

Agenda
Isotopes and Radiation Division
Hybrid Meeting
Nov 17, 2024 - 12:00-2:00 pm (EST)

In-person Location: Veiltail Room

Virtual Option (MS Teams Meeting)

NOTE: The meeting was held in a hybrid format, and the connection was unstable. There were several instances of audio disruptions during which remote participants could not be heard.

List of Attendees (either in person or online): J. Bowen, S. Biegalski, R. Cao, I. Jovanovic, R. Steiner, E. Wilson, Craig, L.W. Hu, K. Hartig, S. Lemont, D. Haas, S. Glover, C. Downing, M. Alamaniotis

1) IRD Executive Committee Meeting call to order

- The meeting was called to order.

2) Review of Past Minutes from June 2024 Meeting.

- Raymond Cao moved to approve the minutes, and Steve seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Note: Prior to final approval, there was a discussion regarding the amount of funding to be allocated for the ANS Student Conference.

3) Review Status of Action Items from June 2024 Meeting

a. ANS Student meeting

- Two students from the University of New Mexico, Ethan and Mike from the planning committee, attended and gave a brief presentation. They outlined the preliminary plans for the event, which will be held at the New Mexico Union Building. Both technical and entertainment aspects of the event were discussed. The theme is “*Old and New*.” The event website is now live, and the call for papers has been issued, with 17 session tracks planned. A call for judges was also made; participation does not require physical attendance.
- There was a discussion about allocating \$500 for the Best Student Paper award and an additional \$500 for general conference support. Steve motioned, Eric seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. No one opposed.

b. Update website

- Ongoing. Miltos will take care of the web site.

c. ANS 15 – Licensing research reactors

- Lin-Wen will identify someone to participate on the committee.
- Lin-Wen provided updates on the committee, highlighting several key changes. The most significant is that the NRC Commissioners have approved a new policy to license research reactors on a five-year cycle. MIT will be the first to follow this approach. Additionally, it was mentioned that the University of

Illinois plans to establish a gas-cooled research reactor within the next two years.

- Erik also mentioned his updates.

d. Update bylaws and rules – Jim

- We have been advised not to make any changes to our bylaws until after the ANS Board meeting. It is likely that we will receive further information in January 2025.

e. Student awards for RANC

- S. LaMont will provide an update on the award format, after which a vote will be conducted via email.
- Note: A discussion took place regarding the proposal to provide four Best Paper Awards for MARC, with a total allocation of \$2,000 (a correction to previous minutes).

4) ANS Operations Overview

a. ANS Financial Stability

- Expenses are not increasing as rapidly as revenue, which is positive news.
- Membership numbers are rising; this year, the society is expected to surpass 10,000 monthly active members—the highest in the past 15 years.
- Of trial memberships, 20% convert to full memberships. Efforts continue to focus on converting young members to regular members.
- Open access publications are receiving more citations than subscription-based ones.
- *Nuclear Daily News* was launched in May and currently has 36,000 members.
- *Nuclear Wires* readership is growing steadily.
- The number of webinars has decreased this year.

b. Annual Meetings

- A special committee is evaluating the future of the annual meeting. The winter meeting currently has better attendance than the annual meeting.
- The board intends to vote on amendments to the bylaws and rules concerning society governance. One proposed change is to allow governance decisions to occur at any time, rather than only after the summer meeting.
- Jim outlined three options:
 1. No change
 2. Hold only one meeting (winter)
 3. Replace the annual meeting with an administrative meeting focused on professional development—featuring enlightening talks and training, but no abstracts.
- The likely direction is to move toward a single executive meeting.
- Annual meetings are fully booked through 2027.

- The Young Professional Congress will be merged with the annual meeting to form a professional meeting.
- Governance has requested feedback from the divisions. Jim encouraged members to send their ideas on improving the summer meeting directly to him.

c. Abstracts/Summaries

- MSDD had only abstract submissions, receiving around 200 submissions, resulting in a higher volume of data.
- ANS abstracts generate revenue since many participants pay to access the papers; however, the citation rate is very low.
- Jim proposed scheduling a meeting with John Fabian to provide feedback on the publications.
- IRD supports the abstract-only format, and Jim will update John Fabian accordingly.
- Lin-Wen expressed full support for the one-page abstract format.

d. Standards Updates

- A new standards committee development plan was shared online by Jim. Volunteers are being solicited to participate in standards development related to AI, nuclear space standards, and nuclear facilities. Several ANS standards projects were highlighted that align with interests from IRD. Jim encouraged members to join these committees. He will share the standards development document with the executive committee.

e. Outreach/PR

- Two certificate classes have been offered, with a total of 2,000 participants on the list, marking a successful program.
- A professional committee will be established.
- The ANS K–12 STEM program is expanding.
- Jim mentioned that Rebecca gave a talk on workforce development this morning.
- Sponsors are being solicited to fund cloud chambers for schools, with a target of \$15,000.

f. Other

- No other issues were discussed.

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5) Treasure's Report

- Craig (attending online) provided an update on the treasury. He downloaded the budget from the ANS website and reported that approximately \$61,000 is allocated for scholarships from our budget. Jim noted that the ANS Treasurer mentioned the ANS meetings are performing better than budgeted, which is positive news. Craig inquired whether budget approval was required. No questions were raised regarding the budget. A motion to approve the budget was made, with Steve moving and Tyler seconding. The motion passed without objection.

