



R. W. Youngblood

PSAM12 Speaker Bio

Application of Gaussian Process Modeling to Analysis of Functional Unreliability

Short Statement: First author / Speaker

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Robert Youngblood (Physics PhD, Stony Brook, 1977; Physics BA, Reed College, 1968) started out in physics, performing thermal neutron scattering studies of cooperative phenomena in condensed matter. After the accident at Three Mile Island, he joined a group at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) performing and applying risk analysis, chiefly for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). During that time, he mentored a PhD thesis applying query-based learning to a reactor safety issue. In 1996, he left BNL to join a similar group at SCIENTECH, a commercial firm that was supporting the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the time. In 2000, along with the rest of SCIENTECH's NRC support group, Bob went over to Information Systems Laboratories (ISL), where he became a corporate vice president and Chief Technical Officer of ISL's Energy Sector. In 2008, he joined Idaho National Laboratory's "Risk, Reliability, and NRC Programs" department (now "Risk Assessment and Management Services"). In that capacity, he has worked at the interface between probabilistic methods (Bayesian analysis) and engineering analysis on several fronts. For some time, he worked with Nam Dinh, Curtis Smith, and others supporting DoE programs, including the "Risk-Informed Safety Margin Characterization" task within the Light Water Reactor Sustainability program. Presently, he supports the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance at Headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is a member of the American Physical Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society for Risk Analysis, and the American Nuclear Society.

