Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, it is my honor to invite you to attend the 24th Annual Meeting of the Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS) to be held April 18-20, 2016 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD. The meeting’s theme is “A Matter of Scale: Measurement Standards from the Nano to the Giga.” The community is strong and growing and we are excited to welcome you to help us continue to establish relevant metrics for pushing forward cutting edge research, technical innovation and standards that aid in our quest to support the ionizing radiation community. This year’s theme, bridging time and length scales allows us to address macro and micro issues that face the community and brings together experts from academia, industry and national labs from the United States and abroad to address key issues.

It is for this reason that the CIRMS Executive Committee has developed a program to address some of the critical aspects associated with different scales of radiation measurements and standards, both from a perception perspective and from a fundamental technical perspective. This topic is one that several of the working groups have been thinking about for several years and was brought to the forefront by one of last year’s speakers, describing single event upsets in radiation-hardened semiconductor devices for outer-space pioneering, discovery, travel and research endeavors.

At the next year’s conference, speakers will present results pertaining to specific time or length scales that provide a deeper fundamental or policy understanding of radiation measurements, which can lead to better science, regulation and policy in a global environment. The dynamic and diverse aspects of the importance of measurements and standards in this area will be addressed by international experts from academia, industry and government on radiation protection, industrial applications and radiation effects, medical applications, homeland security and other related areas. I invite you to visit our website www.cirms.org for updates on the evolving program.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to submit an abstract to be presented as a poster presentation during the conference. This year’s meeting will provide ample opportunity for scientists attending the meeting to present their research. These poster sessions will allow for the free exchange of ideas associated with radiation measurements and standards that should be included in the next edition of the CIRMS Needs Report, a document that we provide to members of Congress to help establish federal funding priorities for the ionizing radiation standards community. Several of the posters will be used for further discussion of areas of need within the radiation community and thus have the potential to be incorporated into the next Needs Report. If you have pressing
issues that warrant high level discussions, do not miss the chance to be heard. Next year’s meeting is the last chance to push information and suggest funding priorities for the CIRMS Needs Report that will be published this next year in 2016, shortly after our 24th annual meeting and presented to members of Congress. CIRMS 2016 sponsors are invited to present posters that enable the attendees to better learn about the wide variety of organizations and corporations that support CIRMS; limited space for table top displays will also be available. Please submit abstracts by Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

As it has since its beginning, CIRMS strongly encourages the participation of students at the annual meetings, and welcomes them to present posters on their work. Several student-submitted abstracts will be selected for oral presentations as part of a poster blitz during the plenary sessions. Up to 8 student travel grant winners will be selected. Their registration fees will be waived and they will receive a $700 stipend to support travel and lodging expenses. Participation at the CIRMS meeting is an excellent way to network with some of the preeminent scientists in the field of radiation measurements.

CIRMS is an organization made up of leaders from the academic, government, and industrial sectors who are dedicated to identifying the needs for new measurement technologies and the development of new standards in the field of ionizing radiation. This meeting provides a unique and excellent opportunity to the entire ionizing radiation user community to meet and discuss developments and new trends related to the fundamental aspects associated with various radiation sources, both machine and isotope derived. In addition to the general plenary sessions, there will be several working group sessions devoted to aspects of radiation sources in radiation therapy (medical), industrial applications, radiation protection, and homeland security. In every working group session, the needs for measurement standards in these areas will be explored by discussing the current “CIRMS Needs Report” and adding, modifying or deleting needs for standards as necessary. The final conclusions of these working group sessions will be presented in a joint plenary session at the end of the meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 24th Annual CIRMS meeting, and your active participation in the exciting and dynamic discussions to be held on the evolving visions of measurements and standards in the radiation arena at this next year’s meeting.

Sincerely,

Walter Voit, CIRMS President