



SUMMIT

OCTOBER 4 – 6, 2026

WILMINGTON, NC, USA

Pre-Con October 4, 2026

Location: Merrick/Lillington

**12:00 –
4:00 PM**

**EARLY REGISTRATION
& CHECK IN**

**5:00 –
7:00 PM**

**OPENING EXHIBITORS
RECEPTION**

www.aatcc.org/events/aatcc-international-summit

Day 1

October 5, 2026

Location: Merrick/Lillington

8:00 –
9:00 AM

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

9:00 –
9:15 AM

OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME

Christina Rapa, AATCC President

9:15 –
10:00 AM

**OPENING PLENARY KEYNOTE
THE FUTURE OF PERFORMANCE:
INNOVATING SOLUTIONS FOR
A CHANGING WORLD**

Gary Peck, The S Group

Performance apparel is evolving beyond athletic achievement to meet the demands of an increasingly diverse and dynamic world. Drawing on decades of experience developing advanced textile solutions for aerospace applications, adaptive apparel, and elite athletes, Gary Peck will share how perseverance, curiosity, and a relentless commitment to solving complex problems have fueled innovation throughout his career. Blending personal lessons in resilience with insights into materials, engineering, and user-centered design, he will demonstrate how the mindset required to overcome challenges is the same one that drives breakthrough performance solutions.

10:00 –
10:30 AM

BREAK (30 MINS)

Location: Merrick/Lillington

Location: Harnett/Caswell

Location: Cape Fear Starboard

**10:30 AM –
12:00 PM**

**TESTING FOR CLAIM
SUBSTANTIATION**

**NEXT-GENERATION COTTON
PRETREATMENT: STRONGER,
CLEANER, AND FUNCTIONALLY
SUPERIOR THROUGH
WAX-PRESERVING CHEMISTRY**

Hasan Shahariar,
Innovo Fiber, LLC

WET PROCESSING

**ANTIMICROBIAL TEXTILE
TESTING MAXIMIZING
PRECISION AND PERFORMANCE
WITH CERTIFIED REFERENCE
MATERIALS AND APPROPRIATE
ANTIMICROBIAL ADDITIVES**

Donald P. Satchell,
Situ Biosciences LLC

HAPTICS & COMFORT

**DIGITIZING HAPTICS:
THE NEW FRONTIER
OF COMFORT**

Harrie Schoots, Revive USA
Textile Consulting

**ALIGNING TEST METHODS AND
STANDARDS WITH DEFENSIBLE
PRODUCT CLAIMS**

Ben Mead, Hohenstein

**CHEMICAL INTERVENTION
THROUGH INNOVATIVE FINISHING
TECHNOLOGIES AS A SCALABLE
AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE
MITIGATION PATHWAY FOR FIBER
FRAGMENTATION & MICROFIBER/
MICROPLASTIC SHEDDING**

John Mitchell,
Livinguard Technologies

**TAKING THE “HAND”
OUT OF FABRIC HAND**

John Crocker, SDL Atlas

**SWEAT MANAGEMENT TESTER:
EVALUATION OF FABRIC SWEAT
MANAGEMENT PROPERTIES
UNDER PROFUSE SWEATING
CONDITIONS**

Jintu Fan, Hong Kong
Polytechnic University

**ADVANCEMENTS IN PFAS-FREE
WATER-REPELLENT TECHNOLOGY;
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND
CURRENT SOLUTIONS**

Nina Cohen,
Microban International

**PRESERVING PROTECTIVE
FABRIC COMFORT WITHOUT PFAS**

Frank Keohan, Organic Dyes
and Pigments

**12:00 –
1:30 PM**

LUNCH

1:30 –
3:00 PM**LED LIGHTING****HOW TO PROFIT FROM
THE TRANSITION TO LEDS
IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN AND
STORE LIGHTING**

