

Todd Osman: New Executive Director for the Materials Research Society

The Materials Research Society (MRS) has appointed Todd Osman as its new Executive Director, effective September 1, 2008. He will succeed John B. Ballance who is retiring after 25 years of outstanding service and leadership.

The 2008 MRS President, Cynthia Volkert, speaking on behalf of the Search Committee and Board of Directors, said, "We are very excited about Todd and the leadership role he will play in growing MRS. MRS has a culture and tradition of innovation and technical excellence and Todd has the vision, knowledge, and drive to move MRS forward. The combination will be extremely powerful and beneficial to materials science and engineering around the world."

Osman brings a strong record of technical accomplishment and leadership experience in both industrial and non-profit ventures to his new role at MRS. He was instrumental in the creation of The Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center, serving as a founding Board member, co-authoring the Center's Technology Roadmap and chairing the Center's Technical Advisory Group. As Technical Director for The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS), he developed initiatives in energy, environmental impact, and sustainability; directed



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educational efforts; coordinated Web-based communities of practice; facilitated conference programming; initiated increased grant funding activities; and established multidisciplinary programs with other technical societies.

Prior to joining TMS, Osman worked as a researcher and technical manager for the United States Steel Corporation, where he was responsible for research and development (R&D) activities for coated steel products, received awards for his original research, and was awarded a United States Patent. In addition, he coordinated cooperative R&D programs with suppliers, customers, and universities in

Europe and Asia and led efforts related to federal trade legislation in the United States and Europe, including the drafting of policy responses and initiation of technical programs.

Osman emphasized the critical role of MRS. He said, "The scientific community, and society as a whole, face many critical challenges. But, there is not consensus on a sustainable energy portfolio. STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] education initiatives need greater participation and Omnibus nearly derailed the America Competes Act. Now more than ever, the MRS mission to improve the global quality of life needs to be a rallying call. The *MRS Bulletin* energy roadmap issue, *Strange Matter* [the MRS traveling science exhibit], and our focused advocacy efforts provide a strong foundation as MRS continues to promote scientific and engineering responses to these challenges."

Osman received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees in materials science and engineering from Case Western Reserve University and has authored over 25 articles on topics including commercial and social impact of nanomaterials, materials for nuclear power, computational materials science and engineering, product development, and mechanical metallurgy. 



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