

# BREA NEWS

[www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/)

Volume 21, Issue 2

March/April 2021

## BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. All BREA members are invited to participate. ***As long as the BNL site continues to be closed to retirees, BREA may arrange an alternate mode of communication. Watch for email notices.***

### Meeting Schedule

March 9, 2021 ***via video link, BNL site closed to retirees***

April 13, 2021

May 11, 2021

### BREA Officers

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## From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

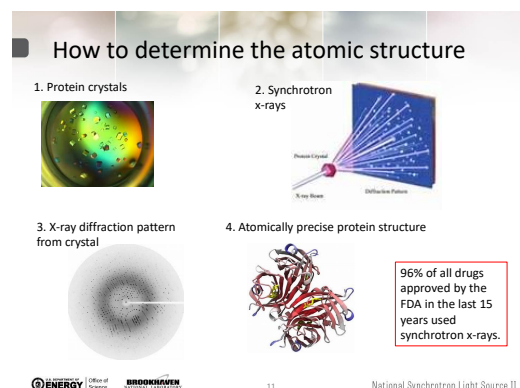
To fellow BREA Members,

I hope you are doing well. This winter has been fairly severe for many of us, restricting activities even more than COVID-19 has dictated. Fortunately, we can have our meetings online using Zoom. At our February 9 meeting, we compared notes about how most of us are trying to get vaccine appointments.

Please check if your membership will expire this year (see your address label on the back of this newsletter). If you receive newsletters electronically, check your status on the BREA website. You'll find a membership renewal form on page 4.

Our February meeting was special because of a presentation by John Hill, Director of the National Synchrotron Light Source II. He leads the Lab's COVID-19 Science and Technology Working Group. John described

the research, including computation, synchrotron x-ray and electron microscopy structural studies, as well as aerosol (virus) flow studies that can inform mask use and social distancing. The highly coordinated effort among DOE labs to address key challenges of COVID has been unprecedented, he said. John also pointed out that a great majority of drugs approved in the last 15 years in the US have been characterized using synchrotron radiation, with NSLS-II offering the brightest beams. Because of this brightness, NSLS-II is capable of studying crystals far smaller than those required elsewhere. The graphic above from John's talk illustrates protein analysis. (continued on page 4)



# Working Through The Pandemic

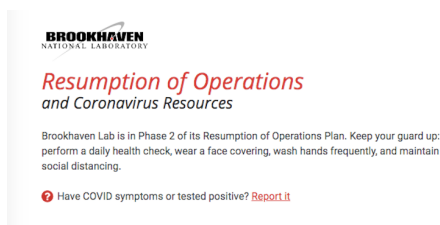
## **Peter Genzer, Manager, Media & Communications Office**

The Lab is currently in the second phase of its resumption of operations plan, with about 900 staff on site on any given day, along with a limited number of users conducting COVID-19 research. The plan was developed with input from the Lab's COVID-19 Task Force, of which I'm a member.

Separate from any job-specific PPE requirements, the Lab requires everyone on site to wear face coverings, maintain social distancing, and conduct a daily health self-check before entering the site. Specific COVID-19 training is also required for anyone coming on site.

As of February 2021, retirees are currently only allowed to come on site if they have a PO Box here, to pick up their mail.

The Lab hopes to be able to provide vaccines to benefits-eligible staff when vaccine becomes more widely available, and has applied to NY State for permission to do so.



BNL's homepage – <https://www.bnl.gov/world/> – always carries the latest information on the Lab's operational status.



*All the basics in Jennifer Froehlich's home office: laptop, phone, notepad and pen*

## **Jennifer Froehlich, Benefits Coordinator, Benefits Office**

While I've been working remotely, I have enjoyed being able to assist employees and retirees. I am happy to talk with retirees and help them with their HRA accounts and throughout the entire retirement process. It's rewarding to hear their thanks for getting them through a process that can be overwhelming.

