



# IRPA Bulletin

*For RP professionals, by RP Professionals*



**MARCH 2022**

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**The North American Regional Congress, "Meeting the Challenges in the Practice of Radiation Protection," was held in St. Louis, Missouri in February 2022**

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# PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

## Nuclear safety is our overriding priority

For the past few weeks, we have been monitoring the war in Ukraine on an hourly basis and, like any radiation protection professionals, we all retain the sad memory of the Chernobyl accident on 26 April 1986 – the accident that prompted the IAEA to develop the INSAG publications. These publications, along with decades of hard-won experience, form the foundation of our common nuclear safety culture, which we must always strive to maintain and develop.



To avoid potential negative consequences of nuclear energy, It is essential that nuclear facilities be operated and managed safely and securely, following good practices and essential rules, recalled by the IAEA at the beginning of this conflict. In particular, the IAEA emphasizes seven “pillars” of safety and industrial safety at nuclear facilities, which must be respected in all circumstances:

1. The physical integrity of the facilities - whether it is the reactors, fuel ponds, or radioactive waste stores - must be maintained;
2. All safety and security systems and equipment must be fully functional at all times;
3. The operating staff must be able to fulfil their safety and security duties and have the capacity to make decisions free of undue pressure;
4. There must be a secure off-site power supply from the grid for all nuclear sites;
5. There must be uninterrupted supply chains and transportation to and from the sites;
6. There must be effective on-site and off-site radiation monitoring systems and emergency preparedness & response measures; and
7. There must be reliable communications with the regulator and others.







# PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

Whatever the country involved and regardless of the reason for the conflict, where there is a NPP nuclear safety must always be the highest priority. After Fukushima disaster, for example, we learned the lesson that a nuclear accident anywhere is an accident everywhere. For this reason nuclear safety benefits from – and must have – an international consensus to make it possible to respect the safety and industrial security of nuclear installations in the event of war. Such a consensus could extend to the prohibition of direct attacks on nuclear installations, the maintenance of external power supplies and access to the heat sink, the maintenance of proper operating conditions by staff, communications, adequate fuel reserves for backup generators, and, more generally, the respective responsibilities of the warring parties. These must be identified in advance, and seeing to them is our common responsibility as radiation protection professionals.

IRPA and its affiliated Associate Societies aim to promote the protection of people and the environment from radiation, including the prevention and mitigation of radiological events. IRPA welcomes the efforts of our Ukrainian colleagues to maintain the proper functioning of the nuclear installations as far as possible in a very difficult context and commits itself to helping them should they seek IRPA support on radiation protection issues. My thoughts are especially with our Ukrainian colleagues, their families and their community



PHOTO BY CHARLES PIVNICHNY, TAKEN WHILE VISITING PRIPYAT AND THE CHERNOBYL SITE IN 2019



# ACTIVITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY & CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

MOHAMED GOMAA

All Members of the Radiation Protection and Civil Defense department of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA) are members of IRPA-Egypt. The Secretary of IRPA-Egypt is Emeritus Professor Dr Wasfi AbdulMalik. Dr Wasfi has written information about Egyptian Radiation Protection and Civil defense departments of EAEA, further below. However, before we get to that, it is my pleasure provide an introduction to Dr. Wasfi.

He was born in Assiut, a city located about 400 km south of Cairo. He began his career after graduating from Ein Shams University with a Bachelor Degree in Physics and Chemistry, a Masters degree in physics and a Doctorate in chemistry.

During his career, Dr. Wasfi visited the international laboratories in both the United States and Germany. He was active in radiation protection services and supervised research work. He also served as Head of the department and Vice Chairman of Reactors Division of Nuclear Research center before obtaining his position as Emeritus Professor. Despite holding this position, he continues hands-on work by supervising research in environmental radioactivity.

Dr Wasfi is a member of Radiation Protection central committee of EAEA, has participated in several conferences and has co-organized local conferences at the department and division level.



## **Prof Dr Wasfi AbdulMalik**

The Egyptian Atomic Energy Establishment (EAEE) was originally established following the Egyptian Republican Decree of 1957 on the Egyptian Program of the peaceful uses of atomic Energy. The Radiation Protection and Civil Defense Department is one of 8 scientific departments of within the EAEE. It is 65 years old, making it one of the oldest radiation protection facilities internationally. The department provides radiation protection services and as well as scientific research activities.





# ACTIVITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY & CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

## MOHAMED GOMAA

With the expansion of the Establishment in late seventies, it was rebranded as the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA). The new organization consisted of 4 centers:

- Nuclear research
- Radiation technology
- Hot laboratories
- Nuclear safety and radiation control

Each center includes a radiation protection department. The Radiation Protection and Civil Defense department currently falls under the Nuclear Research center (NRC) and several of his senior staff moved to run other radiation protection departments.

