FOREWORD

SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE 16TH BIENNIAL TOPICAL MEETING OF THE RADIATION PROTECTION AND SHIELDING DIVISION

Guest Editor

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This issue of *Nuclear Technology* features selected papers from the 16th Biennial Topical Meeting of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Radiation Protection and Shielding Division (RPSD) held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in April 2010 (RPSD2010). The general conference chair was Anthony Hechanova from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the technical program chair was Robert B. Hayes from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Generous support in many ways was given to RPSD2010 by UNLV. Additional support was provided by the Remote Sensing Laboratory, Varian Medical Systems, Inc., WIPP, Rad-Ware Inc., and of course the entire local section of ANS. Special individual efforts by Steven Curtis, David Stahl, and Dixie O'Dou were of great support and are duly acknowledged.

RPSD2010 had 205 registrants from 18 countries, but only 170 attendees were at the meeting—mainly due to the eruption of Iceland's volcano interfering with air travel. The conference included 157 presentations and offered 6 tutorials.

The RPSD was pleased to present its prestigious Rockwell Lifetime Achievement Award to Nicholas Tsoulfanidis, Professor Emeritus of nuclear engineering and Editor of *Nuclear Technology*, for his numerous accomplishments in the radiation sciences.

The RPSD topical meetings focus on all shielding-related applications. Those applications in this topical included medical physics, radiation protection, shielding, detector physics and design, neutron physics, Monte Carlo calculations, radiation transport calculations, and radiation detection and measurement. A special track for activities at UNLV was also included that covered radiochemistry and nuclear forensics

The papers presented at this conference contained the latest research and information on the topics of radiation shielding, radiation detection, and medical applications of radiation. To give a presentation at the conference, attendees were required to submit an abstract of less than two pages in length. The abstract was then peer reviewed by two independent experts, with options given to authors for revisions based on the referee recommendations. Accepted papers were then presented at the conference. After the meeting, authors were invited to submit their papers for publication in *Nuclear Technology*. An additional review of the submitted papers was performed by two reviewers chosen by the Editor, in accordance with *Nuclear Technology's* normal peer-review process.

Because of the in-depth review process, which has ensured high-quality papers, and the important topics that are discussed, we hope that this special issue will be a valuable reference for nuclear scientists and engineers.