

Isotope and Radiation Division American Nuclear Society

November 27, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

On November 20, 2019 the American Nuclear Society Board of Directors unanimously approved the reunification of the Biology and Medicine Division (BMD) into the Isotope and Radiation Division (IRD) with an updated mission statement, technical committee list, and bylaws. The BMD grew out of the IRD some 30 years ago (1987) and the two have always been closely linked in technical interest and historically retained a great degree of overlap in the executive committees. The merged division has retained the Isotope and Radiation Division name, being one of the original divisions of the Society.

As a Division Chair for both IRD and BMD on numerous occasions, both Steve and I have seen a general decline in the ability to support two separate divisions with the necessary program chairs and executive committee membership that drew away from the ability to operate high-quality technical sessions and provide professional leadership on important topics and position statements. We believe that recognizing and embracing the fact that IRD operates under a broad set of committees allows a combined division to be technically stronger going forward. We do not believe that every subgroup requires a separate named division, all too often have we seen a small passionate group come in for a year or two and then leave the society with a poorly supported technical area or division.

We believe that it is better to strengthen our technical committees and focus on bringing value to our membership by (1) putting on outstanding technical content as part of National Meetings as well as topical meetings and (2) helping to address technical and scientific matters affecting nuclear science.

Both the IRD and BMD have retained stable membership levels around 850 and 420 members, respectively; the combined division is expected to be over 1100 after accounting for members in common. Approximately 1/4th of those are students who we welcome and encourage to participate actively in the technical and governance activities of the division, much as we did when we joined ANS 25 years ago. In support of this, the executive committee of the IRD voted to support the upcoming student conference and fully fund the annually awarded Vogt Scholarship (\$3,000) to undergraduate and graduate students in the field of radioanalytical chemistry, removing the need for Board of Director supplemental funding and enhancing the sustainability of the award. The Radiation Science & Technology Award is also fully funded and is awarded annually (\$2,000).

The Isotopes and Radiation Division (IRD) continues to focus on fundamental and applied technology related to the production and use of isotopes, nuclear methods of analysis, and the measurement of radionuclides and ionizing radiation. Specific areas of interest to IRD members include:

- Production, characterization, and utilization of isotopes for medicine and industry using reactors and alternate sources of production,
- Nuclear methods for material characterization including ionizing radiation beam techniques and activation analysis,

Isotope and Radiation Division

- Radiometric and radiochemistry techniques for quantitative analysis, nuclear data measurements, and the study of radionuclide behavior in the environment, and
- Measurement techniques and applications as they apply to nuclear security including treaty monitoring and verification, nuclear nonproliferation, safeguarding nuclear materials, and nuclear forensics.
- The application and development of nuclear technology for the life sciences, as well as the impact of such technology on society including radiation beam therapy, medical physics, radiographic and radioisotope imaging, radionuclide biological tracers, instrumentation, radiopharmaceutical synthesis and radionuclide production, dosimetry and effects of ionizing radiation, and other related subjects.

The merged IRD governance has been aligned with BMD over the past few years to allow for a smooth transition. The current leadership includes:

Officers:

- Chair: Steve LaMont
- Vice-Chair: Sam Glover
- Secretary: Kimberly A. Burns
- Treasurer: Robert Gregory Downing
- Board Liaisons: Rebecca Steinman and Art Wharton

Committee Members:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Dr. Steven Biegalski | • Dr. Igor Jovanovic |
| • Dr. James Bowen | • Dr. Robert Penn |
| • Dr. Lei Cao | • Dr. Jung Rim |
| • Dr. Derek Haas | • Dr. Vaibhav Sinha |
| • Dr. Lyle Hartig | • Dr. Robert Steiner |
| • Dr. Michael Heibel | • Dr. George Steinhauser |
| • Dr. Brenden Heidrich | • Dr. Kenan Unlu |
| • Dr. Lin-Wen Hu | |

