

## WM2017 Conference Panel Report

### PANEL SESSION 42: Young Professionals in Nuclear Science and Engineering – International Perspective

**Co-Chairs:** **Robert O. Berry**, *Foxfire Scientific, Inc. (UK)*  
**Leonel E. Lagos**, *Applied Research Cente*

**Panel Report:** **Robert O. Berry** *Foxfire Scientific Inc (UK)*

#### Panelists:

1. **Ryan Burgess**, *Engineer, Reactor Arizona Public Service*
2. **Michael Bray**, *President, Young Generation in Nuclear (UK-YGN)*  
*Senior Associate, Burgess Salmon LLP (UK)*
3. **Hannah Paterson**, *High Level Waste Plants Technical Advisory Sellafield Ltd (UK)*
4. **Christine Wipfli**, *DOE Fellow, Applied Research Center – FIU*

Some 25 to 35 people were present to hear a lively discussion and presentations of young professional. Following introductions by the Co-chairs, **Leonel Lagos and Robert Berry** opened the proceedings. Remarks were made by Leonel Lagos describing the purpose of this panel session and some of the expectations from this panel discussion. The purpose of the panel is to focus on activities of the Young Generation Network in both the United States and the UK. Other panel members were assembled for this session to present their prospective of the nuclear industry and their experiences in their respective programs.

#### **Summary of Presentations**

**Ryan Burgess:** presentation focused on Arizona Public Service's outreach programs within local community. He presented several programs and initiatives that APS has in place with local school (middle and high schools). He also spoke of the activities of the local chapter of NA-YGN and how its activities are supported by APS.

**Michael Bray:** presented a description of several UK programs that involve young professionals. He discussed UK's Young Generation in Nuclear (UK-YGN) program and his personal experience in this program. He detailed the future of nuclear power in the UK and the proposed new power plants that have been approved from construction. He focused on several programs and organizations that are supporting the new build program by developing the skilled workers that will be needed for both construction and operations of these new plants.

**Hannah Paterson:** started the presentation by outlining her professional career and experience. One of the projects she worked was a report for the Scottish Stake Holders which has been published as the official Scottish Government document concerning stake holders. She discussed her current work at Sellafield and the challenges of working at such a dated facility. Also she mentioned some of the new research activities at the Sellafield site included work on the Small Modular Reactor program.

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**Christine Wipfli:** gave a very interesting talk on her continuing experience within once the DOE-EM professional development program highlighted by her internship at the IAEA, she discussed the work she did, including a career experience survey she organized at the IAEA. She stressed the importance of mentoring for a young professional and career development in the workplace. A part of her talk also focused on her lessons learned as a young engineer working within a large international agency and the importance of working to the best of your ability and the willingness of co-workers to listen to new ideas.

### **Public Comment and/or Questions**

Several questioned were asked about support of Companies and Organizations for the activities of YGN.

Comment – Several students and young engineers present in the audience described their expectations of employers and the workplace. They seem to vary greatly depending what type of company you were working for. Seemed that people directly involved with the DOE and the contractor's interactions noted that change was very slow and new ideas were difficult to implement.