## Abstract Submitted for the HAW09 Meeting of The American Physical Society

**Proton pairing correlation studies**<sup>1</sup> A. ROBERTS, J.J. KOLATA, Univ. of Notre Dame, A. VILLANO, F.D. BECCHETTI, Univ. of Michigan, J.P. SCHIFFER, J.A. CLARK, B.P. KAY, K.E. REHM, Argonne National Laboratory, S.J. FREEMAN, A.M. HOWARD, Univ. of Manchester — A program to study proton pairing correlations in nuclei relevant for neutrinoless double  $\beta$  decay has been initiated at Notre Dame. The results will complement neutron-pairing studies [S.J. Freeman, et al., Phys. Rev. C75, 05301R (2007)], helping to constrain theoretical calculations of this decay mode. High-precision measurements of the (<sup>3</sup>He,n) reaction using a pulsed beam and a large neutron detector are in progress. The necessary 250 keV resolution at a neutron energy of 25 MeV is well within reach. Recent results obtained with a <sup>26</sup>Mg target will be presented. This well-studied system serves as a calibration for measurements on <sup>74,76</sup>Ge and other targets. Ground-state cross sections will be obtained with relative precison of <5% and absolute accuracy of <10%. Proton pairing vibrations (if any) will be identified and measured.

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