



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

We had a significant milestone for our current IRPA term by holding our first Executive Council meeting, where we reviewed our overall strategies and priorities for 2016-2020. I will not repeat here, but I refer you to the Executive Officer's summary of this important discussion later in this Bulletin.

There has been good progress with several important work programmes. We have now published on the website [www.irpa.net] our Guidance on Certification of a Radiation Protection Expert, which helps the Associate Societies (AS) to work with regulators and governments to meet the increasing need for formal recognition of the competence of individual RP professionals.

Our Task Group on the Lens of the Eye will shortly publish a second report on how the profession has responded to the revised dose limit, which will outline the key issues and make recommendations. In addition we will publish IRPA guidance on eye dose monitoring and the use of eye protection.

I hope that you are aware that IRPA is engaged on a consultation, seeking input from the worldwide IRPA Associate Societies in order to determine the views of the practitioners on what steps should be taken to ensure that the system of protection is fit for purpose, credible and able to be presented to, and understood by, all those impacted by radiation. This is vital, both for its own sake and to ensure that IRPA really is able to act as 'the international voice of the RP profession'. Many ASs sent their views, which have now been compiled into a 'Phase 2' consultation document to give every AS an opportunity to contribute. In view of the importance we attach to this exercise, we have extended the deadline for your input from 31 January to **31 March 2017**. Please make sure that your AS responds on this timescale, and that you personally contribute to that input.

The President has been very busy over the past three months. It has been a delight to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the German/Swiss Society (FS) and the Austrian Society. We also had a very useful European Presidents Meeting, hosted by the FS. I have also attended an EC Article 31 Experts Meeting, IAEA's RASSC committee (see note on our website) and the annual Liaison Meeting with ICRP. We intend to distill the key messages from all these meetings into periodic updates on developments in both the science and practice of RP.

Finally, on a personal note, I was privileged to receive my OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) award from Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace. Given that the award was 'for services to nuclear safety and radiological protection' I was intrigued to find out what Prince Charles would say. In fact he was well-briefed (as one would expect), and we briefly discussed the challenges in decommissioning Iraq's war-damaged nuclear facilities, a project I was extensively engaged on through the IAEA. It was indeed a wonderful and memorable day for all the family.

Roger Coates, IRPA President, 30 November 2016

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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 70TH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IRPA

Hosted by Vice President Eduardo Gallego, the 70th Executive Council of IRPA was held in Madrid, Spain, from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th November, 2016. This was the first full EC meeting of the new IRPA term under the leadership of the incoming President, Roger Coates.

The first day was dedicated to brainstorming on IRPA's next term and strategy for the years 2016-2020. The outcome was the definition of 4 strategic priorities:

To promote our role as the international voice of the RP profession through engagement with other international organizations and professional bodies;

To support the needs of the Associate Societies by developing, enhancing and sharing good practice and high standards of professionalism;

To support the education and training of RP professionals;

To enhance IRPA Governance and the interface with the Associate Societies.

Within these strategic priorities we will give particular focus to our interface with ICRP and IAEA, where we have a responsibility to provide 'the international voice of the RP profession'. We will also enhance our efforts to address public understanding of radiation and risk, and we are determined also to develop an effective Young Persons Network to encourage the development of our next generation of scientists and professionals.

Part of the strategy for 2016-2020 will also include thorough revamping of IRPA's website, to provide Associate Societies and individual members with easier access to relevant information. We will also develop proposals for enhancing regional representation and improving overall governance of IRPA and the Executive Council. Preliminary thoughts will be discussed at the 2018 Regional Congresses.

We are also determined to enhance our interface with the medical sector. The Executive Officer has been appointed as the lead of a focus group with this objective, which will liaise with IOMP, WHO/PAHO, and ISRRT. This focus group will include EC members Ana-Maria Bomben and Marie-Claire Cantone, together with Stephen King from the HPS and an African colleague.

The EC noted with sadness that Don Cool was now unable to continue as Chair of the Programme Committee (ICPC) for the forthcoming IRPA 15 International Congress in Seoul in 2020. However, we were pleased to endorse Wolfgang Weiss as Don's replacement: this proposal of a highly regarded RP professional was unanimously supported by the EC.

