

Biographies

Romney B. Duffey, Ph.D., B.Sc.

Romney Duffey worked first in Europe, after obtaining his degrees in Physics/Geophysics, and then in North America, presently being the Principal Scientist with AECL (Canada) responsible for strategic directions for reactor technology development. He has seen the rise, decline and re-mergence of nuclear energy in the world, becoming a leading expert in commercial nuclear reactor studies. Because of the importance of global environmental and energy sustainability, he has contributed in multiple areas, on advanced energy systems design and reactor concepts, on energy, environment and waste, and on safety, risk, simulation, physical modeling and uncertainty analysis. Romney is the co-author of original texts on risk and errors in technology (“Know the Risk”, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2002, and “Managing Risk”, Wiley, 2008), and of a new ASME textbook on supercritical heat transfer in power engineering, and has published over 200 technical papers and reports, plus some published and unpublished poetry. His world-wide experiences presently include working on international collaborative research projects, activities as an Expert with the Generation IV International forum, and extensively lecturing and presenting the role of nuclear and hydrogen energy in today’s both challenging and challenged world. He is happily married, with two children and many grandchildren in the USA. Asked many times how he does so many things in and with his time, his reply is “There is no time: it is what you do with what time you have that counts”. He is the past Chair of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ Nuclear Engineering Division, an active Member of the American, British and Canadian Nuclear Societies, and was elected a Fellow of ASME for his exceptional engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession.

Catherine Cottrell, Ph.D.

Catherine is the Manager of the Fuel Cycles, Cogeneration and Pre-project group within the Advanced Reactor and Component Development division at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) in Mississauga, Ontario. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering.

Catherine joined AECL over eleven years ago and during this time has been primarily involved in design work related to isotope production and CANDU[®] reactor refurbishment.

Catherine joined the Advanced Reactor and Component Development division three years ago. In her role she is responsible for product development in the area of fuel cycles and the non-electrical application of nuclear reactors; specifically for industrial steam supply, hot water distribution, hydrogen generation and desalination.

Sermet Kuran, P.E, Ph.D.

Sermet is Advanced Reactor Development Director with AECL in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. He is a Mechanical Engineer by training with a Ph. D. on flow-induced vibrations from McGill University, Montreal.

Sermet joined AECL about 20 years ago with design and field engineering experience in naval and land-based mechanical projects. His area of interest within AECL has been applied research and product development resulting in commercial products; initially as a technical specialist and later as a manager of development projects. Redesign of the Space Shuttle Advanced Solid Rocket Motors, development of CANDU inflatable seals and commercialization of CANDU ECC strainers are some examples.

In the recent years Sermet directed his interests onto larger scale product development covering;

- Concept development of the Advanced Candu Reactor (ACR),
- Non-electrical application of nuclear reactors covering industrial steam supply, hot water distribution, hydrogen generation and desalination for Alberta Oil sands,
- Development and introduction of new fuel cycles into current CANDU reactors

Currently, Sermet is focused on engineering delivery of various new development programs ranging from;

- Natural Uranium Equivalent (NUE) fuel, a mixture of Recycled Uranium and Depleted Uranium for Chinese C6 units in Qinshan with the commercial objective of full core application in 2011-12
- Designing and implementing the first successful commercial application of Thorium in nuclear reactors

Ron Oberth, Ph.D.

Dr. Ron Oberth joined AECL as Director, Marketing Operations in November 2004 to provide marketing support services to market team leaders and to lead marketing initiatives in selected markets for new reactors. He is currently Director Marketing and Business Development and works primarily on domestic market initiatives with a focus on Western Canada. He also supports international market development activities in selected markets.

Dr. Oberth started his career in the nuclear industry with AECL in 1973 and moved to Ontario Hydro in 1977 where he held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility including Project Manager Bruce Special Projects, Manager Intellectual Property Assets and Director of Nuclear Products at Ontario Hydro International Inc.

Dr. Oberth graduated from University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics. He completed his PhD at the Princeton University in Aerospace Propulsion and has an MBA from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.