

fermium-255, and so forth. And then he went on to this mendelevium experiment and finished his work with us in 1956. In the meantime, he has become one of the world's leading investigators in the chemistry, especially the ion exchange chemistry, of the actinide elements, having done some of the nicest work in the world in this field.

Gregory, it is now your turn.

Reminiscences

Gregory R. Choppin

I am grateful to Professor Seaborg for inviting me to participate in this anniversary symposium on mendelevium. Particularly helpful is the fact that he put my talk after that of Al Ghiorso and Bernie Harvey, who have recalled rather well the significant aspects of those days. Obviously, this relieves me of the obligation to say anything significant.

When I arrived at the Rad. Lab. in June, 1953, it was with an incredible vacuum of knowledge about nuclear chemistry in general and heavy elements in particular. For the first few months I could not remember which was element 94 - americium or curium - since, obviously, the element after uranium, element 93, was plutonium. You perhaps can imagine how it was to be around Stan Thompson, Al and Bernie as they threw around phrases like citrate columns, 6.44 MeV, 15 barns, etc. That Glenn accepted me as a post doctoral assistant with my background in liquid ammonia research is still a surprise but I have always been grateful. Thank you, Glenn, very much.