

Joint meeting of the Health Physics Society and American Nuclear Society

Dr. Rita Baranwal

Director, Department of Energy – Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear

January 25, 2018

Virginia Commonwealth University, East Engineering Hall E3229

401 W. Main St. Richmond, VA 23284

Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy's [Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear \(GAIN\)](#) initiative is a private-public partnership framework aimed at rapid and cost-effective development of innovative nuclear energy technologies towards market readiness. GAIN's vision for 2030 is that the U.S. nuclear industry is equipped to lead the world in deployment of innovative nuclear technologies to supply urgently needed abundant clean energy both domestically and globally. GAIN's mission is to provide the nuclear energy industry with access to technical, regulatory and financial support necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercialization in an accelerated and cost-effective fashion.

GAIN aligns the strategic goals and actions of the nuclear industry, DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to advance the development of innovative nuclear energy technologies. Achieving the GAIN Vision and executing the Mission requires an integrated effort to simultaneously achieve three strategic goals. Technology leadership and industrial leadership will enable the U.S. to deploy affordable domestic nuclear energy technologies, while maintaining and improving the reliability, safety, and security of nuclear energy. An effective private-public partnership is necessary to achieve these goals by 2030.

Through GAIN, users can access world-class nuclear research resources and capabilities throughout the DOE national laboratory complex. Focused research opportunities and dedicated industry engagement are important components of GAIN. This ensures that DOE-sponsored activities support technology developers who are working to realize the full potential of nuclear energy.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Rita Baranwal joined Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) Nuclear Science & Technology directorate in August 2016 as the Director for the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative. She is responsible for providing the nuclear industry and other stakeholders access to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) state-of-the-art research, development (R&D) expertise, capabilities, and infrastructure to achieve faster and cost-effective development, demonstration, and ultimate deployment of innovative nuclear energy technologies.

Prior to joining INL, Dr. Baranwal served as the director of Technology Development and Application at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Cranberry, Pennsylvania. In that position, she led the creation and development of game-changing technologies and managed characterization and hot cell laboratories to support Westinghouse, its customers and the nuclear power industry. Her previous positions at Westinghouse included director of Core Engineering and manager of Materials and Fuel Rod Design. Prior to joining Westinghouse, she was a manager in the Materials Technology organization at Bechtel Bettis, Inc. where she led and conducted R&D in advanced nuclear fuel materials for the US Naval Reactors program.

Dr. Baranwal was an adjunct faculty member of University of South Carolina's nuclear engineering graduate program from 2010-2012. She received her bachelor's degree from MIT in materials science and engineering and her master's degree and Ph.D. in the same discipline from the University of Michigan. She also completed an executive management program at Duquesne University's Beard Institute in 2009.

Baranwal has been an active American Nuclear Society member since 2008 and currently serves as Vice Chair on the ANS Materials Science and Technology Division (MSTD) Executive Committee. She also serves on the Board of Directors for North Hills Community Outreach.

Schedule

- Social Hour – 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner – 6:15 p.m.
- Presentation – 7:00 p.m.
- Adjourn – 8:00 p.m.

Cost

\$30 for members and \$15 for students. Add \$5 for non-ANS members. A cash bar will be available.

Reservations for this meeting can be made until midnight on Sunday, January 21, 2017. This deadline is hard. Cancellations or no-shows after the RSVP deadline will be responsible for their dinner costs.