

from THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Announcing New Leaders of the Magnet Lab

It is with great pleasure that I announce that **Greg Boebinger has been chosen** to lead the NHMFL into the future. In early February, Greg accepted Florida State University's offer to become the **next director of the laboratory**, and immediately thereafter, Hugh Van Horn of the National Science Foundation described the selection as "a superb appointment." I couldn't agree more and truly believe that Greg is the best person to lead this world-class research facility, direct the renewal process, and drive ongoing efforts to expand facilities and enhance user services.

Greg's appointment was announced by Florida State University's Vice President for Research, Kirby Kemper. The transition in leadership will start in March when it is expected that Greg will be officially appointed at FSU and UF. Dr. Kemper, also a physicist, noted that the transition to a new director comes at a crucial time in the laboratory's development, as preparations for the lab's renewal proposal (due in December 2004) are already underway. "Greg's arrival is not only timely, but it's exciting, too. He's an extremely well known researcher in high magnetic fields and has demonstrated a tremendous talent for team leadership."

My long-time colleague and NHMFL principal investigator at the University of Florida, Neil Sullivan, shares this enthusiasm: "Greg has the insight and in-depth understanding of the impact of magnetic field research from physics to biology to the earth sciences. I am very excited about this appointment and look forward to building even stronger bridges between our institutions."

As most readers know, Greg joined the NHMFL in 1998 as director of the laboratory's Pulsed Field Facility at LANL. Last year, he was promoted to LANL Materials Science and Technology Deputy Division Leader for Science Programs, but continued to serve as the NHMFL principal investigator for operations at the Pulsed Field Facility. He began his training in physics as an undergraduate at Purdue University, where he holds degrees in electrical engineering and philosophy. He completed postgraduate work at Cambridge University in England before joining the doctorate program at MIT, where he received the Ph.D. in physics in 1986. Prior to moving to Los Alamos, Greg was a staff physicist at Bell Laboratories, specializing in high field pulsed magnets.

On January 28, following a six-month international search, Paul Follansbee, LANL MST Division Leader, announced the selection of **Alex Lacerda as the new director of the NHMFL Pulsed Field Facility**. The search was led by LANL and the committee included representatives from all three sites of the NHMFL and the user community. I strongly endorse Alex's promotion and am confident in his ability to lead NHMFL operations at LANL to new levels. Dr. Follansbee's announcement:



**Greg
Boebinger**



**Alex
Lacerda**



Jack E. Crow

It is a pleasure for me to announce that Alex Lacerda has been named the Center Leader for the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

Alex has a long history of contributions to LANL's campus of the NHMFL, starting with a Visiting Scientist assignment in 1991 – 1992. He spent three years as an Assistant Scholar at Florida State University, site of the 2nd (and largest) campus of NHMFL, and he is an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University and at the University of Florida (3rd campus of NHMFL). He joined the Laboratory in 1996. Alex received his Ph.D. from the University of Joseph Fourier, Grenoble. He has published extensively in areas related to use of magnetic fields in characterization of materials and developing an understanding of the underlying condensed matter physics.

Alex has served as Acting Center Leader of the NHMFL since May, 2003. During this time he has continued to strengthen the external user program within NHMFL, broaden the scope of this group within MST Division, and increase interactions across the Laboratory. In particular, Alex has become an advocate for the sharing of best practices among the Laboratory Centers and for an increased contribution of the Laboratory Centers in Laboratory mission areas.

Alex will now assume a permanent position on the NHMFL Executive Committee with UF and FSU. I welcome the opportunity for Alex to become a permanent member of the MST Division Leadership Council. Please join me in congratulating Alex.

In conclusion, I wholehearted support both of these promotions and look forward to working with Greg and Alex through the transitions. The foundation of the laboratory's world stature and pre-eminence rests on the dedication, commitment, knowledge, and skills of its faculty and staff. It has been, and continues to be, my honor to be a part of the group. My farewells will come another day. Today, I extend my sincerest congratulations to my friends and colleagues, Greg Boebinger and Alex Lacerda.

Best regards,

Jack Crow