Although working from home can be challenging at times, I have adjusted to it and enjoy having the ability to do so. It's a constant balancing act, but I have the support of my husband and three kids. They understand the importance of what I need to get done during the day, and I know how important it is to be there for my family as well.

The schools in my district have not been open for full-week, in-person instruction since March 2020. If I wasn't able to work from home, I wouldn't feel that I was being as safe as I could be. Thanks to the Lab, teleworking gives me the flexibility to do so.

## **Gretchen Cisco, User Administrator, National Synchrotron Light Source II**

During the NSLS-II September – December 2020 cycle, we began to invite users back to the facility, keeping access limited to make sure everyone was safe. Each beamline selected two experiment proposals that could not be run remotely, and one researcher from each proposal was granted site and facility access. With advance notice of each experimenter's needs, the NSLS-II user office, with assistance from the Guest, User and Visitor Center, was able to provide seamless access to the experimental floor.

Some might think that having fewer users on site means less work. In fact, the pandemic has added another layer to what we do. And I know that's also true for other operations on site. My office is part of the bigger User Services, Communications, Education & Outreach Office, which also processes proposals, conducts virtual workshops and tracks publications, as well as doing user outreach and communications. A higher level of communication is required as we face a greater challenge of keeping the user community engaged. NSLS-II publication counts, specifically those articles published in high-impact journals, has increased approximately 38 percent. Perhaps with users not traveling, they're focussed on submitting papers – and exceptionally good papers at that!

I know that John Hill gave a talk to BREA about COVID research, and he was asked if any of the companies developing vaccines used NSLS-II. John replied that several companies had used NSLS-II to develop vaccines and antivirals. While most of the research done at NSLS-II is in the public domain and published in the open

(continued on the next page)

literature, a portion of the facility's beam time is available for proprietary access.

### Joe Gettler, Editor, Brookhaven This Week Media and Communications Office

Midday on March 23, 2020 – a Monday – I packed my laptop, charger and a few chosen plants. I walked from my office in Bldg. 400 to my car, got in, drove through the Lab gate and headed home.

For all but a few trips to the Lab, I've worked from my house more than 11 months now – about nine years COVID-time. Meetings and interviews are done with videoconferencing. I can assemble and send the *Brookhaven This Week* email newsletter. I could always write from anywhere.

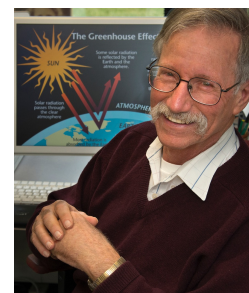
The news release I wrote on Stephen Schwartz and his award was unusual (see excerpted article on the right). He and I communicated entirely through email. No interview. No phone call.

I've written about Steve before, so I was familiar with his work. This time, he emailed me some documents. I emailed him a draft. We replied back and forth, editing to get wording accurate and understandable. After some more reviews, the piece published on the Lab website and in the *Brookhaven This Week* newsletter. A few weeks later, *Newsday* featured Steve in its Winners List.

If you haven't already, subscribe to *Brookhaven This Week* for free here: <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/thisweek/>. You can also keep in touch with "BrookhavenLab" on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## Stephen Schwartz Receives International Award

Stephen Schwartz, a senior scientist emeritus at Brookhaven National Laboratory and adjunct professor at Stony Brook University, has received the International Aerosol Research Assembly's 2020 International Aerosol Fellow Award. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding contributions to aerosol science and technology through research, technical development, education and service.



Stephen Schwartz

The aerosols Schwartz has studied for decades are tiny particles in Earth's atmosphere. They are essential in the formation of clouds and create climate-cooling effects, because they reflect energy that "pours down" from the sun back out to space. Some aerosols occur naturally, for example, haze and particles from sea spray and forest fires. Others are created from human activities, importantly from emissions created by the combustion of fossil fuels.

Understanding more about aerosols and the processes they affect is helping scientists determine the extent human activity has increased aerosol levels in the atmosphere. Scientists' findings are also helping them recognize aerosols' specific roles in the global energy budget – the total amounts of energy entering and exiting Earth and its atmosphere – and impacts on global and regional climates.

