO. Dr. Ingwersen helped establish the Technical Working Group for the Federal LCA Commons initiative and the Global Network of LCA databases. He has served as a technical expert on LCA for the US State Department's Director of Environmental Policy, the EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs, and the US Green Building Council.

Dr. Ingwersen earned a B.A. from Georgetown University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida.

LCA Leadership Award Corporate: Carrie Pearson, Sustainability Manager, 3M Sustainability

The 3M LCA team is part of 3M Sustainability, which is at the heart of the organization working to set aggressive goals, build Sustainability into every new 3M product, and use science to change the world and make it more sustainable for future generations. The team primarily supports the Science for Circular and Science for Climate pillars of 3M's Strategic Sustainability Framework, helping customers and product development teams 'design solutions that do more with less material, advancing a global circular economy,' and 'innovate to decarbonize industry, accelerate global climate solutions and improve our environmental footprint.'

Carrie Pearson, who has been part of the LCA team since it was formed in 2009, manages the small team that supports all four of 3M's business groups, working on projects ranging from health care, to safety and industrial; transportation and electronics, to consumer. Carrie is, among other things, a member of the ACLCA Board and the co-chair of the ACLCA PCR Committee, serves on the External Advisory Board of the Center for Sustainable Systems at the University of Michigan, and is the current chair of the US



ISO TAG 207 ST5, the US technical advisory group involved in the development of ISO LCA standards, including ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.

LCA Leadership Awards Education: Bhavik R. Bakshi, Morrow Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, The Ohio State University

Bhavik Bakshi is the Richard M. Morrow Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at The Ohio State University. He is also on the Faculty Advisory Board of OSU's Sustainability Institute, and has a courtesy appointment in Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering.

His research is developing systematic methods to ensure that engineering solutions make positive contributions to sustainable development without causing unintended harm. Such solutions should enhance human well-being, be socially desirable, and respect ecological limits. Developing such solutions requires interaction across disciplines such as process systems engineering, systems ecology, environmental economics, energy policy, and applied statistics. Specific areas of expertise include Sustainable product, process, value chain design, Life cycle assessment, Circular economy, and Ecosystem services.

In addition to many papers and invited talks, his contributions include a textbook on sustainable engineering, user-friendly software for life cycle assessment, editorial board memberships of several multidisciplinary journals, and short courses taught across the world at institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay.

Prof. Bakshi received his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai, MS in Chemical Engineering Practice and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a minor in Technology and Environmental Policy through courses and research conducted at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Rising Star Award: Brandon Kuczenski, Associate Researcher, University of California, Santa Barbara

Brandon Kuczenski is an Associate Researcher at the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studies industrial ecology.

After receiving a PhD from Carnegie Mellon University in mechanical engineering, he pivoted to sustainability research and studied waste management and recycling systems in the state of California. His current research objectives include improving the reusability and reproducibility of life cycle assessment studies and data, and protection of data privacy in publication of LCA models and results. Recently, he has begun applying life cycle thinking to marine conservation research and fisheries management.

Dr Kuczenski is also a principal at Scope 3 Consulting, where he is working to improve the accessibility and value of sustainability assessments for small scale and public users.

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About ACLCA

The American Center for Life Cycle Assessment (ACLCA) is a nonprofit membership organization providing education, awareness, advocacy and communications to build capacity and knowledge of environmental LCA. ACLCA membership consists of industry, academia, government, consulting, and NGOs. Visit www.aclca.org to find out more.