- A discussion followed regarding how ANS distributes the financial risk of meetings such as MARC. Steve L. mentioned that ANS encourages divisions to co-sponsor meetings to help share this risk. There was also a conversation about the MARC meeting surplus and concerns about protecting these funds from being reallocated by ANS. Lin-Wen noted that 75% of the MARC surplus returns to IRD.
- It was acknowledged that the discussion was lengthy, but the consensus was that the surplus needs to be spent, and this topic will be revisited next year. The budget was officially approved with no opposition.

6) IRD Statistics

- Membership currently stands at 992, reflecting a 9% increase (after a 10% drop last year).
- Tennessee, Texas, and California have the highest number of IRD members.
- There are 51 members in grace status; renewal reminder emails have been sent.
- Students make up 26% of the membership. IRD performs better than ANS overall in attracting young members but lags behind in lifetime memberships compared to the whole ANS.
- Steve noted that 20–30 years ago, being an ANS Fellow came with lifelong benefits, but this is no longer the case.

7) Division Committees

a. Program

Igor briefed on the current 3 sessions

- i. IRD Sessions at June 2025 ANS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL
 - i. Igor mentioned that two sessions are planned: a general session and one on research reactors, proposed by Erik.
 - ii. Igor invited suggestions and ideas for the upcoming Chicago meeting.
- ii. IRD Sessions at November 2025 ANS Winter Meeting in Washington, DC
 - i. Igor also solicited ideas for additional sessions and mentioned the possibility of coordinating submissions with topical meetings, such as the Nonproliferation Policy Conference.
 - ii. Those interested are encouraged to contact Igor or Kenan.
- iii. IRD Sessions at June 2026 ANS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO
 - i. No updates or information were provided regarding this conference.
- iv. MARC XIII
 - i. Steve L. received final approval from the ANS committee and is organizing the call for papers. Abstract

submissions are already coming in, and room block reservations have been made. Steve encouraged anyone attending MARC to make their reservations promptly.

- ii. Four plenary speakers have been scheduled, including one from the USA.
- iii. One plenary will be dedicated to Chad, who was a driving force behind activation analysis and recently passed away.

v. Other Conferences of interest to IRD

- i. Several upcoming conferences were mentioned: the ANIMA Conference (organized by IEEE), the SORMA meeting (scheduled for the end of July), and the IEEE Nuclear Symposium, which will take place in Japan next year. The NNPD topical meeting will be held in conjunction with the ANS Winter Meeting. The ICI meeting was also noted.
- ii. A question was raised about how our submissions compare to those of IRD. Igor explained that there was originally an agreement between the two divisions: IRD would focus on technical content while NNPD would focus on policy. However, this distinction has since blurred, with NNPD now actively attracting technical papers and not adhering to the original agreement. NNPD has been more active than IRD in this area, and most researchers working in the field now prefer to submit their work to NNPD sessions.
- iii. Igor suggested reaching out to NNPD to schedule a meeting and explore opportunities for collaboration. There was general consensus that coordinating with NNPD would be a good idea.

b. Honors and Awards

i. Vogt Award

- i. Sam was unable to provide a report. Jim will email Miltos with Sam's updates once he receives them.

ii. Radiation Science & Technology Award

iii. Gozani Family Graduate Scholarship

- i. No significant updates on them

8) Subcommittees

- a. Industrial Measurements and Applications (Cao)
 - ii. No updates
- b. Nuclear and Atomic Analysis (Glover & LaMont)
- c. Radiation Effects (Cazalas) – No updated
- d. Transuranics (Glenn) – no updates
- e. Safeguards, Forensics and Non-Proliferation (Biegalski/Hartig) – no updates
- f. Research Reactors (Hu/Wilson)

- iii. Dr. Hu had just returned from the Research Reactors Conference and shared its main conclusions. She reported that there is significant global activity in the field of research reactors.
- iv. She also noted that the DOE plans to increase funding for research reactor facilities in the coming years.

g. Isotope Production (Bowen)

- v. There was no update from this committee. A new chair is needed to take over its responsibilities.
- vi. It was proposed that Erik reach out to identify a suitable candidate to lead the committee.

h. Neutron Sources, Neutron Beams and Applications (Unlu)

i. Gamma and Neutron Imaging Applications (Jovanovic)

j. Development and Applications of Nuclear Technology for the Life Sciences (Steinhauser/Steiner)

- vii. No updates from the above subcommittees.

9) Other Interfaces and Contacts

a. Standards Committee Interface (Burns and Downing)

- i. No updates. Not received any correspondence from the standards committee.

b. Environmental and Siting Consensus Committee (not filled)

- i. No updates.

c. Safety and Radiological Analysis

- i. No updated

10) Old Business:

a. YMG recruiting and IRD membership

- viii. The idea of having a student representative on the Executive Committee was discussed.
- ix. A webinar may be organized to engage with student members and gather their input.

b. Updating IRD Website

- i. Update will be done.

c. Update Bylaws and Rules

- i. Update will be conveyed by Jim.

d. Document management – options

- i. No update.

11) New Business

- i. No new business.

12) Conclusion

- x. A motion to adjourn was made by Steve and seconded by Raymond. The motion was approved.