



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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IRPA representatives attending the ICRP 2023 Symposium session on Tolerability and Reasonableness in Tokyo, Japan in November 2023: President Dr. Bernard Le Guen, right, and General Assembly Delegate Marie-Claire Cantone, centre

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PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

I wish you all a happy and successful year ahead! I am personally very excited for 2024, since it is the year of the IRPA16 congress - the meeting place for all radiation protection professionals!

Within the next month the program committee will have finalised the agenda for the week. I would like to thank all of the committee members for your many contributions, both to date and for those to come as the congress gets even closer. Special thanks to Kevin Nelson, our grand admiral of the "IRPA Fleet16," and the programme team chaired by Renate Czarwinski. The whole of the IRPA executive council is counting on your presence in Orlando in July.



In 2023, I set the goal of re-establishing a strong link between IRPA and the healthcare sector. As I look back on the year, I can confidently say that we have achieved that goal through several initiatives:

- IRPA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IAEA - see the [September IRPA Bulletin](#) for those details!
- A new MoU was signed between IRPA and the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) earlier this year.
- IRPA and IOMP held a joint session at the 2023 International Conference on Medical Physics (ICMP) in Mumbai, and there are plans to meet with the IOMP president, John Damilakis, in Orlando for a joint session on healthcare during IRPA16.

I was very happy to be back with the health physicist community in India. In particular, I will not soon forget my encounter with the several young members of the young Indian generation, including Dinesh Kumar Aswal HS&EG, Director, in [Bhabha Atomic Research Centre \(BARC\)](#), whom I met a few months after the success of our regional conference AOCRP6. I also had excellent discussions with many representatives of IOMP, such as Eva Bezak, M. Mahesh, Sunil Dutt Sharma Mahesh, and B.K. Sapra. We all belong to the same community and we must take advantage of this beautiful dynamic to cooperate together.



Dr. Bernard Le Guen with the Young Health Physics Generation at ICMP2023

PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN



Dr. Bernard Le Guen meeting with members of the Indian Association for Radiation Protection

Together with Claire-Louise Chapple, we have revived the Task Group on radiation safety culture in healthcare. After the completion of the publication “Enhancing Radiation Safety Culture in Health Care,” a joint project between IRPA, WHO, IOMP and the IAEA, I felt it was very important to collect testimonials on the implementation of radiation safety culture in healthcare.

Finally, I'd like to dedicate this newsletter to Dick Toohey, who left us too quickly at the end of 2023. He was my friend, a very active executive council member, and very involved in the reflection on ethics in radiation protection.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support to the work of IRPA, further fostering radiation protection culture in the world. May 2024 bring you Peace and Joy.



Dr. Bernard Le Guen and John Damilakis, IOMP President



Dr. Bernard Le Guen with B.K. Sapra and M. Mahesh



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN



Photo Collage of Dr. Richard Toohy

AFRICA REGIONAL YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK

Prepared by:

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Stephanie Brako Boateng: Department of Medical Physics, Sweden Ghana Medical Center, Accra, Ghana

Jacob Mbarndouka Taamté: Research Center for Nuclear Science and Technology, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Following the mandate of the Global Young Generation Network of IRPA, the idea for the Africa regional network was conceived and discussed after a series of consultation meetings during the 6th African Regional congress that took place in Accra, Ghana in 2022. The inaugural meeting of the network was held on the 26th of June 2023. So far, we have close to 100 members, representing six English speaking countries.

Background

Young Generation Networks are generally formed to foster professional growth, provide a platform for sharing ideas and information, and to strengthen existing local movements. The Africa YGN will work in line with the aims and objectives of the IRPA YGN to promote communication, collaboration and professional development of students and young professionals in the areas of radiation protection and allied fields.

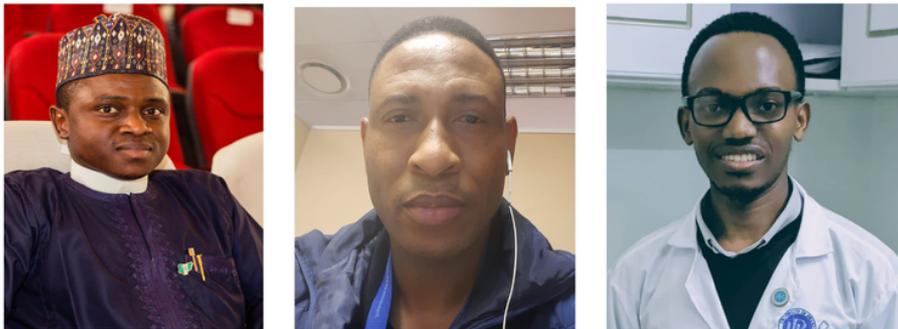
Objectives

The objectives of the Africa YGN include:

1. Creating awareness about radiation hazards and protection methods/measures among young people in Africa.
2. Empowering and encouraging African young professionals to embrace the promotion of safe usage of radiation.
3. Encouraging support, collaboration and communication among young professionals in Africa.
4. Establishing youth clubs in universities for each country that will advocate radiation safety culture.



AFRICA REGIONAL YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK



Leadership Committee (left to right, top to bottom):

- Stephanie Boateng (Ghana)
- Jacob Tante (Cameroon)
- Francis Otoo (Ghana)
- Suleiman Bello (Nigeria)
- Bashir Hussain (Nigeria)
- Timothy Sebeela (South Africa)
- Kregi Erc (Rwanda)

Leadership committee

The need for a leadership committee to guide the work of the network became evident during the initial meeting. Those present chose from amongst themselves members from all countries to form the leadership committee. Those nominated are listed above; all were immediately ratified and confirmed.

