Dr. Pourdeyhimi joined NC State immediately after completing his PhD at the University of Leeds in 1982 as a Research Associate. Soon, he left for other opportunities, Cornell (2 years), University of Maryland (11 years) and Georgia Tech (4 years) before returning to NC State in 1998-199 Academic year. Dr. Pourdeyhimi joined NC State at the rank of Full Professor and soon after received the Klopman Distinguished professorship for his work in Textile Materials.

Dr. Pourdeyhimi is the **William A. Klopman Distinguished Professor of Textile Materials** in **TECS** in the College of Textiles and is also an associated faculty in the departments of **CBE**, and the **BME**. He also serves as Associate Dean in the College of Textiles and is the **Executive Director of The Nonwovens Institute**.

Early in his career, he focused on the development of tools for characterizing various materials including nonwovens, medical devices, composite materials, etc. For this body of work, he received the **ASTM D-13** **Dewitt Smith Medal**. In particular, his work on image analysis won him the **Fiber Society Distinguished Scientist award in 1994**. He also was selected as the **Fiber Society Lecturer** where he travelled broadly to present his work to industry and academia. He later served also as the **vice president**, and the **president of the Fiber Society**.

He is best known for his contributions to nonwovens and establishment and the growth of nonwovens at NC State. His work in the area of filtration won him the **O’ Max Gardner** award in 2015.

He joined NC State in part to take on a leadership role in the Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center (NCRC). He was appointed as the Director of NCRC in 2000. Under his vision, the center morphed into the Nonwovens Institute (NWI).

His contributions to the field of Nonwovens was recognized in 2018 by NC State. He won the **Holladay Medal**, the highest award bestowed on a faculty at NC State.

**The Key milestones for the NCRC and NWI are:**

1992 – The establishment of a **The Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center (NCRC).**NCRC was one of the first five State/IUCRC's funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

1999 – NCRC graduated from NSF. The funding cycle was completed and NCRC had to become self-sustaining.

2002 – The establishment of the “**Partners’ SpunMelt Lab**”. Investment of more than $8 million.  
2002 – The establishment of **Analytical Facilities**. investment of more than $4 million.  
2003 – The establishment of **Educational Programs** – The **Graduate Certificate** in Nonwovens  
2007 – The establishment of **The Nonwovens Institute** as a university-wide activity that touches at least **3 colleges** and more than **7 departments**.  
2008 – The establishment of the “**Staple Lab**”. Investment of more than $5 million.  
2010 – The establishment of the “**Meltblowng Lab**”. Investment of more than $7 million.  
2012 – The establishment of **LINC, LLC**. an affiliated entity of NC State, an incubator to assist companies with the introduction of new products to market.  
2016 – The **CTI building** and the new facility to replace the older “partners’ Lab” - an investment of ~15 million by NWI; The only one of its kind in the World and the manufacturing innovation hub for the Nonwovens and Affiliated industries.

Today, The Nonwovens Institute (NWI) is the world’s first accredited academic program for the interdisciplinary field of engineered fabrics. Operating on an “Open Innovation” platform, the Nonwovens Institute engages experts from industry and higher education in building next-generation nonwoven applications while also providing training and guidance to the field’s future leaders.