



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



DECEMBER 2025

ISSUE #48



THE IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOOK PLACE JUST PRIOR TO THE ICRP 2025 SYMPOSIUM AND WAS HOSTED BY THE FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION (FANR) IN ABU DHABI, UAE

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

COMMUNICATING

The purpose of this Bulletin – and of our website, publications, Congresses...the purpose of so much of what IRPA does is to facilitate communication amongst the world's radiation protection professionals. Writing, talking – these are easy. Anyone can write or talk about anything but, unless they are understood then they're simply dropping words into the void. For me to communicate with you I need to make an effort to speak or write in a language you understand, to use concepts you will understand, and to string the words and concepts together in a manner that makes sense to you.



But there's more to it than that. If you feel that I'm patronizing, condescending, insulting, or bigoted then no matter how carefully I try to make my point, the information I'm trying to convey will quite probably be ignored. If I come across as a clown or a know-it-all or if I have a very convincing village idiot act then you're less likely to pay attention to me as well, no matter how much wisdom I might be trying to convey. I might have spoken, but – again – I have not communicated.

I think we can all agree that I have a responsibility, then, when I'm trying to communicate – but we've also got to agree that you have a responsibility in all of this as well. You need to pay attention to what I'm saying and to make an active effort to understand me, even if my accent is hard to understand, even if you don't know my idioms, even if my words or my manner might put you off or cause you not to take me seriously. You need to focus on what I'm trying to communicate rather than the manner in which I do it. That's your responsibility if we're to communicate.

Another part of this, of course, is feedback. It's harder to communicate with you if I can't tell that you're not getting it. This might come from a puzzled look, but more likely it's going to come from your stopping me and asking a question or telling me you don't understand. Or telling me that you'd rather I changed the subject.

To bring all of this back to IRPA Communications, we invite you to communicate with us and to suggest how we can communicate better with you. Did we post an article that irritated you? Did we make a mistake in one of our articles? Is there something you're tired of seeing – or something you'd like us to write about? Let us know how we can do better, and we'll do our best to improve.

REPORT FROM THE 20TH CONFERENCE OF NORDIC SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION (NSFS)

EVA FORSELL-ARONSSON, ON BEHALF OF THE NSFS BOARD 2023-2025

NSFS, which is an IRPA Associate Society for all Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), held its 20th Conference in August 27-29, 2025 in the Scandic Lillehammer Hotel in Norway (the headquarters for the 1994 Winter Olympics) with the theme of "Learning by sharing." A total of 123 people from 9 countries participated. The program is available at www.nsf.org.



The conference was opened by the NSFS President Tore Ramsøy, followed by a welcome speech by Kristin Frogg (DSA). Altogether 40 oral presentations and 18 posters related to most aspects of radiation protection were included in the program.

Invited presentations were given by:

- Einar Dale - Nordic cooperation and clinical trials in proton therapy
- Lars Klæboe - Exposure from wireless transmitters – is there cause for concern?
- Erlend Andersen - New methods and new tools for measuring dose to personnel
- Svein Nøvik - Nucleosynthesis - The formation and origin of elements
- Jukka Kupila - Emergency preparedness in SMRs.



The Bo Lindell Lecture was given by Dr. Hanne Waltenburg, Danish Health Authority, Denmark, with the title "From X-rays to AI: 20 years of radiation protection in medicine and beyond", focusing on an overview of the last NSFS conferences dedicated to dosimetry of patients and population.

Jack Valentin gave an interesting talk about his experience participating in ICRP and the Nordic influences on ICRP, a topic valuable both for present, new and potential NSFS members.

Dr Hanne Waltenburg received the Bo Lindell award diploma from NSFS President Tore Ramsøy

REPORT FROM THE 20TH CONFERENCE OF NORDIC SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION (NSFS)

The oral presentations were given under different sessions, e.g. Decommissioning, Emergency Preparedness, Accidental Exposure & Waste Management, NORM Including Radon, Pregnant Worker and Radiation Protection, Environmental Radiology and Monitoring, Radiation Protection in Medicine, Research and Industry, Education, Competence and Certification of Professionals Working in Radiation Protection. The posters were on display in the conference room during the entire meeting, but were also orally presented during poster walks.



