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Introductory Remarks

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Introductory Remarks

The *Thirteenth Symposium on Separation Science and Technology for Energy Applications* was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, October 27–30, 2003. Symposia in this series are held every two years and attract approximately 100 international participants.

The symposium was comprised of nine sessions organized around a theme of separations as a key to a sustainable energy future. In addition to a traditional focus on nuclear separations and core separations technologies (membranes, adsorption/ion exchange, and solvent extraction), this meeting featured sessions on current topics in fossil energy and hydrogen, as well as alternative separations. The conference opened with a plenary session that included overviews of separations research programs in the U.S. Department of Energy by John Miller and Brian Valentine, an update of current work in the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative by Jim Laidler of Argonne National Laboratory, a discussion of issues related to hydrogen production using nuclear energy by Charles Forsberg of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and an overview of opportunities for new separations technologies using alternative solvents by Robin Rogers of the University of Alabama. All papers submitted for the symposium were reviewed, and this issue contains those that were accepted in time for publication, representing approximately 40% of the papers presented.

The Symposium was organized by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Separations Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Separations Science and Technology Subdivision of the Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. The following individuals played key roles in organizing and running the symposium.

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Kenneth Nash
Jack Watson

Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Washington State University
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, retired

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Special credit is due to Ms. Lana Melton, Ms. Linda Puckett, and Dr. Marsha Savage who handled the papers, registration, and numerous clerical activities. Ms. Angela Beach was responsible for the arrangements with the hotel and related services. Additional help was provided by several unnamed staff of the Park Vista Hotel and Convention Center.

The next symposium in this series will be held in Gatlinburg during October 2005.