

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Susan Smyth

Director, Manufacturing Systems Research Lab
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BIOGRAPHY

In August 2006, Susan Smyth was appointed Director of the GM R&D MSR Lab and Chief Scientist for Global Manufacturing for General Motors Corporation. Prior to this assignment, she was Global Math Process Leader for Manufacturing Engineering, and responsible for developing the math-based strategy and implementation for Manufacturing Engineering to drive global common math-enabled business processes. Under her leadership, math and computer simulations were developed enabling the visualization of manufacturing artifacts and processes from plant layouts and body shop operations to general assembly sequence and controls emulation. Simulations for form, fit and function of parts, tooling and equipment in plants advanced to levels to where significant impact was made in improving quality throughput and enabling world-class product launches.

Susan began her career with General Motors in 1991 as a Senior Project Engineer with the advanced engineering group. Since then she has held a variety of advanced engineering pre-production operations assignments in reverse engineering, computational analysis, rapid prototyping and experimental casting. She has held positions in Advanced Manufacturing, Pre-Production Operations and Quality. In 1999, she formed Manufacturing Technology Applications, a high-tech group responsible for developing business advisor tools for corporate level initiatives. In this capacity, she has developed math tools and computer simulation models to simulate and optimize numerous business scenarios with corporate level customers ranging from sales and marketing to plant operations. Susan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, Masters of Science in Optoelectronics and Information Technology, and a PhD in Physics.

