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Foreword: Introductory Remarks

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Foreword: Introductory Remarks

The *Fourteenth Symposium on Separation Science and Technology for Energy Applications* was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on October 23–27, 2005. Symposia in this series are held every two years and attract approximately 100 international participants.

The symposium was comprised of nine sessions connected by a theme of separations as a key to a sustainable energy future. In addition to a traditional focus on core separations technologies (membranes, adsorption/ion exchange, and solvent extraction) and applications specific to the U.S. Department of Energy, this meeting featured a special session on the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative and a highly enjoyable and informative session on novel separations. The plenary session provided excellent perspective on energy needs and the importance of separations R&D in addressing those needs. That session included presentations by Gregory Choppin of Florida State University on present and future directions for nuclear reprocessing; Kenneth Nash of Washington State University on separations technologies relevant to future energy needs; Jeffrey Siirola of Eastman Chemical on overall future sustainability of the global chemical and energy industries; and Bill Choate of BCS, Inc. on the findings of a recent DOE report on R&D needs on materials for separations. All papers from the symposium that were submitted for publication were peer reviewed, and this issue contains those that were accepted in time for publication, representing approximately 40% of the oral and poster presentations. A special thanks is due to those symposium participants who contributed papers and to their numerous colleagues who conscientiously completed reviews in a timely fashion.

The Symposium was organized by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Washington State University, 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. In addition, generous support was provided by Cytec Canada, Inc.

Several individuals played key roles in organizing and running the symposium. The organizing committee included:

David DePaoli, Chair	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Kenneth Nash, co-Chair	Washington State University
Rebecca Chamberlin	Los Alamos National Laboratory
Renato Chiarizia	Argonne National Laboratory
Lætitia Delmau	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Samuel Fink	Savannah River National Laboratory
James Laidler	Argonne National Laboratory
Eric Peterson	National Science Foundation
James Ritter	University of South Carolina
Robin Rogers	University of Alabama
Jack Watson	Oak Ridge National Laboratory, retired

In addition to the members of the organizing committee, the following served as session chairs:

Doug Berning	Los Alamos National Laboratory
Emory Collins	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Kevin Felker	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Henry Kasaini	Tshwane University of Technology
Elisabeth Walker	Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Linda Puckett and Karen Fugate handled registration and all administrative activities in preparation for the meeting. Angela Beach and Angela Fincher were responsible for the hotel arrangements and related services. Additional help was provided by several unnamed staff of the Park Vista Hotel and Convention Center. Special credit is due to Karen Fugate, who coordinated the reviews of the papers included in this issue.

The next symposium in this series will be held in Gatlinburg during October 2007.