

Alan J. Hurd, Los Alamos National Laboratory



Alan J. Hurd is a materials physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory where he expands academic collaborations through the National Security Education Center. In addition to working at Los Alamos, he has served in positions at Sandia National Laboratories and the U.S. Department of State. He has also had visiting scholar positions at the Santa Fe Institute and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

As a member of the Board of Physics and Astronomy at the National Academy of Sciences, Hurd brings national and international perspectives to science collaboration.

Hurd was a Franklin Fellow at the Department of State, serving with the Science Adviser to both Secretaries Clinton and Kerry. At State, he leveraged research interest in materials sustainability with mission; sustainability interest grew out of serving the APS-MRS study on Energy Critical Elements (2011), which resulted in legislation enacted by President Obama. He later co-authored the APS-MRS-ACS study on helium sustainability (2016).

Hurd serves in various capacities with the American Physical Society, for which he is Fellow. He was chair (2013-2018) of the APS Committee on International Scientific Affairs (CISA) to foster growth of international membership equities. In 2021 he will be chair of the APS Forum on International Physics, now in succession. He co-chaired the APS Facilities Roundtables (2015-2016), chaired the membership subcommittee of the APS International Engagement Task Force, serves as a member of the APS Development Committee, and is a member of the International Engagement Roadmapping Subcommittee.

As the 2017-2018 chair of ScienceCounts—a non-profit involved in science outreach—and as the 2007 President of the Materials Research Society, Hurd has consistently fostered international science cooperation and domestic advocacy for science funding. MRS honored him for outreach with their Woody and Special Recognition Awards and he continues to work with MRS publications.

For over a decade, Hurd was the director of the neutron scattering center at LANSCE, an international user facility. Prior to Los Alamos, Hurd managed research at Sandia, taught physics at Brandeis, and was an NSF Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Colorado. Cited over 8000 times, his research has garnered three Department of Energy research awards.