

“Particle Accelerators: The Science Behind the World’s Largest Scientific Instrument”



Sarah Cousineau is the Group Leader for the Beam Science and Technology group at the Spallation Neutron Source accelerator at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she is responsible for the physics aspects and intellectual leadership of the accelerator performance. Sarah also holds a Joint Faculty appointment with the University of Tennessee Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Sarah received her bachelor’s degree in physics (summa cum laude) from the University of North Dakota, and attended graduate school in accelerator science at Indiana University with support of a Women in Science Fellowship. Sarah joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2003 during the commissioning of the Spallation Neutron Source accelerator.

Sarah is very active in the accelerator community and has served on multiple committees within the field, including the American Physical Society Division of Beams Executive Committee and the Physical Review Accelerator Beams Editorial Board. Sarah is also a faculty member and the Curriculum Chair for the US Particle Accelerator School, the primary educational institution in the field of Accelerator Physics.

Sarah holds a longstanding interest in science education and outreach. She has mentored students ranging from high school through graduate school, and has received mentoring and teaching awards from Indiana University, from the Department of Energy, and from ORNL. She is also actively interested in promoting a positive environment for women in STEM fields and has served as the vice-chair of the ORNL Committee for Women, and on the Executive Committee for the ORNL Women in Neutrons committee.

In her spare time Sarah enjoys spending time with her eight year old son and participating in recreational activities including hiking, skiing, swimming, and volleyball.