

Meet the Presenters...

Dr. Bruce Mincher



Bruce Mincher, Ph.D, is a Directorate Fellow Scientist in the Aqueous Separations and Radiochemistry Department at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). He holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in chemistry from the University of Idaho and a B.S. in biology from State University of New York, Albany. He designs and conducts experimental research in radiation chemistry, including solvent extraction ligands in organic solution, reactions of organic compounds with nitrogen-centered radicals in aqueous solution, and the use of irradiation to destroy persistent environmental pollutants in drinking and natural waters. He also designs and conducts experimental research in radiochemistry, especially actinide chemistry, including the use of higher oxidation states of americium, and spectroscopic observation of those oxidation states. Dr. Mincher currently represents the INL on the DOE σ -team investigating actinide/lanthanide separations for the Fuel Cycle R&D program. He is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Idaho and Oregon State University, where he serves on the committees of, and directs research for, graduate students. Dr. Mincher has 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has contributed to 17 books. He was a recipient of the Idaho National Laboratory Director's Distinguished Scientific Achievement award in 2009 and was named the Idaho Academy of Science Distinguished Scientist of the Year in 2014. He also received an Emmy for his on-camera work in instructional television for the series, "Understanding Chemistry in our World," in 2010.

Dr. Stephen Mezyk



Dr. Mezyk earned his doctorate in Physical Chemistry from the University of Melbourne, Australia, in 1989. Following three postdoctoral appointments at the University of Calgary, Canada, the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, he joined Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) in 1992. Following 8 years of work as a radiation and reactor research chemist at AECL he accepted a Research Associate position at University of North Carolina in Wilmington, before joining the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at CSULB in 2001. He is now a Full Professor at CSULB, with current research interests based in the free radical kinetic, mechanistic, and thermodynamic chemistry occurring in the remediation of chemically contaminated water/soil systems, and in nuclear waste separation, storage and remediation. Dr. Mezyk has been very active in research, particularly with undergraduate and Masters students, with now over 150 peer-reviewed articles and 250 conference presentations. Much of his research has been conducted at Department of Energy Laboratories, where he holds concurrent scientist/contract appointments. He designs and conducts experiments in radiation chemistry, which investigate radical chemistry in the aqueous and organic phases. This research has been funded by multiple Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, Water Research Foundation, and Research Corporation external grants. Dr. Mezyk was awarded the Outstanding Professor Award by CSULB in 2014. He also received an Emmy for his on-camera work in instructional television for the series, "Understanding Chemistry in our World," in 2010.

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