

BREA News

<https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

Volume 22, Issue 4

July/August 2022

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 attend and participate.

The Laboratory site was recently opened to retirees. Even so, BREA's business meetings are still being held on Zoom via video link. Contact any officer for help to join these meetings.

Meeting Schedule

July 12, 2022

No August meeting

September 13, 2022

BREA Officers

President

Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President

Vinita Ghosh
vjghosh11786@gmail.com

Secretary

Laura Miller
lj96miller@outlook.com

Treasurer

Leslie G. Fishbone
lgfishbonenn@gmail.com

* * *

Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com



BNL marks its 75th anniversary this year! BREA turns 25! See page 2.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

This issue contains an article about the 75th BNL anniversary, as well as the Brookhaven Bulletin article in August 1997 announcing the organization of BREA 25 years ago. You'll also find an important article about the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program for current and retired Energy Department and contractor (AUI and BSA) workers. We have arranged a presentation by representatives of the medical screening program for the July 12 BREA meeting via Zoom.

Our BREA June meeting featured a presentation by Michael Siverts of BNL's NASA Space Radiation Laboratory. He described programs using high-energy accelerator beams to mimic radiation in space to study effects on electronic materials and biological specimens.

BNL has reopened to visitors and guests, including retirees. We checked with BERA supervisor Christine Carter about holding our meetings on site, and she asked that we hold off on doing so. Support personnel for those meetings are just returning. Also, Covid-19 levels on Long Island are still high.

Les Fishbone has called attention to a New York Times article dated April 28, 2022, on Medicare Advantage plans. The article details flaws and unexpected coverage gaps in some Medicare Part C Advantage programs. The Part B Medigap policies have only a few policy choices. But Advantage plans are more similar to the HMO or PPO plans we encounter in our employer-sponsored plans. It is much harder for a Medicare retiree to determine whether an Advantage plan will be beneficial. Aggressive advertising promotes low (or no) premium and benefits beyond Part B Medigap coverages.

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BNL Celebrates 75th Anniversary, BREA Marks 25 Years

Brookhaven National Laboratory is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022. Brookhaven has delivered discovery science and transformative technology to power and secure the nation's future since 1947. With collaborators across the country and around the world, the Laboratory continues to solve some of today's biggest challenges in nuclear physics, energy and climate science, quantum computing, and more.

Beginnings – Established in 1947, after WWII, Brookhaven Lab began with a desire to explore peaceful applications for atomic energy. As a national laboratory, Brookhaven would serve the nation by designing, constructing and operating large scientific machines that individual institutions could not afford to develop alone.

Collectively, BNL retirees will remember the accelerators:

- Cosmotron (1952-1966),
- Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (1960-present),
- National Synchrotron Light Source (1982-2014)
- Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (2000-present)
- National Synchrotron Light Source II (2015-present)

We also recall the reactors:

- Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (1950-1968)
- Medical Research Reactor (1959-2000)
- High Flux Beam Reactor (1965-1996)

Looking Toward the Future – Science is about asking big questions, figuring out the answers, and then tackling the new questions that arise. With this process – driven by Brookhaven Lab's world-class staff and collaborators, as well as the core capabilities and expertise the Lab has developed in the past 75 years – Brookhaven continues to expand the frontiers of scientific discovery.

Of note, BNL was selected to host the future Electron-Ion Collider (EIC). This facility will be a discovery machine for unlocking the secrets of the "glue" that binds the building blocks of visible matter in the universe. It will be built through a partnership among the Department of Energy, Brookhaven Lab, and Jefferson Lab. New York State will provide strong support. The EIC is critical for the nation to maintain leadership in nuclear physics. It will also provide opportunities for new technology and workforce development for future scientists, engineers, technicians, and educators. Construction should begin in 2024, with operations starting in the early 2030s.

Free, Public Events Planned

75th Anniversary Event: SPACE

"Summer Sunday at Vanderbilt Museum and Reichert Planetarium"

Sunday, July 17, 2022, 10:00 am – Vanderbilt Planetarium, Centerport, NY
Lab lectures at 10 am, 11 a.m. and noon.

75th Anniversary Event: ATOMS

"Summer Sunday at Long Island Museum"

Sunday, July 24, 2022, 12:00 pm – Long Island Museum in Stony Brook, NY
Hours are from noon to 5 p.m.

75th Anniversary Event: SOLAR

"Summer Sunday at the Sisters of St. Joseph's"

Sunday, July 31, 2022, 10:00 am – Sisters of St. Joseph's, Brentwood, NY
Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

August 22, 1997

New BERA Group for Retired Employees

On August 14, the BNL Retired Employees Association (BREA) sent out a news release announcing its formation. This new BERA group represents retirees' interests in developing BNL and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) policy and encourages retiree involvement in local community relations.

The new organization was formed primarily, to protect BNL's 1,800 retirees' benefits during the contractor selection and management-contract negotiation process. But, according to BREA



Graham Campbell

founder Graham Campbell, who retired from the Computing & Communications Division in September 1995, it will also serve many other purposes.

Additional goals include: building closer ties between BNL and the surrounding communities, encouraging activities to bring retired employees together, offering retirees a newsletter dedicated to their issues, and encouraging retirees to support local community activities and charities.

Campbell sent out a letter on June 1 of this year to ask if retirees were interested in forming an organization, and he received a strong response – almost 400 positive replies.

