

Lilit Yeghiazarian

Candidate for President-Elect



InterPore member since 2013

Faculty member, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, University of Cincinnati, USA, since 2009

Volunteer experience

Chair of InterPore Membership Committee (2016-present)

Member of Kimberly-Clark InterPore Lectureship Award Committee (2016-present)

Member of InterPore 2018 Jubilee Committee (2016-2018)

Chair of Local Organizing Committee and Member of the Programme Committee, 8th International Conference on Porous Media and Annual Meeting of the InterPore, Cincinnati OH, USA, 2016

Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for The 6th International Conference on Porous Media and Annual Meeting of the International Society for Porous Media (InterPore), Milwaukee, WI, USA, 2014

General Chair, American Water Resources Association's Specialty Conference. Geospatial Water Technologies – Complex Systems, 2020

Organizing Committee Member, AWRA Specialty Conference – GIS in Water Resources, 2018 (Orlando FL, USA) and 2016 (Sacramento CA, USA)

Associate Editor, Frontiers in Water (Specialty section: Water and Human Health), 2020-present

Executive Board Member and Research Committee Member, Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF), 2002 - present

Name a key issue that InterPore will face during your term of office. What are key factors InterPore will have to consider and how will you lead InterPore and its membership in addressing that issue?

In one phrase, my vision for InterPore is *fostering interdisciplinarity, new generations of scientists, and deep conversations*. These are inextricably linked, so I really think of them as one.

Interdisciplinarity: InterPore is absolutely unique because it is impossible to confine the science, engineering and technologies related to porous media to a single field. This has been a core reason for our continuous growth - not just in membership, but in the diversity of disciplines that our members represent. I think this is the beauty of InterPore. Much cutting edge work happens at the interface of sciences, and having

experts engage in dialogue across the disciplinary divides blurs and eventually erases them, making way for new, exciting ideas and areas of exploration.

How do you foster interdisciplinarity? How do we learn each other's language? How do we make it easy for our members to cross the disciplinary divide? I think we need a repository of porous media resources; a central place that would if not hold, but at least point to the vast knowledge that we collectively possess. Examples include tutorials on how to do an experiment, set up a model, avoid common mistakes in ... (fill in the blank) – the list goes on and on. The Membership committee is already working on this in collaboration with others, and I intend to continue this effort.

Another important aspect of my efforts – continued from work as Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2016 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH; and later as Chair of the Membership Committee, is to attract researchers from diverse fields. This requires continuous engagement with all InterPore committees as we test various ways to increase our visibility.

New generation of scientists: Young researchers are the lifeline of InterPore, and providing them with ample resources to grow professionally and personally is critical to InterPore's success and sustainability. The resource repository is a key component of this effort, but not the only one. The Students Activities Committee (SAC) has done a tremendous amount of work to create professional growth and networking opportunities for our young members. I will work closely with SAC to support their existing work, to cultivate and implement new ideas fostering interdisciplinary training.

Deep conversations: Our meetings are a major platform for scientific dialogue and interdisciplinary engagement. As the membership has grown, so has the size of the annual meeting, providing a great opportunity to get a high-level overview of research across many disciplines. Engaging in deep conversations however may require longer than standard sessions – to allow speakers enough time to give detailed technical talks, discuss successes and challenges, and simply to brainstorm with participants. I have seen great new ideas and projects emerge from such sessions. So, we need to think creatively how to structure our meetings to enable both: high-level research overview *and* deep conversations focusing on one topic. I will work with local organizing committees and the programme committee to experiment with different formats and test their success based on participant response.