

## Bio: Dr. Christopher Quinn, PhD



Chris is currently a Senior Executive with AkzoNobel and is Vice President Research and Development for AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry, LLC. Chris hails from The University of Texas at Austin where he earned a PhD in Chemical Engineering with a focus on development and application of biomaterials for medical devices. He authored or co-authored over a dozen articles in peer reviewed journals as well as book chapters and instructional manuals. In his current role Dr. Quinn manages 100 scientists, technicians and engineers performing Research, Development, Innovation and Technical Service activities across ~35 market segments. His teams are located in North and South America.

Dr. Quinn has more than 20 years of experience in specialty chemicals and has held a variety of roles across a broad spectrum of functions including: Research, Innovation and Technology, Safety, Health, Environment and Security, Plant Management, Chemical Plant Construction, Supply Chain, Plant Engineering, ERP Implementation, Risk Management and Loss Prevention. Prior to his experiences in the world of specialty chemicals he was on the faculty of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he served as Station Director for the David H. Koch School of Chemical Engineering Practice. He installed and then served as the Director at the Stations at The Dow Chemical Company and subsequently at GE Plastics.

Chris has his home in New Fairfield, Connecticut where he especially enjoys cooking family meals with his wife Kay and three daughters, Erica, Emily and Caroline. In his free time Chris enjoys cycling in the rolling hills of Connecticut, running, and swimming. Chris is involved in a variety of community service and community outreach activities, including the Putnam County Community Action Program (CAP), which has programs to support the low income residents of Putnam County, and the Green Chimneys School, which focuses on helping children with emotional, behavioral, and social challenges.

## **Presentation 1 Abstract**

**Presentation Title:** Things I wish someone told me when I was 25, or younger!

**Presenter:** Dr. Christopher Quinn, PhD, Vice President Research and Development,  
AkzoNobel

**Topic Keywords:** Career Advice, Industrial Careers, People Management,

**Abstract:** The objective of this presentation is to give attendees who want to pursue a career in the industrial sciences and engineering solid career advice from an established industrial professional. In this presentation the presenter will describe the characteristics of successful industrial scientists and engineers. A great deal of insight about managing people and being managed will be shared and backed up with some amusing but completely truthful anecdotes. Some thoughts on things that young professionals should be doing to get ahead and succeed will also be shared.

## **Presentation 2 Abstract**

**Presentation Title:** Surfactants: What are they and what do they do?

**Presenter:** Dr. Christopher Quinn, PhD, Vice President Research and Development,  
AkzoNobel

**Topic Keywords:** Surfactants, Surface Science, Crop Sciences, Mining/Ore Flotation,  
Asphalt Chemistry

**Abstract:** The objective of this presentation is to give attendees a basic understanding of surfactants and Surface Science, and to give attendees an appreciation of how important surfactants are in a broad range of applications, beyond the everyday experiences of surfactants in soaps and shampoos. In this presentation the presenter will describe what surfactants are, surface active agents, and how they work. The characteristics of the primary types of surfactants, namely anionic, nonionic, cationic and Zwitterionic surfactants, will be described. The ways in which surfactants self-organize into two- and three-dimensional structures will be described. We will also discuss how surfactants influence interfaces, solid-liquid, liquid-liquid and liquid-gas, and modify the rheology and viscosity of bulk solutions. Common terminology in Surface Science will be shared. Finally some examples of the application of surfactants in industry, specifically crop protection, mineral processing and asphalt road construction, will be shared.