On June 26, an organizational meeting for retirees was held at BNL, featuring a discussion with DOE representatives from the Source Evaluation Board, which will rate the prospective offerers' proposals to operate BNL.

As a result of the strong turnout at this meeting – some 200 attendees – and the discussions with DOE, Campbell said, the new association succeeded in having the language of the Request for Proposals recently issued by DOE modified from the original: The result is much more protective of the retirees' medical benefits.

As an interim measure until a more formal voting system is arranged, Campbell is BREA President, Stuart Rideout is Vice President, Stanley Seltzer is Secretary and Barney McAlary is Treasurer.

Regular BREA membership is open to all retired BNL employees and their spouses, while associate membership is available to all other members of the BNL community who share BREA's goals and interests.

To join, send your name, address; e-mail address, if any; phone number and date of retirement or associate member application request to: BREA, Bldg. 475C, Upton NY 11973-5000. Include a check for \$10 made out to BREA for the first year's dues.

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program offers compensation to former and current workers (or their survivors) employed at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities for radiation-related cancers and other work-related illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures” at these facilities. Congress established the program in 2000. Its original purpose was to compensate nuclear weapons workers, but the program has been expanded, including the establishment of a special exposure cohort (SEC) of employees, contractors and sub-contractors who worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory from January 1, 1947, through December 31, 1993.

The Department of Labor administers the program in two parts: Part B covers cancers caused by exposure to radiation while the claimant was employed at a DOE facility; under part B, benefits also extend to workers with chronic beryllium disease or beryllium sensitization. Part E covers illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures,” such as asbestosis or other illness from chemical exposures.

For information online about filing a claim, go here: http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/Filing_Claim.htm. You can also contact the resource center in Amherst, NY: 6000 North Bailey Avenue Suite 2A, Box #2, Amherst, New York 14226; telephone: (716) 832-6200, Fax: (716) 832-6638, toll free: (800) 941-3943, e-mail: newyork@dolrc.com.

“Qualifying Cancers” Covered Under Special Exposure Cohort

Bone cancer (osteosarcoma)

Renal (kidney) cancers

Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia) provided the onset of the disease was at least two years after first exposure

Lung cancer (other than in-situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam)

The following diseases provided onset was at least five years after first exposure:

- Multiple myeloma

- Lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease)

- Primary cancer of the:

Bile ducts

Brain

Breast (female and male)

Colon

Esophagus

Gall Bladder

Liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)

Ovary

Pancreas

Pharynx (mouth/throat)

Salivary gland

Small intestine

Stomach

Thyroid

Urinary bladder

– Mona S. Rowe, mrowe.hi@gmail.com

Free Medical Screening for Former BNL Workers

The Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) of Queens College continues to offer free medical screening to former BNL workers who may be at an increased risk for illness. The main goal of the medical screening is to detect illness at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be effective.

Evaluations are based on potential work exposures to radiation, asbestos, lead, cadmium, noise, beryllium and other hazards, which may lead to a greater risk for developing certain conditions such as chronic lung disease, some cancers, beryllium-related lung disease and hearing loss. WHPP is funded by the Department of Energy, and screenings are conducted by an independent occupational medicine physician in Suffolk County and followed by a detailed review of records by physicians at Queens College, City University of New York. Your exam results letters are often helpful in Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act claims. The program is voluntary and medical information is kept confidential. Once enrolled, participants are eligible for a “rescreen” examination every three years.

In 2020, Laura Buscemi-Robles (right) joined WHPP as an outreach coordinator for the program. She worked at BNL for 13 years and is currently reaching out to former BNL workers who may be eligible for free medical screening.



Long Island area residents should call 1-888-241-1199 to schedule an appointment. Out-of-state residents can call 1-866-812-6703 for screening through the National Supplemental Screening Program.

– Jonathan Corbin, Outreach and Clinical Director, Queens College, Jonathan.Corbin@qc.cuny.edu

Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA's mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information. If you have questions or if your contact info has changed, email Membership Chair Beth Lin at hellobylin@yahoo.com. *Note: New retirees get one year of BREA membership free.*

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:
 annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO BREA

- I want to receive BREA News by mail via the U.S. Post Office.
- I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:
 Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
 81 Westchester Drive
 Rocky Point, NY 11778

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees.

- Helen Connell, 94, May 21, 2022
- Robert L. Monaghan, 89, May 27, 2022
- Leonard Newman, 91, March 24, 2022
- Elizabeth Seubert, 79, June 12, 2022
- Michael Thorn, 63, August 16, 2019
- Paul Robert ("Bob") Tichler, 90, June 3, 2022

More information may be found at BREA's website: <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>. To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

President's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

One thing you *must* remember: do not contact Advantage plan offerers using information from television advertising, email, phone, or direct mailings. Your Medicare Medigap or Advantage plan *must* be arranged through SelectQuoteSenior in order to maintain the health reimbursement account (HRA) you get as a benefit from BSA.

Please tune in to our July 12 meeting on Zoom, when we will be joined by Jonathan Corbin and Laura Buscemi-Robles to talk about the free medical screening for former BNL workers who may be at an increased risk for illness. See the articles on page 3.

After a break in August, BREA will meet next on September 13.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA
 Brookhaven National Laboratory
 Bldg. 400 Brookhaven Avenue
 Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-5090

Email: BREA@bnl.gov

Web: <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

