

Prof. Melissa Denecke is the Director of the Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences at Department of Nuclear Applications of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Before joining the IAEA in March 2019, she was Scientific Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute at The University of Manchester and held a Chair in the University's School of Chemistry.

Previously she was department head for 'Actinide Speciation', Institute for Nuclear Waste Disposal, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, following positions held at the School of Engineering, Offenburg, Forschungszentrum Rossendorf e.V. (FZR), and Universität Hamburg.

She has over 2 decades experience in nuclear fuel cycle research and development, notably in disposal of radioactive waste and legacy clean-up. She is an internationally recognized expert in application of state-of-the-art techniques for radionuclide characterization on a molecular scale and Champion for Materials for Nuclear Energy of the Henry Royce Institute. Her research interests focus on actinide separations, immobilization processes at interfaces, numerous aspects of radioactive waste disposal and assessment of legacies, nuclear fuels and combining spectroscopic speciation with modelling.

Melissa has also been active in a number of national and international management and advisory roles, presently including the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics (ASFAP).