Viktoria Herzner



Anja Schroff

The NSFS board has noticed that the mean age of NSFS members has been increasing during last years. Therefore, we were very happy that many young scientists attended the conference and also gave excellent presentations. Thursday evening, a networking session was dedicated to Young Radiation Professionals, organized by Viktoria Herzner from Austria, who is involved in YGN in IRPA. The Young Scientist Award was given to Anja Schroff from Gothenburg, who gave a presentation entitled “Thyroid response to low-to-intermediate-dose ^{131}I exposure. impact of age at exposure on gene expression.”

The NSFS General Assembly was held on Thursday afternoon, and included activity, financial and audit reports, updating the NSFS statutes, and election of a new board. The next host country is now Iceland, and Sigurdur Magnusson was elected as the new NSFS President.

Tanja Holter, Kari Helland and Karolina Berg held a workshop about “Radiation protection for pregnant workers in healthcare”. One panel debate was dedicated to “Competence and challenges in radiation protection”, where representatives from regulators, educational institutions and industry participated.

On Wednesday evening we had a very nice trip with Skibladner, which is the oldest paddle steamer in the world still in timetable service during the summer period. It was built in 1856, making it almost 170 years old. The conference gala dinner was held on Thursday evening, where the entertainer was a memory artist challenging us in many ways.

Lastly, the special issue presenting papers from NSFS Congress 2023 is now published online with open access (Rad Prot Dosim, Vol 201, issues 13-14).

We now look forward to the upcoming NSFS activities and the next congress that is planned to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland in August 2027



MEMORANDUM FROM THE RPO

To: Santa, elves, and helpers of all species

From: ClauseInc® Radiation Protection Officer

Subject: Radiation protection reminder during 2025 holiday gift delivery

As we prepare for the 2025 gift-giving season it's time for our annual safety review; starting with radiation safety. I know this is mostly review, but remember that we're trying to have another incident-free gift delivery season. Don't forget – unless you pass the exam following this training, you're not on the flight crew! We're not going to repeat the 1947 season when an untrained gnome snuck aboard the sleigh and exceeded radiation dose limits due to an unexpected solar flare! Please recall that dose limits for elves and trolls are ten times higher than for dwarves and reindeer and 100 times as high as humans and gnomes due to varying DNA repair capabilities

Species	Radiation worker dose limit (mSv per holiday / year)		
	Routine ops	To save gifts	To save a holiday
Human, gnomes	10 / 50	25 / 125	100 / 500
Dwarves, reindeer	100 / 500	250 / 1250	1000 / 5000
Elves, trolls	1000 / 5000	2500 / 12,500	10,000 / 50,000

Unfortunately, this year we've got a solar maximum and a weakening magnetic field, so we've asked Routing to see if we can strike a balance between altitude, geomagnetic latitude, fuel consumption (it's technology, folks, not magic), and wear and tear on the GDV (Gift Delivery Vehicle), while keeping deliveries during local nighttime. ALARA Engineering is installing on a radiation shelter in case of a large solar flare, although this might negatively impact range and speed due to the effects on CDV aerodynamics. Remember, at lower altitudes and latitudes, by simply flying inverted, the gifts in the cargo hold should adequately shield you...which is a good reason to keep your seatbelt on at all times. I'll also remind you worry-warts that neutron flux at high altitudes, even during a severe solar storm, are not high enough to cause dangerous levels of activation products – just do your jobs, use our normal ALARA practices, and you'll be fine.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE RPO

A few other details:

- We have the same hot spots due to natural radiation as every year, and even the highest pose no threat during the brief periods of time you're near the surface
- Dose rates from contaminated sites, atmospheric nuclear testing locations, nuclear spacecraft reentry locations, and the like continue to drop due to cleanup and/or decay and, just like last year (and the one before that, and the one before that...) pose no risk even at low altitudes
- And if you would like to declare a pregnancy, you may do so at any time; Radiation Protection will advise you on the potential impact on your flight status based on projected space weather and your species.

As always, let us know if you've got any concerns. We will post the final flight plan and will upload to the navigation computer on Big Day Eve.



MALYSIAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (MARPA) HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The Malaysian Radiation Protection Association (MARPA), established in 2002, is the leading non-governmental organization for radiation protection and safety professionals in Malaysia. MARPA gained significant international recognition in 2006 by joining the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) and the Asian and Oceanic Association of Radiation Protection (AOARP).

In 2025, MARPA actively engaged internationally, participating in the:

- 12th International Symposium on Radiation Detection and Technology (ISORD-12) in Tokyo, Japan (Jun 30 – Jul 3, 2025). Malaysia is slated to host ISORD-13 in 2027.
- 11th International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM-XI) in Accra, Ghana (Oct 13-17, 2025). Malaysia is also scheduled to host NORM-XII in 2028.