Action Points

In the short term, the YGN is focused on these important action points:

1. Setting up adhoc committees that will cross thematic areas similar to those of the IRPA task groups, while ensuring that each country is fairly represented. This committee will work towards encouraging and supporting young people working in those aspects, as well as helping the main IRPA task groups in discharging their duties.
2. A rigorous use of social media to identify, recruit and invite members with professional backgrounds in radiation protection and allied fields. By creating dedicated social media accounts on various platforms, we hope to significantly increase our presence and by so doing, reach more associate societies and individuals.

Conclusion

The Africa YGN is not oblivious of the 2024 IRPA congress in Orlando, and the subsequent 2026 African regional congress which are both fast approaching. All efforts are geared towards making a remarkable presence during these events, and we are urging members to put all hands on deck in support of the missions and objectives set out by the Africa YGN.

We are also inviting young professionals from all African countries, studying or working in any aspect of radiation protection, to join the us to promote radiation issues across Africa and beyond. Membership is open to anyone with less than 10 years of experience in the field of radiation protection.

EUROPEAN ALARA NETWORK MEETING

CLAIRE-LOUISE CHAPPLE, IRPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE

ALARA for Interventional Radiology and Nuclear Medicine

Vienna, Oct. 2 - 4, 2023

IRPA Executive Council member Claire-Louise Chapple was invited to this meeting to share the work of IRPA on Radiation Safety Culture in Medicine as applied to Interventional Radiology. The objectives of the meeting were to examine the challenges faced when applying the ALARA principle in interventional radiology and nuclear medicine, particularly in regard to new radiopharmaceuticals, and to consider how the ALARA principle can be better implemented for patient and staff exposures in both diagnostic and therapeutic applications.



The meeting consisted of four plenary sessions, with speakers from a variety of countries and professional backgrounds, and three two-part workshops looking at specific issues.

- **Session 1: Setting the Scene and ALARA Challenges in Europe** identified the significant increase in number, type & complexity of interventional procedures along with development and use of new radionuclides for diagnostic & therapeutic procedures. These give rise to optimization challenges for patients, staff and the public. Incidents and incident reporting, including the IAEA SAFRAD system (Safety in Radiological Procedures) were also discussed.
- **Session 2: Tools for ALARA** outlined some specific challenges and opportunities relating to dosimetry and shielding, including advances in computational dosimetry which would enable dosimeter-free monitoring. A wide range of factors affecting both patient and worker doses were explored.
- **Session 3: Focus on new radiopharmaceuticals** introduced some of the many new radionuclides under investigation including theradiagnostic pairs (Terbium, Yttrium, Copper). Issues relating to radiation protection for these were discussed, such as internal and external exposure and dosimetry, working practices, contamination, fingertip correction factors and manufacturing considerations.
- **Session 4: Education, Training and Culture** emphasized the importance of training of professionals in radiation safety and highlighted some of the current initiatives in this area. The IRPA guiding principles on radiation safety culture were discussed along with the more recent initiative and forthcoming publication on radiation safety culture in healthcare and work of the current Task Group.

The parallel workshops covered challenges for the optimization of patients and workers in interventional radiology and ALARA tools; elements of a good ALARA culture in medicine, and RP for technical developments in nuclear medicine. In the final session reports from the workshops were shared and several common themes emerged, alongside over twenty recommendations. The predominant issues identified were the role of the Medical Physics Expert and Radiation Protection Advisor and the importance of their involvement in clinical departments; effective education and training; the dynamic nature of radiation protection as new technologies and radiopharmaceuticals emerge and the value of continued dialogue between all stakeholders, including practitioners, regulators, and manufacturers/suppliers.

INTERNATIONAL YGN WORKSHOP ON CHALLENGES OF RADIATION PROTECTION 2023

Kazuji Miwa (1,2), Takahiko Kono (1,2), Yumi Saigusa (2), and Masato Narita(2)

1: IRPA YGN Leadership Committee, 2: Young Researchers' Association of Japan Health Physics Society

The International Young Generation Network (YGN) Workshop was held in Tokyo (Venue: Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba) on November 8, 2023 during the ICRP Symposium. The purpose of this workshop was to encourage the active engagement of young professionals with Radiation Protection and promote their personal and social interaction. More than 30 young professionals from 12 countries participated in the workshop (15 from Japan, 3 from China, 2 each from Korea and the USA, and one each from Australia, Bangladeshi, Colombia, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Myanmar and the UK.

Speakers from from Japan, the USA, Korea, China, and the UK each delivered a presentation describing the activities of young professionals in each country (see the table below for the names of the speakers). Their presentations motivated all workshop participants to further engage in YGN activities.

A survey on the status of the young generation in radiation protection had been conducted in advance, as preparation for the group work portion of the session. The survey received 150 answers from 15 countries, the results of which will be reported in the future. As part of the group work, participants shared the status of the young generation in the radiation protection field in each country based on results of the survey and discussed the possibility of future collaboration.



Welcome and Closing Remarks	Kazuji Miwa (Japan)
Introduction of YGN activity in each country (1) Japan (2) USA (3) Korea (4) China (5) UK	Yu Igarashi (Japan) Sara Dumit (USA) Yeon Soo Yeom (Korea) Chuangao Wang (China) Laura Pearse (UK)

MONTREAL FUND SUPPORT FOR IRPA16

The Montreal Fund is used to enhance radiation protection worldwide by supporting attendance of young professionals at IRPA Congresses. Preference is given to young professionals from developing countries and countries that do not have IRPA Associate Societies. