

Lees Medal Award and Webinar

17 June at 10:00 – 11:00 BST

The Lees Medal for 2021 is awarded to Michael Rantell



Michael Rantell completed an MEng in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cambridge in 1993.

Michael then joined Courtaulds (Accordis) where he worked as a Process Engineer until 2002.

After this, Michael joined his current employer, Novartis, as a Process Engineer and has since been employed as Production Manager and most recently as Process Safety Lead.

Michael is a Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council, CPS certified Process Safety Professional, a certified Professional Process Safety Engineer with IChemE, and a Chartered Member of IChemE.

Michael Rantell is recommended as the winner of the Lees Medal. His article 'Historical runaway reaction case study (January 1992)' (Loss Prevention Bulletin 273 June 2020) provides a clear description, with clear graphics and analysis, of a runaway reaction and loss of containment incident in a batch process for synthesis of chemical intermediates for pharmaceutical products. The article includes a useful description of, and signpost to, reaction thermal hazard assessment best practice. The article strikes a good balance between self-examination, openness, and forward-looking discussion. The experience described (which we all hope to avoid) is laid out clearly and sensitively, and good practical advice is provided at the end.