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Serene to Succeed McIlrath as American Physical Society Treasurer

College Park, MD, September 25, 2006 -- The American Physical Society announces the appointment of Joseph Serene, a professor of physics at Georgetown University, as its new Treasurer. Serene will succeed Thomas J. McIlrath, who has served in the position for ten years.

Joe Serene did graduate work at Cornell University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1974, followed by a post-doctoral Fellowship at Stanford. After a year as a visiting researcher in Finland, Serene held faculty appointments at Stony Brook and Yale Universities. He then joined the National Science Foundation, where he served for three years in the Division of Materials Research, as Program Director for Condensed Matter Theory and Section Head for Condensed Matter Sciences. In 1987 Serene returned to full-time research, in the Complex Systems Theory Branch of the Naval Research Laboratory, where he did pioneering work on large-scale parallel scientific computing using NRL's Connection Machines.

In 1993 Serene moved to Georgetown University as professor of physics and Chair of the Physics Department, a post he held for five years, until he was appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In addition to overseeing a restructuring of the graduate school's administration and a reinvigoration of its faculty governance, Serene was deeply involved in the affairs of the Georgetown Medical Center during a period of challenge that included the sale of the Georgetown Hospital and a rethinking of the Medical School and its basic science departments. Serene returned to full-time teaching and research in 2001, and was awarded the Georgetown President's Medal for his service to the Graduate School and Medical Center. An ardent avocational musician, Serene served as interim director of music and dance during his final year at Georgetown.

Serene's research focuses on exotic superfluids and superconductors and their parent materials, including normal and superfluid helium three, neutron star interiors, heavy-electron metals and superconductors, and strongly-correlated two-dimensional metals and superconductors. He has been a visiting professor at Helsinki University of Technology

and at Columbia University, and a visiting researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Atomic Physics (NORDITA) in Copenhagen, and the Institute for Solid State Physics (IFF der KFA) in Juelich, Germany.

The position of Treasurer is one of three co-equal Operating Officer positions of the APS. It reports directly to the elected Council. In addition to being responsible for the overall financial and legal affairs of the Society, the Treasurer serves as Publisher for its journals. Serene will be based at the American Center for Physics in College Park, MD and will work in concert with the Executive Officer, also based in College Park and with the Editor-in-Chief based in Ridge, NY. As Treasurer and Publisher, Serene will oversee a budget of over \$40M annually including a journal operation exceeding \$30M per year.

“APS has been extremely fortunate in securing the services of Joe Serene”, says retiring Treasurer Tom McIlrath. “He combines a well established scientific career with extensive experience in the upper reaches of academia. In addition, his service as a volunteer with APS units and meetings has made him a known figure to his colleagues. I am very pleased to see him taking charge.” Serene began on the staff of APS on September 1 and will take over as Treasurer on October 1.

About the APS: The American Physical Society is the world's largest professional body of physicists, representing over 45,000 physicists in academia and industry in the US and internationally. It has offices in Ridge, NY and College Park, MD. For more information: www.aps.org.