An Innovative Career in Polymer Science

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What distinguishes invention from innovation? How do entrepreneurial skills play in today’s world of the material scientist or engineer? In this talk, I will give my “insider’s” perspective on a meaningful career in polymer science as applied to product innovation and development. Making discoveries, presenting findings and filing patents are only the beginning of the story; the path from “a-ha!” to selling products is most often complex, non-linear and require the skills of persuasion and artful selling. I will share several examples of innovation in the industrial world, highlighting some success stories as well as the inevitable failures and the lessons these teach.

Biography:
Patrick Hager received his PhD from the University of Akron in Polymer Science, and worked for 3M Company in St Paul MN from 1987 until retiring in 2017. Pat is a native of Akron, Ohio and is one of three brothers who graduated from Akron U in Polymer Science. During his career, Pat contributed to multiple 3M business groups including industrial, health care and consumer retail, and was instrumental in a series of innovative product and process developments, including 3M Command™ removable adhesives, simultaneous film process technology, nonwoven composites, and others. Pat was promoted to Corporate Scientist in 2010 and inducted into 3M’s Carlton Society for lifetime achievement in 2015.