Bernard le Guen, IRPA Executive Officer, 30 November, 2016



ICRP REVISES THEIR COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, AND SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEXT TERM

New ICRP Committees

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) recently announced that it would be revising its Committee structure as of their next four-year term.

In their [November 23 news release](#), ICRP stated that radiological protection “should include appropriate consideration of protection of both people and the environment”. To ensure an integrated approach, the Commission will “include the relevant aspects of protection of humans and the environment into the mandates of each of the Committees”. The result will be four Committees, with the expertise on radiological protection of the environment in the current Committee 5 being distributed among the other Committees.

In addition, for the first time the new mandate of Committee 3 on Radiological Protection in Medicine includes mention of veterinary medicine.

The revised mandates of the Committees, which will come into effect on July 1, 2017, are below.

Committee 1: Radiation Effects

Committee 1 considers the effects of radiation action from the subcellular to population and ecosystem levels, including the induction of cancer, heritable and other diseases, impairment of tissue/organ function and developmental defects, and assesses implications for protection of people and the environment.

Committee 2: Doses from Radiation Exposure

Committee 2 develops dosimetric methodology for the assessment of internal and external radiation exposures, including reference biokinetic and dosimetric models and reference data and dose coefficients, for use in the protection of people and the environment.

Committee 3: Radiological Protection in Medicine

Committee 3 addresses protection of persons and unborn children when ionising radiation is used in medical diagnosis, therapy, and biomedical research, as well as protection in veterinary medicine.

Committee 4: Application of the Commission's Recommendations

Committee 4 provides advice on the application of the Commission's recommendations for the protection of people and the environment in an integrated manner for all exposure situations.

Nominations for Committee Membership

In December, [ICRP announced](#) that it is seeking nominations for membership of these Committees for the four-year term running from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021.

This will be the second time that ICRP has sought open nominations for Committee membership. The first was four years ago, to build the membership for the current term. There were around 200 nominations for the approximately 65 available positions. About half of these positions were filled with experts new to the Committees.

According to the announcement, “members come from more than 30 countries and all disciplines relevant to radiological protection. Selected based on their recognised competence and experience, members are volunteers invited to join ICRP as independent experts.”

ICRP will be accepting nominations until February 28, 2017, and successful candidates will be informed “during the second quarter of 2017”.

For more information, visit www.icrp.org.



IRPA EC-Meeting 2016 in Madrid

During the IRPA EC-Meeting in Madrid the young generation network (YGN) could present its work, news and objectives.

During Summer 2016 we did a questionnaire to find the status-quo of youth employment in national associations. Disregarding the low number of feedback we were happy to find several countries running a well working youth-program. Typically bigger associations do benefit a lot from social media, because frequent meetings cannot be held due to the geographic size of a country. In comparison smaller associations do have to put a lot of effort to advertise for young members.

The EC-members offered their help to push our efforts, and to establish more local groups of young scientists or professionals, guided by the national associations. They as well support the idea to create a special website for young members to interconnect each other and would like to liaise it with the irpa.net-domain. In addition they suggested to encourage lower delegate fees at IRPA congresses for young professionals and to promote research fellowships and secondments, together with sharing best-practise examples.

The participants of the meeting have been in agreement, that one of the next steps should be encouragement of young members to attend IRPA-conferences to get to know others, to give their first speeches, or to find colleagues from other countries with the same field of interest.

In addition we would kindly ask every association to appoint a member to work on the patronage of young members and to get in touch with us (ygn@irpa.net) for the exchange of experience.



Christoph Stettner, chairman of the YGN, Seibersdorf Laboratories, Austria



Passing of Bo Lindell



Bo Lindell passed away peacefully at the age of 94 in Stockholm, Sweden, on November 10, 2016.

Bo was a giant in radiological protection. He was Director of SSI, the predecessor of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, Strålsäkerhetsmyndigheten, from 1965-1982, and a member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) from 1965-1988.

He served as ICRP Scientific Secretary from 1957-1962, the 5th to hold the post and the first Swede. He was a member of the Main Commission since 1962, during which time he served as a member of Committee 4 (1962-1965), Chairman of Committee 3 (1965-1977), ICRP Vice-Chairman (1969-1977) under Rolf Sievert and Sir Eric Pochin, and then as the 8th ICRP Chairman (1977-1985). Upon leaving his position of ICRP Chairman, he was appointed for life as an Emeritus Member of the Main Commission, an honorary distinction in appreciation of extraordinary contributions to ICRP.

