

Dr. Michael L. Zerkle is a Senior Advisor in the Reactor Technology Department at Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) and is responsible for development and validation of nuclear data used for naval reactor design and nuclear criticality safety (NCS) at the laboratory. He has over 30 years of experience in the nuclear engineering field including extensive experience in reactor physics methods development, neutron transport code development, nuclear data processing, advanced reactor design, critical experiment design and execution, benchmarking, nuclear data evaluation and validation. He developed the lattice physics methods used to design several classes of naval reactors. He directed the initial criticality and low-power physics test program for the lead plant on the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN75) and was responsible for nuclear data and nuclear design validation for NASA's Project Prometheus. More recently, he has been co-leading the national renaissance in the thermal neutron scattering law (TSL) area and is the author of several TSL evaluations in the US national ENDF/B-VIII nuclear data library. He is one of the senior NCS reviewers on the nuclear safety council at the laboratory responsible for NCS oversight during transport. Prior to joining the laboratory, he received his Ph.D. (1992) and M.S. (1989) in Nuclear Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and B.S. (1986) in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Mike is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the Validation Committee Chair for the Cross Section Evaluation Working Group (CSEWG), the Chair of the Nuclear Data Advisory Group (NDAG) for the DOE Nuclear Criticality Safety Program (NCSP), and the NCSP, Naval Reactors (NR) and NNL representative on the DOE Nuclear Data Working Group (NDWG). He also actively participates in OECD/NEA nuclear data related activities including the International Criticality Safety Benchmark Evaluation Project (ICSBEP), International Reactor Physics Experiments Evaluation Project (IRPhEP), Working Party on International Evaluation Cooperation (WPEC) and Working Party on Nuclear Criticality Safety (WPNCS).