

- » [Subscribe](#)
- » [Contact](#)
- » [Give Feedback](#)
- » [Archives](#)

Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director



Season's Greetings!

I wish all readers of *AIP Matters*—staff, governance, donors, Member Society leadership and other AIP-associated colleagues—a festive holiday season. Thank you for your hard work, support, advice and time during 2011. AIP's continued ability to deliver value in science depends on you. I hope you make time to relax and enjoy the holidays, and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Best regards,

Fred



AIP Matters will resume on January 9, 2012.

Physics Resources Matters

GR team works the periodic table

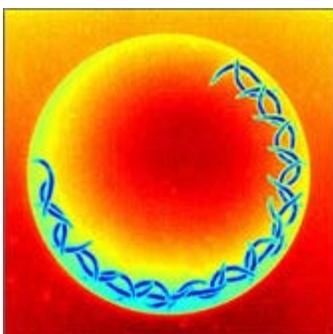
In addition to working with AAS and AGU to lobby for funding to restart domestic production of Pu-238 (plutonium), AIP is hopping back up to the top of the periodic table to support APS' efforts with the US Senate to introduce legislation that ensures a stable and competitively priced helium supply to the nation's scientific enterprise. Helium is critical to a variety of industrial, scientific, and medical markets, including medical devices (MRIs), industrial welding, high-tech manufacturing (microchips and fiber optic cables), space exploration (NASA), and scientific research. The current approach to managing the domestic helium supply mandates the sale of existing federal helium assets at a specific price set forth in law, which distorts the private helium market, creating price fluctuations and shortages for commercial, federal,

Nonmetals															
Oxides		Transition metals		Poor metals		Other elements		Noble gases							
1	2														
	He														
	10														
	Ne														
	18														
	Ar														
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr						
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe						
77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn						
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124
Mt	Ds	Rg	Uub	Uut	Uuq	Uup	Uuh	Uus	Uuo						
Isotopes, the mass number of the isotope with the longest half-life is in parentheses.															
Copyright © 1997 Michael J. Dayah (michael@dayah.com) http://www.ptable.com/															
82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
Sm	E	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu						
94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr						

medical, and scientific users. AIP and several of our Member Societies have agreed to support the Helium Stewardship Act of 2011, soon to be introduced in the Senate. The act includes provisions to promote the responsible management of federal crude helium assets; stimulate development of private sources of helium, thereby stabilizing the market; and authorizes the Secretary of Energy to support research and development of technologies that aid the natural gas industry and helium users in capturing, gathering, producing, recycling, and conserving helium.

Dynamic Fluids

Last month, AIP's Media Services team provided outreach support for the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics (DFD) meeting in



From DFD's image gallery, Nematode swimming in an aqueous drop. Credit: R. Ghosh (Princeton University) and J. Sznitman (Technion).

Baltimore. More than a dozen news releases were issued on topics ranging from how mosquitoes can fly even when slammed by much heavier raindrops (this story went "viral" and the release alone was viewed by more than 80,000 people) to the science behind the swirling of wine. In



addition, AIP helped organize an [online gallery of fluid motion](#), which contains many evocative images and animations. While on site, AIP also organized a media training session for attendees. Journalists and communication experts shared their views on what makes compelling

science stories and how scientists can help bridge the gap between scientific precision and public understanding. A video from that event will be made available on the APS/DFD website.

Coming Up

Monday, December 19

- AIP Publishing Center holiday lunch (Melville, NY)

Through Tuesday, December 20

- ACP holiday gift drive, benefitting College Park Youth and Family Services (College Park, MD)

Wednesday, December 21

- AIP holiday lunch (College Park, MD)

January 8–12

- AAS 219th Meeting (Austin, TX)