



Special Glenn T. Seaborg Center Seminar

Discoveries that changed the world: 1932 – 1942

James Chadwick & Lise Meitner

G. H. Lander

*European Commission, JRC, Institute for Transuranium
Elements, Karlsruhe, Germany*

October 13, 2008, 4-5p in Perseverance Hall (Bldg. 54)

From the discovery of the neutron (1932) to the first demonstration of controlled fission (1942) was just ten years; a period that took physics from an occupation of a small number of eccentric gentlemen and (even fewer) ladies to something of concern to, and funding decisions of, Governments all over the world. The shadows of those tumultuous years are still with us, for better or worse.

This talk will recount those ten years through the lives of James Chadwick (1891-1974) and Lise Meitner (1878-1968), contemporaries who played pivotal roles in the events, even though, partly because of their retiring personalities, they are often over-shadowed by "larger" figures.

About the Speaker: Dr. Gerry Lander's distinguished career has included stints as the Director (1981-1986) of the Intense Pulsed Neutron Source (IPNS) at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) and as the Director (2002-2006) of the Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU). He is a specialist in actinide science and techniques involving neutron and x-ray synchrotron scattering, and was the founding Editor for *Neutron News*.