



Lignin Workshop 2025: “Lignin to X - Challenges and Potential”
Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Aurum Argentum, Henrikinkatu 2, Turku, Finland
20th – 21st of August, 2025

Tentative programme

20.8.2025 Wednesday

8:00-8:30 coffee and registration, poster setup

8:30-10:00 Chair: Chunlin Xu

- Opening by Patrik Henelius, Vice Rector of Åbo Akademi University
- Introduction (Host, CIMANET, projects)
- **Orlando Rojas**, University of British Columbia (UBC).
- **Lari Vähäsalo**, CH Bioforce.
- **Virpi Puhakka**, Valmet, Introduction to Beyond Circularity.

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-12:30 Chair: Patrik Eklund

- **Joseph Samec**, Stockholm University, Reaction mechanisms in catalytic lignin depolymerization reactions.
- **Gyu Leem**, SUNY ESF, Solar light-induced selective cleavage of C-C/C-O bonds in lignin at room temperature.
- Flash presentations x 6

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Chair: Henrik Grénman

- **Monika Österberg**, Aalto University, Lignin nanoparticles and other ways of tuning lignin properties for applications.
- **Narayanan Rajagopalan**, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Epoxy based Anticorrosive Coatings with Lignin-derived particles.
- **Liyang Liu**, Chalmers University of Technology, Unlocking the potential of Kraft lignin for polymeric materials.



15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:30 Chair: Timo Leskinen

- **Sanna Valkonen**, UPM, Lignin valorisation.
- **Johan Gising**, AB Karl Hedin Bio Innovation, Tailor-made lignins from one-step biomass fractionation.
- **Maria Björk**, Stora Enso, From research to industrialization.
- Industrial panel discussion (BioInnov/**Johan Gising**, Valmet/**Hanna Karlsson**, UPM/**Gerd Unkelbach**, CH-Bioforce/**Lari Vähäsalo**, *moderator: Timo Leskinen*).
 - Value-chain
 - Business potential
 - Gap R2B
- Flash presentations x 3

17:30-18:30 Poster session and refreshments

19:00-22:30 Dinner at *Grädda (Piispankatu 15, 20500 Turku)*

21.8.2025 Thursday

09:00-10:30 (90 mins) Chair: Tiina Nypelö

- **Thomas Rosenau**, BOKU University, Problems and open questions in lignin analysis and structure.
- **Anna Happonen**, LUKE, Lignin biosynthesis – a seed for novel ideas.
- **Martin Lawoko**, KTH, Lignin Populations and Linkage Sequences: Deeper Insights into Molecular Structure.

10:30-11:00 coffee break

11:00-13:00 (120 mins) Chair: Henrik Grénman

- Flash presentations x 6
- Poster session

13:00-14:00 lunch

14:00-15:40 (100 mins) Chair: Patrik Eklund



- **Pedro Fardim**, KU Leuven, Lignin valorisation using hydrotropes: Coatings and emulsions.
- **Giada Lo Re**, Chalmers University of Technology, Lignin modification via reactive extrusion.
- **Timo Leskinen**, University of Helsinki, Scoping of chemistries for strongly sustainable lignin materials
- Concluding remarks by Chunlin Xu

15:40 end of the programme

15:40-16:30 Lab tour in two groups