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Introductory Remarks

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Introductory Remarks

The *Fifteenth Symposium on Separation Science and Technology for Energy Applications* was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on October 21–25, 2007. Symposia in this series are held every two years and attract over 100 international participants. Oral presentations are grouped by subject matter, given without concurrent sessions and complemented by a large, interactive poster session, all designed to promote open technical discussions on a broad range of separations R&D.

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 (DOE), this meeting featured sessions on nuclear fuel cycle separations and novel separations. The plenary session provided excellent perspective on energy needs and the importance of separations R&D in addressing those needs. That session featured presentations on the European fuel-cycle program by Christian Ekberg of Chalmers University; an industry perspective on closing the nuclear fuel cycle by Dorothy Davidson of AREVA; the DOE's Environmental Management Technology Program by John Marra of Savannah River National Laboratory; and an overview of the rapidly expanding activities and opportunities in bioenergy R&D by Brian Davison of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. As in all symposia in the series, a meeting highlight was a lively and well-attended poster session with over 60 contributions.

This year's meeting featured increased involvement of students, which represented approximately 20% of all participants. The symposium served as an excellent opportunity for students to interact with leading researchers on multiple separations topics and to gain experience in presenting their work. The increase in student participation was made possible through contributions from the Separation Science & Technology Subdivision of the American Chemical Society's Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Division, Washington Group International/ Savannah River National Laboratory, and UT-Battelle.

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 xx% of the oral and poster presentations. Special thanks are due to those symposium

participants who contributed papers and to their numerous colleagues who conscientiously completed reviews in a timely fashion.

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
Renato Chiarizia	Argonne National Laboratory
Laetitia Delmau	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Mark Dietz	Argonne National Laboratory
Samuel Fink	Savannah River National Laboratory
James Laidler	Argonne National Laboratory
Eric Peterson	Idaho National Laboratory
Jack Watson	Oak Ridge National Laboratory, retired
Sotira Yiacoumi	Georgia Institute of Technology

In addition to the members of the Organizing Committee, the following served as session chairs:

Kevin Felker	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Eric Guibal	Ecole des Mines d'Alès
Henry Kasaini	Tshwane University of Technology
Michael Poirier	Savannah River National Laboratory
Elisabeth Walker	Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Karen Fugate handled the registration and numerous administrative activities in preparation for the meeting. Angela Beach and Angela Fincher were 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. 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 October 2009.