Steve Paolini, Telelum LLC

**PANEL DISCUSSION
SELECTING THE RIGHT LED LIGHTING:
METHODOLOGIES FOR ACCURATE COLOR
EVALUATION AND TESTING**Moderated by Jessica Brooks,
Color Solutions International**Panelists:**Carol Revels, Walmart
Chris Hipps, VeriVide
Doug Bynum, natific AG
Audra Hunter, Target
Steve Paolini, Telelum LLC

As the textile and apparel industry continues to transition to LED illumination, selecting the appropriate lighting solution has become increasingly complex. This panel discussion will examine the methodologies, performance criteria, and industry considerations used to evaluate and select LED lighting for color assessment, testing, and quality assurance applications. Experts will share practical guidance on balancing color accuracy, consistency, compliance, and operational needs to support reliable decision-making across the supply chain.

THERMAL & COOLING EVALUATIONS**USING THERMAL IMAGING
TO EVALUATE COOLING AND WICKING
OF FABRICS**Emiel DenHartog,
NC State University**PANEL DISCUSSION
TAKING THE FEELINGS OUT
OF HAND FEEL**Moderated by Christina Rapa,
WL Gore**Panelists:**Emiel DenHartog, NC State University
Frank Keohan, ORCO
John Crocker, SDL Atlas

“Soft,” “comfortable,” and “luxurious” are among the most common descriptors used in textile development, but they are often highly subjective. This panel discussion will explore the science behind fabric hand, comfort, and haptics, examining the tools, testing methods, and emerging technologies that help brands and manufacturers objectively measure sensory performance. Industry experts will discuss how data-driven approaches can improve product development, quality control, and consumer satisfaction while reducing reliance on subjective evaluation.

3:00 –
3:30**BREAK (30 MINS)**

3:30 –
4:30 PM

PLENARY KEYNOTE
TRADE IN REAL TIME: UPDATES,
IMPACTS, AND WHAT'S AHEAD

Nicole Bivens Collinson, Sandler,
Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Join internationally recognized trade expert Nicole Bivens Collinson as she shares timely insights on the evolving trade landscape and what textile professionals need to know to navigate uncertainty and capitalize on emerging opportunities. With decades of experience in trade negotiations, government relations, and textile policy, Nicole delivers a uniquely informed perspective on the forces shaping the future of global commerce.

4:30 –
5:30 PM

EXHIBITOR & POSTER RECEPTION

MENTOR MATCH LAB

During the Mentor Match Lab, you'll get a first look at AATCC's new mentorship platform, create your professional profile, explore potential connections, and learn how to use the tools to find meaningful mentoring relationships within the AATCC community. Whether you're looking to share your experience, gain new perspectives, expand your network, or take the next step in your career, this is your opportunity to get connected and get started. Come ready to explore, create your profile, and discover where a mentor or mentee relationship could take you.

COMMITTEES 101:
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Nathaniel Williams, AATCC

Curious about how AATCC test methods and standards are developed? Join this interactive session to learn how AATCC committees operate, why volunteer participation matters, and how emerging professionals can play an active role in shaping the future of textile testing, evaluation, and innovation. Connect with committee leaders, explore opportunities to contribute, and take the first step toward becoming an industry influencer.

5:30 –
8:00 PM

DINNER & TEXTILE BOWL

Day 2

October 6, 2026

Location: Merrick/Lillington

Location: Cape Fear Starboard

8:00 –
9:00 AM

BREAKFAST & EXHIBITS

8:30 –
9:00 AM

OLNEY MEDAL ADDRESS

Elizabeth Easter

9:00 –
10:00 AM

PLENARY KEYNOTE
THE OWNERSHIP GAP: USING REAL-LIFE
PRODUCT USE AS THE NEXT LAYER OF
TEXTILE INTELLIGENCE

Nancy Rhodes - CEO, Alternew
& The Ownership Intelligence Lab

What can we learn from a garment after it leaves the store? Nancy Rhodes challenges conventional thinking about product lifecycle management by exploring how care, repair, warranty, and ownership data can reveal new opportunities for better products, stronger customer relationships, and more measurable sustainability outcomes.

