



TMS board motions, minutes, and musings

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2015 TMS President Patrice Turchi: Diverse Roads Lead to One Professional Home

Patrice Turchi

My professional journey, in many ways, summarizes what I think is the great strength of TMS. It represents minerals, metals, and materials science and engineering from extraction to recycling to basic science, and everything in between.

I came to materials science by way of a background in chemistry, and then physics. After my father convinced me that being a test pilot was probably not the best career choice for me, I enrolled in the National Superior School of Chemistry, Paris, where I earned my diploma of engineer in chemistry. A professor of quantum physics had a great influence on me, so by the time I graduated, I had decided I wanted to do something related to quantum mechanics. But, I also really enjoyed materials science. I ended up earning two doctorates from the University of Paris VI: one (Thèse de Docteur Ingénieur) in materials science and the other (Thèse d'Etat), just for fun, in condensed matter physics.

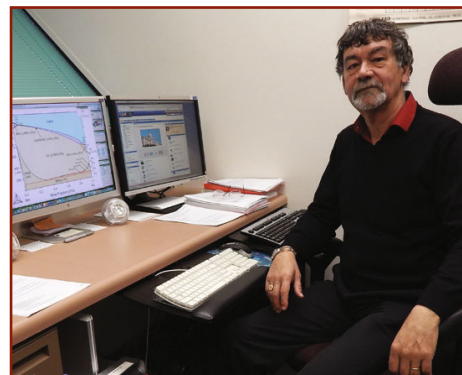
Although I am considered a physicist, my interests have not followed the usual topics. After teaching at the University of Paris VI for 11 years, I wanted to move away from the fundamental aspects of science into something more applied. After a sabbatical year at the University of California, Berkeley, I was offered a position in the materials science directorate at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Now more than 29 years later, I'm still there, as group leader of the lab's Materials Science Division of the Physical and Life Sciences Directorate.

So, where does TMS come in in all of this? Shortly after I started at LLNL, I attended my first TMS annual meeting in New Orleans. Up until then, I was not getting enough stimulation by just meeting people who were in my field. But, when I received an e-mail from TMS about extractive metallurgy, I knew that it was different from many other professional societies. Aside from New

Orleans's reminding me a little of France, I really enjoyed that meeting because I was able to speak to people with different backgrounds and interests who worked in various parts of the world.

I quickly joined the Alloy Phases Committee and soon was organizing symposia and chairing committees. And, that's how I discovered another great quality of TMS: its "bottom-up" approach to developing everything it does. I believe the strong encouragement that TMS gives its members to volunteer and be active participants adds something very needed to science and engineering. Not only do these activities expand our knowledge, but they also give our members the opportunity to learn about planning, managing, and leading. These are the other dimensions of work that we need to know about, and it makes us better scientists and engineers as a result.

These qualities that I found so valuable as a young TMS member are what I also intend to build on as TMS President. By virtue of all the disciplines represented by its membership, TMS is a diverse organization. A priority of the 2018 strategic plan that the TMS Board of Directors adopted last year is to broaden that diversity so that profession-



Patrice Turchi, 2015 TMS President, is a group leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. (Photo Credit: Julie Russell/LLNL)

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als from the widest variety of backgrounds possible feel valued and empowered to contribute their viewpoints to solving important materials problems. Related to this is TMS's strategic goal to expand its international activities. Science and engineering are done differently in different parts of the world and it's important that we strengthen our global relationships so that we can effectively share the latest ideas and innovations, wherever they may be.

With these many layers of perspectives that naturally find a home at TMS, I think there are great opportunities for cross-cutting initiatives that engage technical committees from multiple TMS divisions. The two 2018 TMS strategic plan goals that address energy and environmental challenges and materials and manufacturing innovation, respectively, are areas that offer opportunities to leverage talents across industries and technical areas. Other topics, such as welding and corrosion, can likewise benefit from bringing people together from many different organizations, drawing expertise from basic science all the way through industrial application. Ensuring that the good ideas that come out of these interactions have real-world impact highlights the importance of TMS's strategic goal to accelerate industrial engagement. Scientists and engineers from every aspect of the minerals, metals, and materials fields and every type of organization must be at the table if we are to find effective solutions. TMS has a

great history of bringing together communities that would otherwise not meet, so this is the right place for these types of exchanges.

As with anything worth doing, it will take time to see results from the implementation of these strategic goals. My priority as TMS president will be to make sure these results are successful by working closely with the board of directors and TMS staff to get our new strategic initiatives off to a strong start, while continuing to advance the progress made in our existing programs. However these plans evolve, the intent is to continue making TMS a great place for young professionals to stay and contribute to whatever aspect(s) of minerals, metals, and materials holds their interest. That's what has kept me with TMS all this time, and I'm looking forward to adding to that legacy as TMS president.

Let me close with a summary of what I hope to accomplish in my presidential cycle at TMS: "Bringing together scientists from diverse disciplines enables new ideas to emerge and develop. Working with our dedicated volunteers to promote the TMS mission from within as well as at the national and international levels, the TMS motto 'learn, network, and advance' will be enhanced and truly experienced by the scientific community." These intertwined directions will together play key roles in the advancement of science and education, and have a societal impact that anyone can hope for.

TMS Strategic Goals Make Their Mark

The 2018 TMS Strategic Plan represents much more than a collection of proposed tactics. The plan's five strategic goals speak to the organization's essential values that guide its decision-making, development, and growth.

To underscore the importance of these goals, as well as to keep members apprised of the progress in implementing them, TMS will be highlighting programs with icons that correspond to the particular strategic goal that they support. Look for these icons in the coming months in relation to specialty meeting announcements, web site resources, journal articles, and other TMS products, services, and activities. The goals and their icons are:



Advance diversity and inclusion in the minerals, metals, and materials professions.



Advance materials solutions for energy and environmental challenges.



Accelerate industrial engagement in TMS.



Be the natural home and advocate for materials and manufacturing innovation.



Globally expand the portfolio of TMS international activities.

For additional information on the 2018 TMS strategic goals, visit the TMS website at www.tms.org.