

12

Ken Turteltaub: Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry

It was about 1987 when Jay Davis and Ivan Proctor from Physics made a presentation to BBRP about an accelerator mass spectrometer (AMS) that they wanted to build on site. I remember a viewgraph that Jay showed that said something like, "Beware of nuclear physicists bringing solutions to problems you never knew you had."

Davis and Proctor were exploring possible Livermore applications for an accelerator mass spectrometer. At the time, about five or six labs around the world were using the technology, but there wasn't a lot of thought about finding biological applications. The technology underlying accelerator mass spectrometry had been published in back-to-back papers in *Science* in 1978 by a group from the University of Rochester and a group from Simon Fraser University in Canada. Earle Nelson from Simon Fraser did a sabbatical at Livermore and helped us to get our first machine going. Two of his people, John Vogel and John Southern, also came to work here.