The first Head of the department was the late Professor Kamal Abdel Aziz (1926-1973). At this time, the Department was composed of several units, namely Radiation Control, External Dosimetry, Whole-Body Counter, Internal Dosimetry, Calibration, Transport, Decontamination & Waste Disposal, Environmental Radioactivity, and a Medical unit. Later, the medical unit moved to the Applied Biology Department of NRC. The late Professor K A Mahmoud played important role in promoting radiation protection experience to its staff through projects with IAEA, through which its staff received fellowships and visited international laboratories. Currently, the dosimetry unit of the department runs a Radiation protection services and consultation special project, which serves Egyptian hospitals and industrial facilities





# ACTIVITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY & CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

## MOHAMED GOMAA

The Departmental staff organized several local conferences between 1992 and 2018, as well as regional conference such as the Regional IRPA Congress AFRIRPA02 in Ismalia, Egypt. We hope to organize a conference this year to celebrate 30 years in operation.

With regard to controlling ionizing radiation in Egypt, during the period from 1960 till 1982, the Egyptian law no 59 (1960) was in force. Through this legislation, the department acts as the competent national authority for unsealed sources and Reactors. After 1982, the status as the competent authority was transferred to the nuclear safety and radiation control center. In 2010, a new independent authority was formed, namely the Egyptian Nuclear and radiological regulatory authority as the sole authority. Except for x-rays for medical use only, the Egyptian ministry of Health is the controlling organization.

Internationally two members of the department namely Dr Gomaa and Dr Tarek represent Egypt as Egypt representative at UNSCEAR for many years.



**DEPARTMENT TLD SYSTEM FOR PERSONNEL DOSIMETRY AND WHOLE BODY COUNTER**



# ACTIVITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY & CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MOHAMED COMAA



RECENT PHOTO AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT.  
REAR: WOMEN IN RADIATION PROTECTION.



UNSCEAR (MOHAMED IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRST ROW)



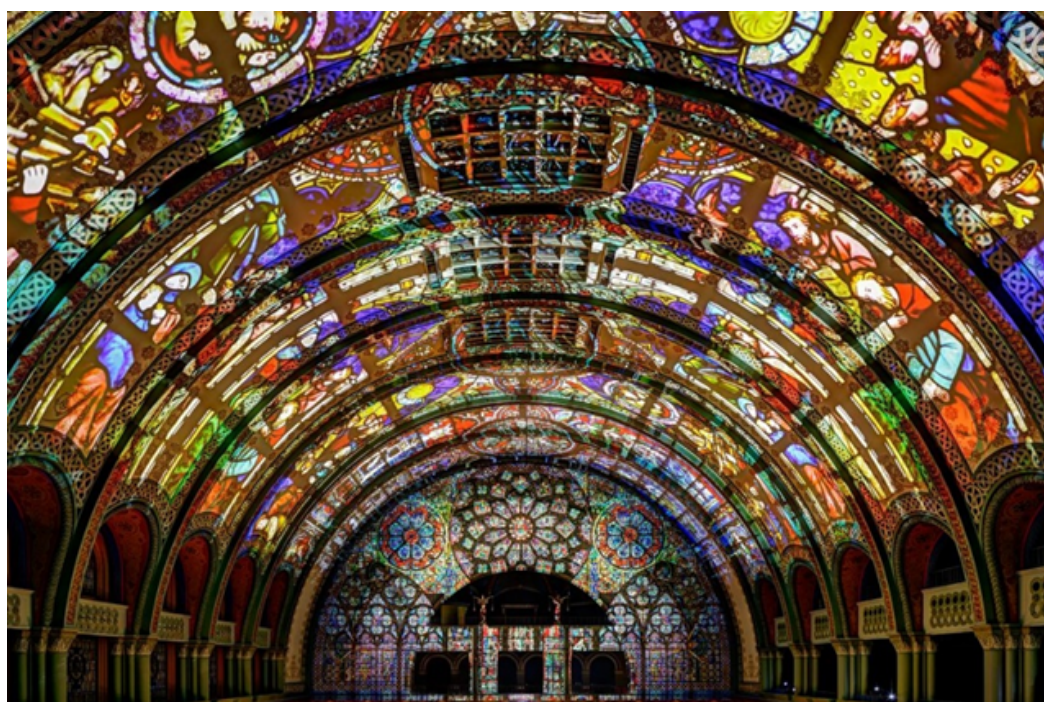


# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IRPA NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONGRESS



The Health Physics Society (HPS), the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA), the Mexican Society of Radiation Protection (SMSR), the Mexican Society of Irradiation and Dosimetry (SMID), and the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) joined forces to put together the first-ever IRPA North American Regional Congress this February in Saint Louis, Missouri (USA). The congress was endorsed by the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP), the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD). Over 175 presentations were covered in a very fast-paced 4 days. Over 350 Health physicists joined in person, virtually, or watched recordings of the congress program as the HPS crossed new horizons by hosting its first fully hybrid international meeting.