Few have had such a long and illustrious role in ICRP. Among his many important contributions, he played a central role in the development of the 1977 Recommendations of the ICRP (ICRP *Publication 26*). These recommendations laid out the fundamental structure of the system of radiological protection still used today.

Bo also played a key role in the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). He was elected to the first IRPA Executive Council in 1966, serving two terms until 1973.

To mark his passing, for the first time an excerpt of an interview of Bo Lindell conducted in May 2012 as part of the ICRP Oral History Project has been released.



Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS) 2016 National Conference in Adelaide, South Australia

(submitted by Ian Furness, ARPS2016 Conference Convenor)

The Australasian Radiation Protection Society held its 41st Annual Conference in Adelaide, South Australia, from 11 to 14 September 2016. The conference theme was “Perceptions, Risks and Opportunities”. Dr Roger Coates OBE, IRPA President, presented the opening keynote address. This first day, promoted as a technical symposium, was dedicated to international progress on high level waste facilities and on management of Australian waste nuclear materials. On the second day the plenary sessions focused on the effects of exposure to low dose radiation. The third day included a presentation on efforts of local people to reshape their lives after the Fukushima accident, with salutary lessons on scientific and regulatory communication. ARPS also formed a partnership with the Royal Institution of Australia (RiAus), an Adelaide-based science communication organization, to endeavor to reach a wider audience. Through our choice of theme and conference structure we explored the nature of good science and good practice in radiation protection, including how we can influence perceptions and contribute effectively to government and community understanding and decision-making.

The conference attracted just under 200 delegates, representing the highest attendance known for a national ARPS conference. The level of sponsorship was a record and the conference finished with a healthy profit. With a packed scientific program comprising some 14 international, Australian and local plenary speakers as well as some 50 oral presentations and 12 posters the ARPS conference helped to inform delegates on key areas of debate in radiation protection as well as providing members with a great opportunity to share their research and experience with other members of their profession.



IRPA President, Dr Roger Coates OBE, asks a question from the floor.



A panel session on Effects of Low Dose Radiation:
(From left) Professor Geraldine Thomas, Dr Benjamin Blyth and Professor Kevin Prise.



Ms Ryoko Ando (second from left) of Ethos in Fukushima and translator Tazuko Arai with conference convenor, Ian Furness (left), and Associate Professor Tony Hooker, ARPS National Executive (right).



IRPA Proceedings Advisor Named

The IRPA Executive Council has confirmed the addition of the new position of Proceedings Advisor to the Commission on Publications. Haruyuki Ogino of the Japan Health Physics Society will fill this role. Initially, he will be working closely with Jack Valentin, Chair of the IRPA 14 International Congress Program Committee (ICPC), and Christopher Clement, IRPA Publications Director and Chair of the IRPA Commission on Publications, to produce the IRPA 14 (Cape Town) Proceedings. In the longer term, the main responsibility of this position will be to provide advice and support to IRPA Congress organizers on the preparation and publication of proceedings.

The IRPA CoP Needs Your Help!

The IRPA Commission on Publications (CoP) relies on submissions from Associate Societies to share news of interest with our 18,000 IRPA members through this Bulletin, the irpa.net news on the website, twitter, and Facebook. Stories from any source are welcome (send them to cop@irpa.net). We also rely on a keen team of media reviewers to scan relevant publications to identify stories of broad interest. We are seeking volunteers to be CoP media reviewers to find stories in all languages, but have a particular need for those who can scan publications in: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian. If you have an interest, please contact CoP Chair Christopher Clement at clement@irpa.net.

RSRP Annual Conference

(Dr. Constantin Milu, RSRP President)

The Romanian Society for Radiological Protection (RSRP) organized its Annual Conference on October 14, 2016 in Bucharest, entitled "Occupational Radiation Protection and the European Council Directive No. 2013/59/EURATOM". In total, 84 members attended this conference, together with two colleagues from the Republic of Moldova. For more information, please visit www.srrp.ro.

