



Preface

Twenty-Fifth Rare Earth Research Conference

The Rare Earth Research Conferences (North America) alternates on a three year cycle with the International Conference on f-Elements (Europe) and the International Conference on Rare Earths (rest of the world). The 25th Rare Earth Research Conference in Alabama (RERC08), followed the successful 24th RERC in Keystone, Colorado held June, 2005.

RERC08 was held in Shelby Hall, located on The University of Alabama's campus in Tuscaloosa, AL. The program (Dr. John Sarrao, Program Chair) integrated basic and applied research centered on the f-elements. Leading science was featured in the form of invited oral presentations and contributed posters on topics in f-element chemistry, physics, and materials, earth, environmental, and biological sciences. Highlighting the program was the presentation of the Frank H. Spedding Award for excellence in rare earth research.

The topical themes of RERC08 truly exemplified the breadth of the field. These included Solid State and Coordination Chemistry, Organometallic Chemistry; Theoretical Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry, Condensed Matter Physics & Magnetism, Ionic Liquids and Molten Salts, Separations Science, Mass Spectrometry, Spectroscopy and Optical Materials, Functional Materials, Oxide Materials, Nuclear Materials Research, and Medicinal Applications.

The RERC08 Program Committee, Chaired by Dr. John Sarrao, is to be congratulated on putting together such an interesting program. Members of the *Program Committee* consisted of:

Dr. John Sarrao: sarrao@lanl.gov (Program Chair)
 Jean-Claude Bunzli, Lausanne (bio/med applications)
 Paul Canfield, Iowa State/Ames Laboratory (condensed matter physics and magnetism)
 Julia Chan, Louisiana State (solid state/coordination chemistry)
 Dhanesh Chandra, University of Nevada-Reno (materials science)
 Sue Clark, Washington State (environmental chemistry)
 Dave Dixon, Alabama (theoretical chemistry)
 Anita Gianotto, INL (mass spectroscopy)
 Gordon Jarvinen, Los Alamos (nuclear materials)
 Jackie Kiplinger, Los Alamos (organometallic chemistry)
 Guo-Kui Liu, Argonne (spectroscopy)
 Anja Mudring, Bochum (ionic liquids)
 Ann Visser, Savannah River (separations science)
 Zhiping Zheng, Arizona (functional materials)

At RERC08, as at all the Rare Earth Research Conferences, the participant experiences were enriched by the strong international

participation. This is in no small part due to the efforts of the *International Advisory Committee*, with members:

J.-C. Bunzli (Switzerland)
 Ji Chen (China)
 David A. Dixon (USA)
 Anja Mudring (Germany)
 Dale L. Perry (USA)
 J. Takats (Canada)
 M. F. Tweedle (USA)
 A. E. Visser (USA)

The RERC08 *Proceedings Editorial Board* consisted of:

Michael F. Reid, *Proceedings Editor-in-Chief*
 Danesh Chandra
 Peter K. Dorhout
 Vitalij K. Pecharsky

And the Spedding Award Committee Chair was:

Peter K. Dorhout

Every conference also needs strong financial supporters and RERC08 was no different. We are grateful for the financial and personal participation of the RERC08 sponsors, Bracco Research USA Inc., the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Basic Energy Sciences; Ames Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, and The University of Alabama.

Finally, I need to thank all of my staff and students that contributed to the local arrangements and the smooth operation of the meeting. The Conference Coordinator, Ms. Mihaela Rogers, also sends her thanks to all of the participants and their good humor which all led to a pleasant conference experience from both participants and organizers.

Conference Chair
 Robin D. Rogers
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