



*Fusion Technology (FT)* traditionally publishes reviewed papers for the long-standing series of American Nuclear Society (ANS) topical meetings on the technology of fusion energy. Reviewed proceedings began with the Fifth Topical (Knoxville, Tennessee, April 1983), which was contained in *Nuclear Technology/Fusion*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Parts 2 and 3 (1983). *Nuclear Technology/Fusion* became *FT* in 1984, and the first topical to be covered by *FT* was the Sixth Topical (San Francisco, California, March 1985), contained in *FT*, Vol. 8, No. 1, Parts 2A and 2B (1985). Papers from the Seventh through the Eleventh Topicals are contained

in *FT*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Parts 2A and 2B (1986); *FT*, Vol. 15, No. 2, Parts 2A and 2B (1989); *FT*, Vol. 19, No. 3, Parts 2A and 2B (1991); *FT*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Parts 2A and 2B (1992); and *FT*, Vol. 26, No. 3, Part 2 (1994), respectively. All of the *FT* issues in this series have provided the fusion community with a comprehensive overview of the status and directions in contemporary fusion technology. Despite the “gloom” cast on the field by recent cuts in the U.S. Department of Energy magnetic fusion budget, the enthusiasm and participation of fusion scientists at the Eleventh Topical was outstanding. If a trend is to be noted, it would not be a decrease in dedication to the development of fusion energy but rather changes in direction, e.g., in work on inertial confinement fusion as a result of funding for the National Ignition Facility (NIF).

Several important points about the topical issues in *FT* bear repeating from my 1994 comments. The key feature of these special topical issues is that the papers have undergone a concentrated peer review. Thus, not all presentations at the meeting are contained in the special *FT* issue. In some instances, the authors may have chosen not to submit a full paper for review, and in others, papers have been withdrawn. In this issue, in particular, presentations from panels and some nontechnical overviews are not included. While a vital and interesting part of the meeting, such presentations did not appear appropriate in a reviewed technical journal. If the reader is interested in a full list of presentations, the meeting's *Book of Abstracts* may be obtained from ANS.

Technical Program Chair John Perkins managed the review process in addition to his many other duties relative to the meeting itself. This was a formidable task, and it was carried out in superb style. Papers were submitted at the meeting, so the reviews were conducted during and after the meeting. Session chairs were heavily involved in the reviews and in the selection of reviewers. Because of the tight time schedule, this was not only a very demanding task for the reviewers but also required the authors' cooperation to modify and resubmit their manuscripts in a timely fashion. This process involved the donation of considerable time by a large number of people, but I believe you will agree with me that the

final product is well worth the effort. Not only does it ensure high-quality papers for the special issue, but the knowledge that a review is involved also motivates participants to develop better quality presentations, raising the technical level of the meeting. Thus, I am sure that I speak on behalf of all involved when I express my thanks to Dr. Perkins, the reviewers, and the authors for the strong efforts they put into making the meeting and this special issue so outstanding.

A number of other people were also instrumental to the success of the meeting and this special issue. These include General Chair Carl Henning, Technical Program Deputy Chair Naoaki Yoshida, and Associate Chairs Mike Tobin and Wayne Meier. The conference staff from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory also did a superb job in keeping track of manuscripts and reviewers and assisting with various "on-the-spot" revisions. Thanks are also due Carolyn Maille-Petersen, *FT* editorial office, who prepared the subject index, and Ellen Leitschuh and Christine Yoelin, ANS Headquarters staff, who were responsible for proof editing, preparation of front material, and assembly of the volume under the direction of Mary Beth Gardner, ANS Technical Publications Manager.

The outstanding papers in this issue should provide the fusion community with vital information and insight at this critical juncture in fusion energy development. Despite the worries about budget cuts, we trust that the present rapid program will continue, and we eagerly look forward to the Thirteenth Topical Meeting on the Technology of Fusion Energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.