FOREWORD

The 2006 Linear Accelerator Accelerator Conference, LINAC06, took place on August 20-25 at the Knoxville Convention Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. The conference was jointly hosted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Argonne, Illinois. The Program Committee was chaired by Marion White (ANL), and the Local Organizing Committee was chaired by Stuart Henderson (SNS). Kathy Rosenbalm (SNS) served as conference coordinator. As usual, the conference covered new developments in all aspects of the science and technology and use of normal and superconducting linear particle accelerators, electron and ion sources, radio-frequency power systems, laser and wakefield accelerators, and a large variety of applications.

With its exciting program, the conference attracted more than 300 accelerator specialists. Geographically, 55% of the attendees were from North America, 31% from Europe, and 14% from Asia. The conference organizers would like to thank ANL, ORNL, SNS, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for their support of the conference and especially for allowing us to invite and support 20 students from all over the world to the conference.

Papers were processed during the conference and are available on the Joint Accelerator Conferences Website (JACoW), www.JACoW.org. We would like to thank the JACoW collaboration for supporting the conference with their well-trained, professional staff. Proceedings Coordinator Charlie Horak (SNS) and JACoW Secretary Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz (CERN) were responsible for the efficient operation of the proceedings office and publications process.

The conference was opened by Harold Shapiro, president emeritus and professor of economic and public affairs at Princeton University. Dr. Shapiro chaired the recently concluded EPP2010 panel organized by the National Academy of Science to execute a decadal survey of high-energy physics (HEP) and to make recommendations for the 15-year program to come. His talk summarized the outcome of that review. Although many of panel members were from outside the HEP community, the panel's recommendation that large investments in HEP be made as they are proposed was supported by a list of the benefits to society. Shapiro's talk also summarized the panel's work and how this has begun to influence the decision-making progress in Washington, D.C.

In the area of energy recovery linacs and short-pulsed coherent light sources, tremendous progress has been made over the last years. Sol Gruner from Cornell University updated the conference participants on the latest development and science applications in this field. He also gave a short introduction regarding the collaboration of institutes that are advancing this technology as part of a focused research and development program at

Cornell. Tsumoro Shintake from SPRING-8 shared with the audience the latest result from the compact free-electron laser, self-amplified spontaneous radiation (FEL-SASE) source under construction at that facility.

The conference was held in Knoxville because of its proximity to SNS, DOE's largest civil construction project, which in April 2006 achieved it's official commissioning goal of a pulse of 10^3 protons on target. Stuart Henderson (SNS) presented the commissioning results of the last two hectic years. In addition, on Friday afternoon, 105 people visited the SNS site and take a look at the finishing touches being given to the $1.4 billion complex.

The conference, with it's traditional organization of one plenary session and many afternoon and evening events during the week, was well received by participants, vendors, and the conference staff as well. The new, modern, and very open conference center contributed significantly to this success. Common breakfast, lunch, and dinner activities within the conference center and the proximity of several hotels allowed for convenient, informal gatherings among conference attendees.

Wednesday afternoons in LINAC conferences are traditionally used for outings. LINAC06 participants enjoyed a typical hot East Tennessee afternoon by taking part in activities at a local yacht club. Boating, live music, swimming, waterskiing, tubing, dining, and "hanging out" were all part of the entertainment. Trips on the Tennessee River were available aboard a large "party barge."

LINAC06 was a huge success thanks to the outstanding efforts of the International Organizing Committee, Program Committee, JACoW collaboration proceedings team, and information technology team. Special recognition goes to the Local Organizing Committee for their dedicated hard work and, in particular, to Kathy Rosenbalm and Stuart Henderson for their extraordinary hard work.