

ANS NCSD Newsletter Fall 2024

Member Highlight- Ben Martin

Ben is a nuclear criticality safety (NCS) engineer at GE-Vernova in Wilmington, North Carolina. Ben received his B.S. in Nuclear and Radiological Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2019. After completing his degree, Ben began his NCS career working at Y-12 in the Manufacturing Operations group.



In that role, he supported various facilities and processes including machining, storage, and assembly/disassembly operations. He was the primary NCS author on Y-12's new Metal Purification Process, which utilizes Electrorefining to purify uranium. Ben presented on this topic at the ICNC 2023 Conference in Japan. Recently, Ben supported Y-12 as the lead NCS engineer for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility and on-site Special Nuclear Materials Transportation. This summer, Ben accepted a role with GE-Vernova to support their NCS and Integrated Safety Analysis group for their fuel manufacturing building as well as supporting the development of the Sodium Fuel Facility.

In the summer of 2020, Ben volunteered to join the NCS Division Program Committee as the Vice-Chair. In this role, he supported the Chair while learning the ropes. In 2022, Ben became the Chair of the Program Committee. His responsibilities in this role include organizing paper reviews and reviewers, development of the NCS program and agenda at each ANS Annual and Winter conference, plus Ben often organizes and chairs sessions within the Division. In his free time, Ben enjoys playing board games, reading, and playing basketball.

Site Highlight- NCSD Young Member Subcommittee

Based upon a recommendation by NCSD Chair Fred Winstanley and inspiration from the UK Early Careers Criticality Safety Network (ECSN), the Division has recently chartered a new subcommittee targeted at students and young members. The UK ECSN is currently hosted by the Working Party on Criticality (WPC), providing networking opportunities for younger NCS staff with support from staff who are more established in the field. The organization benefits from educational material such as the UK webinar series and passionate industry personnel who value career development and knowledge transfer in the NCS field.

The new NCSD subcommittee has been visioned by multiple members of the Division, and James Cole has volunteered to become the inaugural Chair. It will work closely with the student executive committee member and Student Sections Committee liaison of the Division, as well as incorporate involvement from the ANS Young Members Group. There are goals to host networking events at ANS National Meetings and NCSD Topical Meetings, as well as other virtual learning/career development opportunities such as workshops. The subcommittee will also be working frequently with their UK counterpart on outreach ideas and opportunities. Please be on the lookout for upcoming events to kick off the subcommittee, and email James at jrcole@sandia.gov if you are interested in being involved in this effort.

Reminder- NCSD Topical is Upcoming!

The NCSD Topical Meeting will be held in Austin, TX at the AT&T Conference Center Sept. 14-18, 2025. The theme is Many Missions, One Goal: Collaborating for a Safer Tomorrow. It's sure to not disappoint with a diverse and wide-reaching audience expected. The Call for Papers is out: <https://www.ans.org/meetings/file/view-1505/>. Hope to see you there!

The NCSD Education Committee want to know your thoughts!

The NCSD Education Committee strives to provide opportunities for its NCSD members and the NCS community to gain and share knowledge and experience. The committee wants to know what members of the NCS community would benefit from in the education space! Please consider completing the linked survey to give this valuable feedback to the committee. Click here to access the survey -> [NCSD Education Committee Feedback](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trainings/Classes:

- Variance Reduction with MCNP6 at LANL (Dec 2-6, 2024)
- Manager CSO Course at NCERC (Dec 9-13, 2024; March 17-21, 2025)
- Two-week CSE course at NFO/NATM and NCERC/SNL (Jan 27- Feb 7, 2025; Aug 4-15, 2025)
- Manager CSO Course at SNL (Apr 14-18, 2025)
- Criticality Calculations with MCNP6 at LANL (May 5-9, 2025)

Meeting Reminders:

- ANS Winter Conference and Expo (Nov 17-21, 2024, Orlando, FL)
- 2025 Annual NCSP Technical Program Review (Dec 3-5, 2024, Santa Fe, NM)
- ANS Student Conference (April 3-5, 2025, Albuquerque, NM)
- ICSBEP TRG at Jožef Stefan Institute (April 14-18, 2025; Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- ANS Annual Meeting (June 15-18, 2025, Chicago, IL)
- ANS NCSD Topical (Sept 14-18, 2025, Austin, TX)
 - Abstracts due Jan. 21st