

## WM2016 Conference Panel Report

**PANEL SESSION 43:**      **Young Professionals in Nuclear Science and Engineering, an International Perspective**

**Co-Chairs:**                      **Robert Berry**, *Foxfire Scientific, Inc*  
**Leonel E. Lagos**, *Applied Research Center at Florida International University*

**Panel Reporter:**                **Leonel E. Lagos**, *Applied Research Center at Florida International University*

### Panelists:

1. **Melissa Loyley**, *2015 Chair - UK YGN, (United Kingdom)*
2. **Alys Gardner**, *Nuclear Safety Consultant, (United Kingdom)*
3. **Abbey Donahue**, *Nuclear Engineer, AREVA, TN/NAYGN member*
4. **Marissa Reigel**, *Senior Materials Engineer, Savannah River National Lab*

More than 35 people attended this session that focused on the prospective of mentorship and knowledge transfer from multiple viewpoints. An informal roundtable-style format composed of the future leaders of our industry sitting together with senior representatives from the federal government and industry. The panel members shared ideas and points of views with the audience as well as with the other panel members. The panel members were composed of early career professionals from industry and national lab from the UK and US. The audience asked the speakers questions at the end of each speaker's presentation and at the end of the panel session. Members of the audience included government representatives, DOE national labs, students and conference participants.

### **Summary of Presentations**

At this year's Waste Management Symposia (WM2016), young professionals, government and industry had the opportunities to share their views and exchange ideas and concerns about early-career professionals and the workforce. The panel was composed of young professional representing the US and the UK. This forum provided a great opportunity for our young colleagues to understand the future waste management employment landscape and challenges of this industry on both side of the pond.

At Session #43, "Young Professionals in Nuclear Science and Engineering, an International Perspective," panel members described their experiences in their respective organizations. Panel members also discussed their experiences in the Young Generation Network organization in the US and the UK. The panel members also discussed the opportunities to mentor and transfer knowledge transfer during the first few years of their early careers:

**Melissa Loyley** During her presentation, Mellissa showcased her experience as a member and 2015 president of the UK Young Generation Network (UKYGN). Melissa provided a full description of the UKYGN organization in the UK and the type of activities that this organization performs throughout the year. She also described her experience as the former 2015 chair for this organization, and she shared her experience as a young engineer working in the UK's nuclear industry.

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**Alys Gardner** Alys is the current 2016 chair of the UKYGN. Following Melissa's presentation, Alys continued the discussion of the UKYGN. Her discussion included current examples of activities that the UKYGN is conducting this year. Alys also expanded on how UKYGN helps young professional achieve their career objectives and growth. Alys also described her own experience as a young professional working in the nuclear industry. She shared some of her experiences with the audience and provided some tips for the young professionals and students in the audience.

**Abbey Donahue** Abbey is a member of the North American Young Generation Network (NAYGN). During her presentation, Abbey described the NAYGN organization and showcased some of the activities that the organization engages in the US. Abbey encouraged the young professional in the audience to participate in organizations (such as NAYGN) that promote professional development and the sharing of knowledge. She also mentioned the upcoming NAYGN national conference to be held in Miami during summer 2016.

**Marissa Reigel** During her presentation, Marissa described her experience as a Senior Materials Engineer working at Savannah River National Lab. Melissa gave a short description of SRNL's mission and described her job. She also discussed some of the mentoring and knowledge transfer she has obtained while working at SRNL. She shared with the audience some key elements needed to achieve success as a young professional working in government and/or private industry.

After the four panel members shared their experiences as young professional in the nuclear industry, the chair and co-chair opened the floor for questions from the audience. The conversation sparked a meaningful discussion and exchange of experiences by many of the audience members. Excellent questions were asked by audience members and the panel did a great job of answering the questions and providing relevant examples from their own experiences.