

# BREA News

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

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May/June 2023

## 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 is now open 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

May 9, 2023

June 13, 2023

July 11, 2023

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## From the President

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

To fellow BREA Members,

This issue of BREA News features an article about the recent announcement of new leadership at BNL. On the occasion of the retirement of Laboratory Director Doon Gibbs, we'd like to acknowledge his 40-year career at BNL, capped by a 10-year tenure as director. His accomplishments during the past decade include the successful startup of NSLS-II, the initiation of Discovery Park, as well as the award to BNL and Jefferson Lab of the Electron-Ion Collider. Details about the appointment of the new director, JoAnne Hewett, previously of SLAC, is covered on the inside pages by Peter Genzer, Manager, Media & Communications Office.



JoAnne Hewett

For those of us living on Long Island, BNL offers some fun activities. On Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m. at Painter's Restaurant in Brookhaven hamlet, BNL environmental scientists will discuss the question "Do Wildfires Fuel Climate Change?" More information is available at <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=221185>. (The Lab requests that attendees RSVP to [jmosho@bnl.gov](mailto:jmosho@bnl.gov).) On Thursday, May 18, outside Berkner, BNL will host "Alive B4 Five" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with music, food and other activities. BREA will host a table to introduce employees to our organization. Please contact me if you would like to help out for an hour representing BREA to employees.

Our May meeting will be on Tuesday the 9th at 1 p.m. We hope to see you. For the June meeting, on Tuesday, June 13, we have arranged a talk by BNL atmospheric scientist Ernie Lewis, who will describe real-world data acquisition and analysis. Watch for an emailed meeting announcement with additional details the week prior to the meeting.

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

# JoAnne Hewett Named BNL Director

The Board of Directors of Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA) has named theoretical physicist JoAnne Hewett as the next director of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory and BSA president. BSA, a partnership between (SBU) and Battelle, manages and operates Brookhaven Lab for DOE's Office of Science. Hewett will also hold the title of professor in SBU's Department of Physics and Astronomy and professor at SBU's C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics.

"JoAnne has a strong research background and extensive experience as a scientist and leader," said DOE Office of Science Director Asmeret Asefaw Berhe. "She is a great choice to advance the Department of Energy's priorities at Brookhaven – from fundamental breakthroughs to applications that improve people's lives each and every day."

Hewett's appointment comes after an international search that began in summer 2022. Current Brookhaven Lab Director Doon Gibbs announced in March 2022 his plans to step down after leading the Laboratory for nearly a decade.

Hewett comes to Brookhaven from SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, CA, where she most recently served as associate lab director (ALD) for fundamental physics and chief research officer (CRO). She also is a professor of particle physics and astrophysics at SLAC/Stanford University.

"JoAnne brings vital experience and proven leadership skills to further Brookhaven Lab's game-changing discoveries and innovative breakthroughs that benefit science and society," said Maurie McInnis, president, Stony Brook University, and co-chair, BSA Board of Directors. "As Brookhaven advances major projects, expands its mission, and further modernizes its campus where scientists are solving the most urgent challenges of our time, we are pleased to welcome her as the Lab's next director."

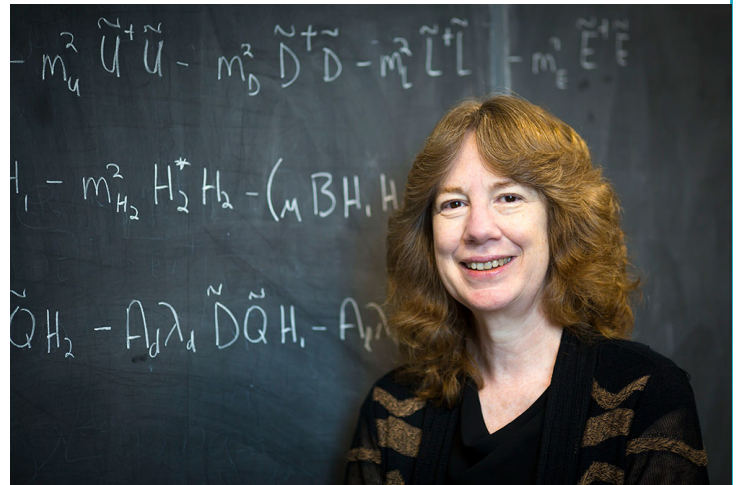
"We are so excited to welcome JoAnne Hewett as the next director of Brookhaven National Laboratory," said BSA Board co-chair Mark Peters, executive vice president for national laboratory management and operations at Battelle. "Her outstanding scientific credentials and management and leadership skills will lead the Lab to new heights of scientific discovery and impactful science and technology in service of our nation."

Brookhaven Lab celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2022 and is home to seven Nobel Prize-winning discoveries and countless advances. Its 5,322-acre site on eastern Long Island attracts scientists from across the country and around the world, offering them expertise and access to large user facilities with unique capabilities. As DOE's only multi-program lab in the northeastern U.S., Brookhaven hosts thousands of guest researchers and facility users each year – in-person and virtually – from universities, private industry, and government agencies. The Lab's annual budget is approximately \$700 million, much of which is funded by the DOE and its Office of Science.

As Lab director, Hewett will oversee a team of more than 2,800 scientists, engineers, technicians, and professionals working to address challenges in nuclear and high energy physics, clean energy and climate science, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, photon sciences, isotope production, accelerator science and technology, and national security.

