

## Organization

The executive functions of the Association are performed by the officers, upon approval of the Executive Council, and as delegated by the IRPA General Assembly. The function of the Secretariat is to maintain the records of the Association and to serve as general headquarters for the Association. The supervision of the Secretariat is the responsibility of the Executive Officer.

### IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(2008-2012)

**President:** Ken Kase, USA

**Vice-President:** Renate Czarwinski, Germany

**Vice-President for Congress Affairs:**  
Roger Coates, UK

**Executive Officer:** Jacques Lochard, France

**Treasurer:** Richard Toohey, USA

**Publications Director:** Richard Griffith, USA

**Council members:**

Eduardo Gallego, Spain

Alfred Hefner, Austria

Jong Kyung Kim, South Korea

Gary Kramer, Canada

Bernard Le Guen, France

Sisko Salomaa, Finland

### HOW TO JOIN IRPA

IRPA affiliation comes through membership in one of the IRPA Associate Societies. Over 45 national and regional radiation protection societies are now members of the IRPA family. Information on establishing an IRPA Associate Society and a directory of existing Associate Societies can be found on the IRPA Web Site:

[www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net)



## IRPA CONGRESSES

### INTERNATIONAL

**IRPA 13, Glasgow, Scotland**

May 13 to 18, 2012

[www.irpa13glasgow.com](http://www.irpa13glasgow.com)

### REGIONAL

**Tokyo, Japan**

23-28 May 2010

**Nairobi, Kenya**

6-10 September 2010

**Helsinki, Finland**

14-18 June 2010

**Medelin, Columbia**

11-15 October 2010

Updated information is available on the IRPA Web Site:

[www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net)



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## INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

"International Support to Meet National Radiation Protection Needs"

The international voice of the radiation protection profession, providing a medium for communication and advancement of radiological protection world-wide.

## Radiation, Radioactivity and Radiation Protection

Energy moving through our world as electromagnetic waves or subatomic particles is called radiation. Some materials naturally emit radiation and these are termed radioactive. Radiation is part of nature and is everywhere in our world, including in our bodies. Radiation can also be produced artificially in a variety of activities such as medical radiography and therapy, energy production via nuclear sources, and even in TV sets.

Radiation exposure can be harmful to humans, but radiation also provides important benefits to people every day. Some types of radiation, termed ionizing radiation, can expel electrons from the atoms in our body; x-rays being one example. Non-ionizing radiation, including sunlight, ultrasound and radio waves such as emitted by cellular phones, may affect our health through other mechanisms. Humans need to be protected against too much radiation exposure.

Specialists charged with protecting people against radiation and ensuring that radiation sources are used safely are radiation protection professionals, sometimes called health physicists. These specialists are responsible for development and application of the radiation measurement and control standards, and for implementing radiation protection principles that are needed for the safe use of radiation and radioactive material.



## What is IRPA?

**IRPA is the international professional association for radiological protection. It promotes excellence in the practice of radiation protection through national and regional associate societies for radiation protection professionals by providing benchmarks of good practice and enhancing professional competence and networking.**

### IRPA STRIVES TO ENSURE THAT:

- the highest standards of professional conduct, skills and knowledge are applied for the benefit of society, and
- it is recognized by its members, stakeholders and the public as the international voice of the radiation protection profession in the enhancement of radiation protection culture and practice worldwide.

IRPA provides a medium whereby those engaged in radiation protection activities in all countries may communicate more readily with each other, and through this process advance radiation protection across the world. This includes such branches of knowledge as science, medicine, engineering, technology, and law, to provide for the protection of man and his environment from the hazards caused by radiation, and thereby to facilitate the safe use of medical, scientific and industrial radiological practices for the benefit of mankind.

A major task for IRPA is to provide for and support regional and international meetings for the discussion of radiation protection. The IRPA International Congresses are the most important of these meetings. They have been held about every four years since 1966.

Membership of IRPA comes through the 45+ national and regional associate societies that involve over 16,000 individual members worldwide. IRPA cooperates and interacts with many other international organizations, including IAEA, ICRP, ICRU, UNSCEAR, WHO, ILO, NEA, and EC.

## Over 45 years 1964 of radiation protection

IRPA Web Site: [www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net)



IRPA 2008-2012 Executive Council

- International Congresses
- Meetings
- Publications
  - Congress proceedings
  - International organization publications
  - IRPA reports and documents
  - Associate Society information and news
  - Internet radiological protection resource links
- Education and training
- International cooperation
- History