Domestically, MARPA co-organized the Radiation Protection Conference and Workshop (RPCW 2025) with the Malaysian Nuclear Agency in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (Aug 18-21, 2025). Furthermore, MARPA holds a crucial role on the Nuclear Technology Technical Committee to ensure the proper implementation and monitoring of Malaysia's National Nuclear Technology Policy.



MARPA representatives at University of Tokyo, Japan during ISORD-12



Annual event of RPCW co-organized by MARPA and Malaysian Nuclear Agency



MARPA representatives with Ms Hildagarde Vandenhove, Director of Radiation, Transport, Waste Safety Division, IAEA and Mr Burcin Okyar during NORM-XI



MARPA representatives at Accra, Ghana during NORM-XI



THE BELGIAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION

The Belgian Society for Radiation Protection BVS-ABR was created in 1963. At that time Belgium was at the forefront in the development of civil nuclear energy, with two research reactors and one power reactor already in operation. With the new technological endeavours in the nuclear area, there was a pressing need to improve and share international knowledge on protection against the effects of ionising radiation and to create expertise in radiation protection. “The expert does not need to know everything, but he must know where to find the information” is a well-known quote of Samuel Halter, occupational health physician and founder of the society. And this approach of promoting knowledge in a broad variety of domains but all linked to the scientific, technical and organisational aspects of radiation protection is still today, more than sixty years later, the spirit of our society.

The BVS-ABR currently includes about 400 members working in the industry, the medical sector, government, research institutions and universities.

Its main activity is the organisation of four full-day or half-day seminars per year to inform its members on various pertinent & current topics in radiation protection. Non-members are obviously allowed to participate as well. The sessions are sometimes only in the local languages of Dutch and French, but frequently full English sessions are planned if a foreign audience is expected.

The following seminars are scheduled for the coming months:

5.12.2025, Brussels (in English):

UNSCEAR evaluation of public exposure to ionizing radiation and HERCA statement on the importance of maintaining trust in the international radiological protection system and regulatory independence

30.1.2026, Bruges (in English):

Radiation protection in medical applications (seminar together with the Belgian Hospital Physicists Association)

22-24.4.2026, Dessel (in English):

ALARA in design (seminar together with the European ALARA Network)

An extra annual one-day training session is dedicated to an area not covered by other national education programmes and in which missing knowledge is observed.

19.6.2026, Tihange (in English):

Modelling of the radiological environmental impact of nuclear installations

Occasionally, the BVS-ABR supports or collaborates to help prepare seminars from the French SFRP or with the Dutch NVS.

Next to the organisation of seminars and training events, topical working groups have been active over the years to develop further professional guidance on e.g. the implementation of the RPE and RPO concept in Belgium.



In addition to the seminars and working groups, other activities of the society focus on raising the interest of young generations for radiation protection. Particularly innovative is the contest called 'RadioACT' organised in the school year 2023-2024 and 2025-2026 for pupils from secondary schools, who are encouraged to prepare and to present publicly on a selected topic addressing radioactivity and radiation. This year's edition focuses on the debunking of fake news. A young scientist award is also planned periodically, back-to-back with the European IRPA conferences.

Since its creation in 1963, the BVS-ABR evolved as society did. But an early vision on the way to proceed remains intact: the independence from any economic and political interests. The activities from the BVS-ABR are only financed by the member's and participant's fees. No grants, no external financing and no sponsoring is pursued to cover its activities. This is possible thanks to the commitment of many volunteers collaborating to the board of the Society.



Since 1976, a periodic publication 'Annals of the Belgian Society for Radiation Protection' is distributed among the members, made up mainly of contributions from the past seminars or selected topics in radiation protection. A renewed peer-reviewed strategy started quite recently, and this publication is heading towards its 50th volume.

More information is available via our website <https://bvsabr.be/>, newsletters and annals.

YOUR IRPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WORK!

Members of the IRPA Executive Committee sit on, attend and participate in a myriad of radiation safety committees, conference, organizations, etc. as IRPA representatives. Here are just a few recent activities where EC members represented IRPA on the international stage:

Meeting with the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) - Abu Dhabi, UAE

2-3 October 2025

- Just prior to the ICRP 2025 Symposium in Abu Dhabi, the IRPA EC held our annual in-person meeting, hosted by FANR. As part of this meeting, IRPA had the opportunity to meet with FANR staff, including the Director-General, and present an overview of IRPA goals and recent activities.



