



# Leadership changes at the G.T. Seaborg Institute

April 25, 2018

Franz Freibert and Ping Yang have been named acting director and acting deputy director of the Los Alamos branch of the [G.T. Seaborg Institute](#) for Transactinium Science, respectively. The institute serves as a national training center for students, postdoctoral researchers, visiting scientists and faculty.

Focused on light actinide elements — with a special emphasis on plutonium — the institute offers research programs on the chemical, physical, nuclear and metallurgical properties of actinides. Through these activities, the institute fosters collaborations among national labs, university campuses, and the national and international actinide science community.

Physicist Albert Migliori, who was director of the Seaborg Institute since 2012, is now a Laboratory Associate Fellow working on plutonium science with the Materials Synthesis and Integrated Devices group (MPA-11).

## **Franz Freibert**

Franz Freibert served as deputy director of the Seaborg Institute from 2014 until February 2018, when he was named acting director. He has more than 21 years of experience in the field of actinide science at the Laboratory. He holds a doctorate in physics from Florida State University.

Freibert joined Los Alamos in 1996 as a postdoctoral research associate in the Condensed Matter and Thermal Physics group. In 1999, he joined the technical staff of the Nuclear Materials Science group (MST-16), then became project leader for the Accelerated Aging Project supporting the Pit Lifetime Assessment for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. Since that time, his research has focused on self-irradiation damage and aging in plutonium, thermodynamic properties of phase transformations and phase composite alloys, and preparation of actinide materials and samples for unusual/unique experiments.

## **Ping Yang**

Ping Yang is a former Seaborg Postdoctoral Fellow who joined Los Alamos in 2015 as a researcher in the Physics and Chemistry of Materials group (T-1) of the Theoretical Division. Prior to that, she was senior research scientist in the Molecular Science Computing group of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory at Pacific

Northwest National Laboratory. Yang holds a doctorate in chemistry from Michigan Technological University.

Yang has extensive experience in using high performance computing to investigate electronic structure, spectroscopy and surface chemistry of actinide-containing systems. Her broad interests include understanding the physical and chemical properties of nanocrystals, as well as the long-time scale dynamics and kinetics of systems in solution.

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