10:00 –
10:30 AM

BREAK (30 MINS)

Location: Merrick/Lillington

Location: Harnett/Caswell

Location: Cape Fear Starboard

**10:30 AM –
12:00 PM**

TEST METHODS

COLORATION

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SMOKE, ASH, AND FABRIC PERFORMANCE: TESTING AND MODELING OF WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING TEXTILES

Sumit Mandal, Oklahoma State University

TARGETING DYE TRANSFER DUE TO POWDER LAUNDRY DETERGENT FORMULATIONS

Elizabeth Kelkis, University of Leeds

USING AI TO CREATE TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN RECYCLING: FABRIC STRUCTURE IDENTIFICATION AND IMPACTS

Karen K. Leonas, NC State University

FILLED TEXTILE: MANUFACTURING, TESTING, LABELING & SUSTAINABILITY

Keith Wilson, International Down & Feather Testing Laboratory

BEYOND COLOR APPROVAL: THE HIDDEN METRICS THAT DEFINE PRODUCT QUALITY

Ryan Stanley, X-Rite / Pantone

AUTOMATING THE LAST MILE OF TEXTILE PRODUCT PRODUCTION WITH AUTOMATIC SEWING AND CUTTING

Jim Manelski, FastSewn ApS

WEATHERING THE ELEMENTS: A NOVEL APPLICATION OF TM022 FOR ASSESSING LONG-TERM DWR PERFORMANCE IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

Morgan Cooper, Mustang Survival

EVOLUTION OF VISUAL AND DIGITAL EVALUATION TOOLS FOR COLOR ASSESSMENT, FASTNESS GRADING AND STAIN ANALYSIS

Stephen Tongue, VeriVide

AI-POWERED HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING: REAL-TIME FIBER IDENTIFICATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE SUPPLY CHAIN WITH SPECIMRETEX – POWERED BY KONICA MINOLTA

Kimberley Zhang, Konica Minolta Sensing America

**12:00 –
12:30 PM**

TRACEABILITY / RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES

COLOR MANAGEMENT

FIBER ADVANCEMENTS

STREAMLINING MATERIAL AND TRIM SAMPLING TO STREAMLINE TRACEABILITY DATA GATHERING

Deb Zell, PlsReturnIt

nVISO: RETHINKING OBSERVER ASSUMPTIONS FOR RELIABLE ON-SCREEN COLOR EVALUATION

Andreas Roth, natific AG

PROGRESSES IN RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FIBERS AND TEXTILES

Gang Sun, University of California, Davis

**12:30 –
2:00 PM**

AWARDS LUNCHEON

**2:30 –
3:30 PM**

**CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION
REPAIR AT SCALE: ALIGNING STAKEHOLDERS
ACROSS THE TEXTILE ECOSYSTEM**

Moderated by Scot Case, National Retail Federation

Panelists:

Nancy Rhodes - CEO, Alternew & The Ownership Intelligence Lab

Beth Forsberg - Chief Sustainability Officer, Goodwill

Rebecca Geppert - Director of Partnerships, ReFibered

As regulations, consumer expectations, and circularity goals continue to evolve, repair is emerging as a critical component of the textile value chain. This expert panel brings together leaders in textile recovery, workforce development, materials intelligence, and post-purchase services to explore what it will take to build scalable repair infrastructure, and how collaboration across the ecosystem can extend product life, reduce waste, and create measurable impact.

**3:30 –
5:00 PM**

**WILMINGTON EXCURSION (OPTIONAL)
BATTLESHIP TOUR**

POSTER PRESENTERS

Dengyu Luo, North Carolina State University
Basil Joseph, Thomas Jefferson University
Alicia A McClain, International Antimicrobial Council
Maggie Robinson, Thomas Jefferson University
Saloni Purandare, Gaston College
Mac King, Gaston College

Aya Imam, North Carolina State University
Gloria Liu, North Carolina State University
Shilpa Barua, Oklahoma State University
Sayak Nandi, Oklahoma State University
Rony Mia, North Carolina State University
Miranda Klaas, Testfabrics, Inc.