8th International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection

7-9 October 2025, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Presentations:

- IRPA Feedback on Response to the Vancouver Call for Action - Claire-Louise Chapple
- A Practitioner's Perspective on Reasonableness and Tolerability: The Views of the IRPA Task Group on the Review of the System of Radiological Protection - Claire-Louise Chapple



YOUR IRPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WORK!

8th International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection (continued)

Panel Discussions:

- Remarks from International Organisations on How They Interact with ICRP - Cameron Jeffries
- Radiation Safety Culture - Bernard Le Guen
- Implementing RP Recommendations in Regulation - Sigurdur Magnusson



NORM XI Congress

13–17 November 2025, Accra, Ghana

- Symposium co-sponsored by IRPA (a [summary of the congress is available here](#))
- Cameron Jeffries represented IRPA during the opening ceremony and participated in the IRPA Workshop on the NORM Task Group



International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine: X Ray Vision

8–12 December 2025, Vienna, Austria

- IRPA is a Cooperating Organization for the 2025 International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine (more details to come!)



YOUR IRPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WORK!

Meeting of the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty

18 & 19 November 2025, Luxembourg

The European Commission must consult the group of independent radiation protection and public health experts for any updates of the Basic Safety Standards Directive (2013/59/Euratom), which cover safety rules for radiation in applications, such as medicine and research.

This meeting was attended by Bernard Le Guen, IRPA Executive Officer. The following points summarize parts of the meeting that would be of most interest to IRPA members:

- The meeting focused on the implementation of the European Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive for radiation protection and future developments in this area. Stefan Mundigl (from the Commission) presented the current status, explaining that they are in phase three of implementation monitoring, having completed phases of checking completeness and compliance of transposition into national legislation. All EU member states have fully transposed the BSS requirements into their national legislation, and the Commission has finalized its assessment of completeness and compliance.
- Stefan highlighted that the Commission is now focusing on practical implementation and has conducted implementation studies in areas such as national transaction plans and radiation protection experts. He noted that the Commission has gained unique experience with BSS implementation over the past twelve years. In parallel, the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) is preparing a new system of radiological protection.
- Stefan announced plans to organize a workshop to exchange implementation experiences among member states, scheduled for late September or early October, lasting two to three days. The workshop aims to identify implementation challenges, find solutions, and potentially influence future radiological protection systems. Representatives from international organizations like IAEA, NEA, and ICRP would be invited. they plan to invite at least two representatives from each member state.

There was general agreement that the workshop should not only collect experiences but also consider improvements for future directives and radiological protection systems.



UPCOMING EVENTS



7th European IRPA Congress

'Encouraging Collaboration in Radiation Protection'

1 – 5 June 2026, ACC Liverpool (UK)

The largest Radiation Protection event in Europe and one of the largest in the world.
This Congress won't be back in the UK for at least 10 years!

AOCR7

7th ASIAN AND OCEANIC CONGRESS ON RADIATION PROTECTION

Towards a Better Home:
Unlocking the Potential of Nuclear Safety and
Radiation Protection in the Asia-Oceania

Sep 8-12, 2026 Beijing, China

Hosted By China Society of Radiation Protection (CSRP)



10th EUTERP Workshop

Competence-based approaches in radiation protection

PSI Switzerland, 7-9 July 2026

Save-the-date !



SEND US YOUR NEWS & EVENTS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to:

cop@irpa.net

We'll share it via the IRPA News and the IRPA Bulletin. Stories for the Bulletin are normally 200-300 words plus images.

We're always looking for updates from our Associate Societies for our Society Spotlight. Let us know what your society has been up to. Meetings, conferences, general events or any good news is always welcome!



Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Andrew Karam, Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Manager: Dave Niven

Social Media Managers: Sara Dumit & Dave Niven

Great news! You can now donate directly to the IRPA Montreal Fund through PayPal! Starting last year, we've made it even easier to donate to the Montreal Fund as an individual. Simply click on the donate button below to make a donation via PayPal.

All donations will help increase participation at future IRPA Congresses, such as the IRPA Regional Congresses in 2026 and the IRPA 17 International Congress in 2028, by those who may not otherwise be able to attend. The need for support is increasing and your contributions are urgently needed.