The Program Chairs, Kenan Unlu and Igor Jovanovic, are supported by technical committees which include the following and are great opportunities to get division members to participate and lead in the technical content of division supported activities. The division leadership is developing a long-range plan to strategically support National meetings to ensure a critical mass of presenters meet. We recognize we may not be able to support every meeting equally but want to make smart decisions and build on opportunities presented by the meeting location. With your support, we envision a strong program on Isotope Production and Low Enriched Uranium conversion at the 2020 Winter Meeting in Chicago. Additionally, we are developing future programs on Low Dose Effects and Medical Isotopes, and a Facility Operations Safeguards Interface Meeting in collaboration with other technical divisions, as appropriate. Please contact Program Chairs Kenan or Igor to learn how you can get involved!

Isotope and Radiation Division

Technical Committees

- Industrial Measurements and Applications
- Nuclear and Atomic Analysis
- Radiation Effects
- Transuranics
- Safeguards, Forensics, and Non-Proliferation
- Research Reactors
- Isotope Production
- Neutron Sources, Neutron Beams, Applications
- Gamma and Neutron Imaging Applications
- Development and Applications of Nuclear Technology for Life Sciences

Many of you may not be aware of the significant changes coming to the Society as part of the ANS 2020 Change Plan. Some of these changes are well defined and moving forward to implementation. However, some changes, such as those involving financial aspects of the Divisions, the Local Sections, and how we run topical meetings are still fluid with specific implementation activities remaining under development. As one example, ANS is revisiting the fundamental design and focus of National Meeting programs and evaluating the Transaction system. The desired intent of the Change Plan is to enable all Divisions to put on strong technical programs at national and topical meetings. Some of the changes under consideration include: reducing or eliminating page charges and including options for using shorter abstracts so strong speakers can be included by our division without compromising potential peer reviewed publication of material in the future. We believe these are important changes and IRD leadership remains actively engaged in the conversation as these changes are proposed, evaluated and ultimately implemented.

While the name BMD is no longer present, the technical committees, position statements and science that is important to both divisions remain. IRD continues to support the science behind Position Statement 41 “Health Effects of Low-Level Radiation” in collaboration with Radiation Protection Shielding Division (RPSD) and help to develop an appropriate policy statement update for the Society. This topic lends itself to significant discussion at National and topical meetings and will likely involve cooperation with the Health Physics Society and other high level bodies such as the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) and International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). Additionally, the IRD along with the Northern California Local Section continues to sponsor the International Methods and Applications of Radioanalytical Chemistry (MARC).

As you can see, there is a lot of exciting change within IRD, as well as the Society as whole. The following activities will be accomplished in the near future:

- 1) Update the division website to
 - a. Reflect the new IRD leadership
 - b. Develop a pointer to make sure those who may go to the BMD site are directed to the revised IRD site.

Isotope and Radiation Division

- c. Include the presentation to the Board of Directors meeting, 11/20/2019, supporting the merger
 - d. Include the updated bylaws and rules for IRD
- 2) Provide a newsletter that outlines the Division sponsored upcoming technical programs, awards, and scholarships
 - 3) Send out the first call for papers for the 12th International Conference on Methods and Applications of Radioanalytical Chemistry (MARC XII). Chair: Steve LaMont (lamont@lanl.gov), Technical Program Chair: Sam Glover (glover.14@osu.edu).

In closing, the merged division is made stronger by allowing us to focus on technical contributions to National and topical meetings and renewing our focus on strong working technical committees. IRD continues to be a leader in technical contributions to the National and International scientific community through its co-sponsorship of the MARC conference with the Northern California Local Section ensuring that MARC remains the premier topical meeting in the field. IRD is becoming more strategic by looking at opportunities to put on new or revive dormant topical meetings important to IRD members and ANS. We look forward to helping ANS align on a path to ensure the continued long term success of the Society and provide value to its membership.

Best Regards,

Steve LaMont, Chair, IRD and Sam Glover, Vice-Chair, IRD