

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

3:45 PM

RNS 150



Dr. Piril Ertem

3M

**INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY
SEMINAR SERIES**

**REFLECTIONS ON A FULFILLING CAREER IN
CHEMISTRY AND BEYOND**

Navigating a career often means adapting to new environments, challenges, and opportunities. In this talk, I will reflect on my journey from academia to industry, through the dynamic world of startups, and back into a larger corporate setting. I'll share insights on transitioning from research-focused roles to product development, the unique challenges of working in an early-stage company, and how each experience shaped my approach to innovation and leadership. Whether you're exploring career paths or considering a transition, I hope my reflections offer perspective and inspiration for building a fulfilling career in science.

About the Speaker

Dr. Piril Ertem holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Bogazici University (2009), M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from Koc University (2011), and a Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from University of Massachusetts Amherst (2016). She completed her postdoctoral training at the University of Minnesota 2018 – 2020. She worked in R&D environments in academia and industry focusing on polymeric material research for a broad range of applications including sustainable energy conversion and medical device coatings. In her most recent role, Piril led R&D activities of the Functional Materials team at Claros Technologies, enabling sustainable product development in textile applications. Piril is currently employed at 3M as a Product Development Specialist in the Transportation and Electronics Business Group.