



The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

Your Safe Participation in TMS2022 Is Our Priority

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Dear TMS Community:

As we continue our collective journey to navigate the COVID era, I recognize that many of you may be debating whether to attend TMS2022. Virtual participation is an option, but we have learned time and again with many virtual experiences that there is no substitute for in-person engagement. Our community thrives by engaging with each other face to face, but we want to be safe doing it. Safety, of course, must be the priority whether we are in a lab, on a shop floor, in the field, in an office, or at a conference.

As Executive Director of TMS, it is my goal to provide you, all attendees, all staff, and all our support teams with a safety-first experience when we convene in-person at TMS2022 in Anaheim, California, February 27-March 3. And convene we will. I can't seal you in a bubble or make guarantees, but I can assure you that TMS will follow the health and safety guidance of health authorities, comply with California's strict conference requirements, consult best practices in the association community, and contract with qualified experts to manage our health and safety profile.

Here are the headlines of our approach:

- 1. Anyone who is advised to isolate or quarantine based on then-current Centers for Disease Control guidelines cannot attend.** When a registrant is clear of restrictions, that registrant is welcome.
- 2. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test is required to attend TMS2022.** We are contracting with a third party to qualify credentials and maintain the privacy of our registrants.
- 3. Masks must be worn (properly) in all TMS2022 event spaces** (except when giving a presentation or actively eating or drinking). If you don't have a mask, we will have some available on request.
- 4. Our room sets will be structured to allow for the physical separation of participants.** Attendees will be encouraged to employ social distancing in informal settings.
- 5. Cleaning and sanitization will be robust.** Our host facilities have increased the frequency of surface cleaning and are following strict food service safety guidelines. Our headquarters hotel, the Anaheim Marriott, uses air purifying systems effective against air-borne viruses. Naturally, there will be plentiful hand-sanitizing stations.
- 6. Hygienic guidance will be provided to attendees.** Not only is social distancing encouraged, but also hygienic practices such as frequent hand washing and sanitizing and refraining from shaking hands and other personal contact.
- 7. On-site COVID testing will be available for a fee.** This is to help travelers who must provide a negative COVID test result immediately before travelling.
- 8. We encourage all participants to stay "on campus."** We are working with our headquarters hotel, the Anaheim Marriott, to host our official activities so that we can maintain our health and safety protocols with uniformity, reliability, and consistency.

Beyond our health and safety protocols, we are also innovating with other aspects of our meeting, including: endeavoring to make every oral presentation available for post-event viewing via an “on-demand” format, providing “on-demand” access to recorded presentations that could not be presented orally, and even offering a select set of live-streamed presentations.

Exclusively for in-person attendees, we will host a set of “welcome back” technical division networking receptions on Sunday evening, see Jim Yurko (Senior Distinguished Engineer, Apple Materials Engineering) present the all-conference plenary “Alloy Design at Apple,” welcome back the Bladesmithing Competition, debut an exciting and more competitive Materials Bowl, present our industry-focused exhibition, and host the TMS Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions 4 summit.

It will be a remarkable five days.

Details on the above are or will soon be added to the TMS2022 web site. My hope is that we all will arrive in Anaheim for TMS2022 excited for five days of conference excellence and in confidence that our safety environment is best in class despite the uncertain times. I further hope that we leave Anaheim energized and fully satisfied with the experience.

Thank you for your engagement in TMS, and I look forward to seeing you (but not shaking your hand!) at TMS2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James J. Robinson
TMS Executive Director