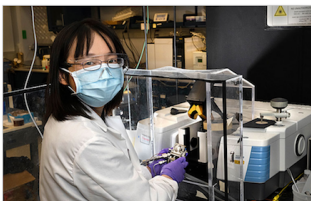
The International Aerosol Research Assembly (IARA) recognized Schwartz for his high-profile, highly cited research as well as his leading role on the team that established the Department of Energy's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Research Facility, his leadership in national and international measurement campaigns and more.

Aerosol research has other important applications such as determining how air pollution impairs human health and how diseases like COVID-19 spread. Aerosol research has also helped improve industrial processes and national security.

"The motivations of aerosol research have evolved in my four decades as a scientist, from air quality to acid rain to climate change," Schwartz said. "I am most grateful to Brookhaven National Laboratory and DOE for their continued support over the years, and to IARA for this award."

– Joe Gettler, [jgettler@bnl.gov](mailto:jgettler@bnl.gov)


**BROOKHAVEN**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY
Brookhaven This Week News Wrap-Up
 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



**Study Reveals Platinum's Role in Clean Fuel Conversion**

Identifying specific platinum atoms activated in a water gas shift reaction catalyst could guide the design of less costly efficient catalysts. [More...](#)


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**HL-LHC Accelerator Upgrade Project Receives Approval to Move Full-speed-ahead**

U.S. Department of Energy gives go-ahead for building and delivering cutting-edge magnets and accelerator. [More...](#)

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**Virtual Talk, Q&A: COVID-19 Research at Brookhaven Lab**

Meet three scientists leading COVID-19 research at Brookhaven Lab on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. [More...](#)

**Upcoming Events**

Office of Educational Programs Event  
"Virtual Tivoli Night – National Battery Day"  
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Videoconference / Virtual Event

**Newsclips**

BNL's Valentina Brocato makes spin discovery during presensory work  
—TSP Newsmagazine

Turborecharging data  
—Der's Magazine

New fiber optic temperature sensing approach to keep fusion power plants running  
—MIT news

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This issue of Brookhaven This Week promoted a virtual talk in late February by John Hill on COVID-19 research. Hill treated BREA members to a preview at the group's February 9 Zoom meeting.



## Membership Renewal

Is your BREA membership expiring?  
Find out by going to BREA's website:  
<https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/>

To renew, fill out the form below.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type:

☐ annual (\$10)

☐ 5 years (\$40)

☐ Life (\$95)

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Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair  
81 Westchester Drive  
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair  
[hellobylin@yahoo.com](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com)

## In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following  
BNL retirees and one employee.

Jean Ramirez, 61, February 12, 2021

James J. Reilly, 92, December 6, 2020

John Boruch, 99, March 6, 2019

Lee McLloyd Walcott, Sr., 70, February 2, 2021

More information can be found at BREA's website:

[www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/). To post an obituary for a  
deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to  
[msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com) or mail it to BREA (address below).

## President's Message (continued)

You can find John's slides posted on BREA's homepage,  
<https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/>. Go to "Meeting  
Agenda" and click on "here" at the end of the second sentence.  
BREA was impressed with the scientific work and thanks John  
Hill, with help of Administrative Assistant Tammy Stein, for  
arranging his talk.

Human Resources asked me to alert you to fraudulent  
unemployment claims made in the name of BNL retirees. If you  
suspect a fraudulent claim, contact the NYS Department of  
Labor at <https://labor.ny.gov/secure/fraud/report-fraud.shtm>.  
You should also take additional steps to protect yourself from  
identity theft.

Our March ZOOM meeting is on Tuesday the 9th, at 1 p.m. EST.  
If we have an email for you on file, you'll receive an invitation  
and agenda. Let's hope that more of us are vaccinated by then!

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

**Is your BREA membership expiring this year?  
See your address label below.**

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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