In addition to a robust technical meeting, the congress featured daily social events, workshops, refresher courses, PEPs, CELs, and an associate society forum. Attendees enjoyed virtual hybrid trivia, exhibitor reception and lunches, free professional headshots, a night out at the Oyster Bar, and several great memories not soon forgotten.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IRPA NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONGRESS

The congress honored several members including two Morgan Lecturer awardees: Drs. Gayle Woloschak and Ed Calabrese, young scientist awardees: Rachel Nichols (1st), Dr. Emily Caffrey (2nd), and Anna Hassan (3rd), and a Senior Scientist awardee: Eugene Carbaugh.

The HPS would like to thank all the members who helped plan the sessions and conference, Burke and Associates, as well as the several Exhibitors and Sponsors who made this event possible.

All sessions that did not have conflicts were recorded and are still available for your viewing! The associate societies forum will also be made freely available to all IRPA associate societies in the coming weeks. The IRPA Hybrid Program was hosted on Pathable, allowing attendees from all over the world.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links: Home, Schedule (selected), People, Exhibitors/Sponsors, Awards, General Information, and Social. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a date selector showing TUE FEB 22, WED FEB 23 (selected), and THU FEB 24. The main content area displays two session cards for Wednesday, February 23rd.

**SESSION: WAM-C: Medical Health Physics (Part 1)**

- Kimberly Applegate, MD, MS (none)
- Stephen Balter, Ph.D. (Columbia University Professor)
- Jaime Barnes (Cook Children's Medical Center Radiation Safety Specialist)
- Gonzalo García Fernández (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain Assistant Professor)
- Debbie Gilley
- Steven Johnson, PhD (Northwestern University)
- Timothy Keenen, MD (Oregon Health & Sciences University Clinical Associate Professor)
- Michael Martin

**SESSION: WAM-D1: Regulatory Issues**

- Whitney Coulor-Rellum (Pan American Health Organization Medical Physicist & Radiation Safety Expert)
- Peter Johnston (International Atomic Energy Agency Director, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety)
- Megan Shober
- Joseph Shonka
- Mike Stewart, CHP (Department of Energy)

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM CST  
Midway 3/4







## IRPA WEBSITE UPDATES: FUKUSHIMA TOPICS PAGE

We've added a new section for Fukushima under the Topics menu of the IRPA website. This section was initially created to host a series of videos recorded from virtual meeting organized by the Société Française de Radioprotection (SFRP) focused on "Fukushima, 10 years later." The 6 presentations were provided by experts from Japan and recorded by the SFRP. With the permission of the speakers, SFRP is pleased to share these videos with the IRPA community.

More content is planned for this new topic page, beginning with the addition of Japanese press briefings and other information from the very early days of the disaster. Be sure to check back regularly as we add more information!



**AT THE 20 KM BOUNDARY OUTSIDE FUKUSHIMA  
PHOTO BY ANDREW KARAM**





# IAEA'S MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



## IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme

Together for more women in nuclear

It's no secret that our profession has had – and continues to have – a shortage of professionals. Not only that, but in most nations the shortage keeps getting larger as those who came into the field in the heady early days of nuclear energy are retiring faster than they are being replaced by young graduates. It's also no secret that our profession, like many of the scientific and technological fields, is heavily male – we only need look around at our meetings and conferences to figure that out.

The IAEA's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme helps to address both of these shortfalls by offering young women the opportunity to complete a Master's degree in any of several nuclear-related fields at an accredited university. Criteria for selection include:

- The candidate must be female, from an IAEA Member State
- She must be accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university for a relevant Master's degree programme
- And applicants with above average academic performance (75% or higher or a GPA > 3.0 on a 4.0 scale).

Selected students will be awarded up to €20,000 for tuition and up to €20,000 for living expense for the duration of their Master's studies; IAEA plans to support up to 100 female students each year.



# IAEA'S MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

If you feel you are a good candidate for this programme, consider applying for it. If you know a promising student or a young colleague who you feel would be a good candidate, please encourage her to apply for this fellowship. And finally, if you or your employer would like to help support this fellowship programme in any manner, please contact the IAEA at [MSCFP@iaea.org](mailto:MSCFP@iaea.org) to see how you can assist.



“They really don’t like the scientists to  
carry test tubes that way.”



# THE 6TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON RADIATION PROTECTION

Roland Eötvös Physical Society's Health Physics Section (REPS-HPS) is pleased to host 6th European IRPA Congress, that will take place from 30th May to 3rd June, 2022 in the beautiful capital of Hungary, Budapest.

In order to provide the greatest possible flexibility in light of the global pandemic, the Congress will be following a hybrid format. Tickets purchased for in-person attendance can be converted into tickets for virtual participation and vice versa.

For more information and to register, [visit the Congress website](#).



RADIATION PROTECTION FOR EVERYONE

IRPA2022

**6th European Congress on Radiation Protection**

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**30 May – 3 June 2022**  
Budapest, Hungary  
Budapest Congress Centre

  
**REPS-HPS**  
Hungarian IRPA AS