



NEWS RELEASE

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NUCLEAR PHYSICIST TO SPEAK AT USI

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Dr. James A. Rome of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee will discuss "The Status and Future of Fusion Energy" at 2:30 p.m. Friday, February 14, in the Science Center at the University of Southern Indiana. The program is sponsored by the student chapter of the American Chemical Society and is open to the public.

According to Dr. Rome, fusion energy offers mankind a virtually inexhaustible supply of energy that has very little pollution and produces no CO₂. In the past year, scientific breakeven has been essentially achieved on the Euratom JET tokamak. The world is preparing to proceed with the next large step, but the U.S. seems to have lost the will to perform large-scale scientific research. The U.S. fusion program currently is trying to define its near- and long-term goals. Dr. Rome will explain how fusion works, describe how many of the large physics problems have been overcome, and lay out the hurdles that must still be overcome.

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Dr. Rome received all of his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, obtaining the Doctor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree in 1971. He has been in the Fusion Energy Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory since, specializing in the areas of magnetic topology and charged particle orbits in these topologies. He has developed much of the physics of neutral beam injection for heating plasmas, and has helped to design and build the ATF torsatron at Oak Ridge.

Dr. Rome is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and is secretary-treasurer of the Division of Plasma Physics. Since March, Dr. Rome has been studying air traffic for the FAA.

For information on the USI program, contact Dr. Marie G. Hankins, chair of the USI Physical Sciences Department and advisor to the ACS student chapter, 812/464-1716.

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