

The Role of Professional Divisions Within ANS

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During the Manhattan Project, and in the post-war period of nuclear development prior to the formation of ANS, many scientists and engineers were involved in nuclear energy research, development, and production. Whether a chemist, chemical engineer, metallurgist, physicist, mathematician, or mechanical engineer, each of these professionals contributed an important aspect, and were needed to successfully grow the nuclear industry.

When the American Nuclear Society was formed in 1954, it was intended that the structure of the Society would reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of its professional members. To assure that proponents of these basic scientific and engineering disciplines would retain their identity and strengthen their skills, the organization added sub-sections known as the Professional Divisions

As nuclear technology has matured and been used in an ever-increasing array of applications, so have the interests and skills of ANS members. Over the decades, Divisions have been created and merged to better reflect the diversity of the professionals they represent. ANS members are able to join any number of Divisions and to migrate from one to another as their professional interests change.

Divisions offer a “technical home” to members by:

- Organizing focused meetings and sessions at national ANS conferences
- Supporting the development of standards and policy statements relevant to their skilled niche
- Recognizing accomplishments with awards
- Promoting research in their respective fields with scholarships.

Knowing that there is considerable synergy and interdependence among nuclear disciplines, many Divisions co-sponsor technical meetings and coordinate activities in professional development, public communication, and public policy. Such interaction is strongly encouraged, as it reinforces the idea that ANS is a community of professionals dedicated to the advancement of nuclear science and technology.

At the ANS Annual Meeting and the Winter Meeting, Professional Divisions hold Executive Committee sessions where the business of each Division is conducted. They also often have Program Committee meetings during which they plan and organize the technical content of their future meetings. These committee meetings are open for any ANS member to attend.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with a Division, consider attending a meeting, introducing yourself, and getting involved. Many tasks are accomplished via email and teleconference, including reviewing papers, helping to organize technical sessions, and developing new ideas for the Division to pursue.