"I am honored to take on the role of laboratory director at Brookhaven, a truly exceptional national laboratory with a rich history and a talented and dedicated staff," said Hewett. "The Lab has an extremely bright future, one that will help solve some of the greatest scientific challenges facing the world today."

(continued next page)



JoAnne Hewett (photo courtesy of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory)

Hewett is expected to join Brookhaven Lab this summer. Gibbs retired on April 17, and Brookhaven's long-time Deputy Director for Operations Jack Anderson will serve as interim laboratory director until Hewett is on board. The Lab's current ALD for Facilities and Operations Tom Daniels will serve as interim deputy director for operations while Anderson is in the interim director role.

"I am grateful to Doon for his outstanding leadership of Brookhaven and his long legacy of building and strengthening the Lab for advancing scientific discovery," said Hewett. "I am excited to realize the truly ambitious array of projects here, launch innovative, world-leading science programs, expand the diversity of the Brookhaven community, and continue to strengthen our ties to New York State and our partner universities."

Hewett will also participate in the final hiring decision for the deputy director for science and technology position currently held by Robert Tribble. The search for Tribble's replacement is nearing completion following his announcement last year that he would also step down after eight years in his current role.

### Longtime Scientist, Leader

Hewett is a theoretical physicist. Her research probes the fundamental nature of space, matter, and energy. She is best known for her work on physics beyond the Standard Model of particle physics and how that might relate to experiments.

Since joining SLAC faculty in 1994 as its first woman member, Hewett has served in key leadership roles, including head of the Theoretical Physics Group, deputy director of the Science Directorate and director of SLAC's Elementary Particle Physics Division, as well as her current roles as ALD and CRO.

Hewett is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society. She also served as chair of the American Physical Society's Division of Particles & Fields in 2016.

Hewett earned her bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics and Ph.D. in physics from Iowa State University.

### Looking to the Future

Hewett is taking on this role at an exciting time, as Brookhaven prepares to begin construction of the **Electron-Ion Collider (EIC)**. This one-of-a-kind nuclear physics research facility will be built at Brookhaven through a partnership among DOE, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and Brookhaven. The EIC is being funded by the federal government, primarily through the DOE Office of Science. It will draw on expertise throughout the DOE national laboratory complex and from universities and research institutions worldwide. The total project cost is expected to range from \$1.7-2.8 billion. About \$100 million in New York State funding will support EIC construction of new infrastructure at Brookhaven Lab that is essential for the EIC project.

"I am head-over-heels excited to build the EIC in partnership with Jefferson Lab to unlock the mysteries of the force that binds Nature's building blocks, to strengthen connections to industry and the community with Discovery Park, and to advance the multi-program missions of the Lab," said Hewett. "And I'm very much looking forward to working with everyone at Brookhaven, Stony Brook, and the DOE to usher the Lab into its next successful chapter."

– Peter Genzer, [genzer@bnl.gov](mailto:genzer@bnl.gov)

Full press release at [www.bnl.gov/newsroom](http://www.bnl.gov/newsroom)

## The Electron-Ion Collider

The Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) will be a discovery machine for unlocking the secrets of the "glue" that binds the building blocks of visible matter in the universe.

The computers and smartphones we use every day depend on what we learned about the atom in the last century. All information technology – and much of our economy today – relies on understanding the electromagnetic force between the atomic nucleus and the electrons that orbit it. The science of that force is well understood, but we still know little about the microcosm within the protons and neutrons that make up the atomic nucleus.

BNL is building this new machine to look *inside* the nucleus and its protons and neutrons.

The EIC will consist of two intersecting accelerators, one producing an intense beam of electrons and the other a beam of protons or heavier atomic nuclei. These two beams will be steered into head-on collisions.

Building upon the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), the EIC design will make use of RHIC's existing ion sources, a pre-accelerator chain, a superconducting magnet ion storage ring, and other infrastructure. A new electron source and electron accelerator and storage rings will be added inside the RHIC tunnel so that collisions can take place at points where the stored ion and electron beams cross.

Source: [www.bnl.gov/eic](http://www.bnl.gov/eic)

## 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](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com). *Note: New retirees get one year of BREA membership free.*

PLEASE PRINT & **RETURN FORM TO BETH LIN**

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.

- Roland Baillargeon Jr., 79, March 23, 23
- Ralph “Mickey” McDowall, 87, March 21, 2023.
- Dale Armstrong Sondericker, 85, March 6, 2022
- John “Jack” Herbert Sondericker, 90, December 15, 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](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com) or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

## Letter to the Editor

I found the “PFAS: Forever Chemicals” article (March/April 2023 BREA News) very interesting. We all should become aware of these harmful chemicals and learn how to protect ourselves and our environment. I’m fortunate to have a daughter-in-law, Jen Jackson, who worked for San Francisco’s Department of the Environment until recently. She became a local expert on PFAS and the dangers they pose and shared that information with family and friends. In October 2022, she and her department were presented with an award from the city of San Francisco. When I sent her this article, she gave me a link for PFAS-free products: [pfascentral.org/pfas-free-products/](https://pfascentral.org/pfas-free-products/). And, as an indication of how pervasive they are, she mentioned car washes as potential trouble!

You mentioned Liz Seubert only using cast-iron cookware. Jen and her husband use cast-iron as well, along with stainless steel pots and pans, also safe. It’s an example of one way we can take control of our bodies and our health. — Laura Miller, [li96miller@outlook.com](mailto:li96miller@outlook.com)

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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