

Lifelines

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Elena Bañón Gil graduated in Chemistry in 1997 and received her PhD degree in Chemical Engineering in 2016 from the University of Alicante. Since 2000, she has been developing R&D activities in the field of footwear and footwear components, especially in the characterization of leather and upper materials, at INESCOP. She has participated in many projects at a European, National and Regional level. She is the co-author of some 20 congress presentations and scientific and dissemination papers in the field of pyrolysis and waste management. She has been actively participating as a technical expert in the European Committee for Standardization for leather (CEN/TC 289) since 2012. Currently, she is the Head of the Upper Materials Department of INESCOP and is developing a research line based on the identification of the animal species in manufactured leather articles.

Ana Torró Palau graduated in Chemistry in 1992 and received her PhD degree in Chemistry in 1997 from the University of Alicante. Currently, she is the Head of Quality Department of INESCOP (Footwear Technological Institute). She is responsible for laboratory testing services, Quality Management and Research projects. She has carried out research and coordination activities in almost 200 innovation and RTD projects. She is the author of 1 patent, almost 100 congress participations and almost 100 scientific and dissemination papers. She has been actively participating in the International Committee for Standardization for footwear (ISO/TC 216) as Convenor of WG1 since 2006.

Angela N. García Cortés graduated in Chemistry in 1989 and received her PhD degree in Chemistry in 1993 from the University of Alicante. She is a Professor of the Chemical Engineering Dept., University of Alicante. Her research interests include different fields, mainly thermal and catalytic pyrolysis of wastes (lignocellulosic biomass, animal by-products, tanned leather, polymers). She has co-authored more than 50 papers and 60 congress participations.

Milagros León Bernáldez received her BSc degree in Chemistry from the Spanish National University of Distance Education (UNED) in 1999 and her PhD degree in Chemical Engineering (2018) from the University of Alicante. She developed R&D activities in the Upper Materials Department of INESCOP (Footwear Technological Institute) (2010-2014). She was a research assistant in the Chemical Engineering department, University of Alicante (2015-2019). Currently, she is a technology, math and science high school teacher. She has participated in many conferences on pyrolysis, polymer processing and recycling. She is the co-author of 11 scientific and dissemination papers and congress presentations.

Antonio Marcilla Gomis graduated in Chemical Engineering from the University of Madrid in 1978. He received his PhD degree in Chemistry from the University of Alicante in 1982. He is a Professor of the Chemical Engineering Dept., University of Alicante. He has prepared more than 250 indexed journal publications and 240 congress participations on pyrolysis, catalysis, liquid-liquid extraction, polymer processing and recycling, rheology, microalgae culture and he has supervised more than 30 PhD theses. He has filed 14 patent applications on different topics. He has coordinated more than 100 projects, over 50 which addressed technology transfer with different companies.

Moumita Mukherjee, is presently Junior Works Manager in Ordnance Factory Board, Ministry of Defense (Govt. of India) through UPSC, having more than 10 years association with Leather Industry and Leather Product Research since her B. Tech (Leather Technology) in 2010. She is presently perusing her PhD in Technology from Anna University, Chennai, India. She held three years Senior Research Fellow position at CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai-600020, India. She has 2 international and 3 national publications and one patent application filed in India. She has also received B. M. Das Memorial Award, by Indian Leather Technologist Association, Kolkata for securing 1st class 1st in M. Tech from Anna University, Chennai in 2014, Chennai and Mecca Haji Abdul Majid Sahib Endowment Award 2014, Best Project Award in M. Tech of Footwear Science and Engineering. She has secured first place in many International and National conference/symposium among which, young scientist seminar competition (Engineering science) held at CSIR_CLRI on 21st September, 2015 is prominent to mention. She is also receiver of Full Free scholarship by Government of West Bengal during B. Tech (graduation: 2006-2010).

Loganathan Thangarasu is presently working as junior faculty in Footwear Design and Development Institute, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India. He has more than 3 years of association with Footwear and Leather industry since his Master Program (M. Tech, Footwear Science and Engineering Department of Leather Technology) in 2016. He has received “Mecca Haaji Abdul Majid Sahib Endowment Best Project Award” from CSIR-CLRI, Chennai, India for the M. Tech academic project. He also received “Best visual presentation Award” from UITIC 19th International technical footwear congress, Chennai, India held during February 2016.

Sujata Mandal is Principal Scientist in the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, India. Her research interests include analytical science, materials characterization and development of inorganic nanomaterials and nanocomposite materials for various applications. She has made notable contributions towards materials development, materials characterization, human resource development, and analytical services for the leather sector since joining CSIR – CLRI in 2011. Her research findings led to 3 patents and more than 35 research publications in National/ International journals/books.

G. Saraswathy is Senior Scientist in the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, India. Her area of research includes Footwear Science and Engineering, Therapeutic Footwear, Orthotics and prosthetics design and development. She has also sound knowledge of material science related to footwear especially polymers and non-leather materials including synthesis, characterization, processing and manufacturing technology. To her credit, she has 20 Scientific research publications in reputed journals, 2 book chapters, 2 granted patents and 2 patent applications filled in India. She is also working as Honorary Faculty in Department of Leather Technology, Anna University, Chennai for M. Tech Footwear Science and Engineering Course. She has guided 17 M. Tech/ M. E students in their academic projects and many of those students have received Best Project Awards.

Venkatasubramanian Sivakumar, see *JALCA* 113, 72, 2018.