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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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## Separation Science and Technology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713708471>

### Foreword

Online publication date: 30 August 2010

**To cite this Article** (2010) 'Foreword', *Separation Science and Technology*, 45: 12, 1667

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/01496395.2010.494656

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01496395.2010.494656>

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## Foreword

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The *Sixteenth Symposium on Separation Science and Technology for Energy Applications* was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on October 18–22, 2009. 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 eight sessions connected by a theme of separations as a key to the development of sustainable energy systems and energy-efficient processes. 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 separation methods. 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 separations opportunities in the nuclear fuel cycle by Raymond Wymer of Vanderbilt University; sustainability and the role of nuclear energy by Ken Nash of Washington State University; alternative feedstocks and related separations needs for the chemical industry by David Graf and John Pendegast of Dow Chemical Company; and carbon capture and storage by Costas Tsouris 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 65 contributions.

This year's meeting featured prominent participation 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. This year's meeting featured a student poster competition, including contributions from 18 undergraduate and graduate students, which were judged by a panel of researchers. The top prize was awarded to Hye-Jin Hong, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology – Republic of Korea; honorable mention awards went to Matt Gott, Tennessee Technological University, and Lindsay Hilkert, Augusta State University. Student awards and a subsidy of student registration fees were made possible through contributions from the Separation Science & Technology Subdivision of the American Chemical Society's Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Division.

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. 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
Laetitia Delmau	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Mark Dietz	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Samuel Fink	Savannah River National Laboratory
Eric Peterson	Idaho National Laboratory
Terry Todd	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:

Doug Aaron	Georgia Institute of Technology
Mark Antonio	Argonne National Laboratory
Ramesh Bhave	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Dale Ensor	Tennessee Technological University
Kevin Felker	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Eric Guibal	Ecole des Mines d'Ales
Jared Johnson	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Costas Tsouris	Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Karen Fugate handled the registration and numerous administrative activities in preparation for the meeting. Angela Beach was responsible for the arrangements with the hotel and related services. Karen Barry and Fern Stooksbury provided computer support for registration and abstract/manuscript submission. 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 the fall of 2011.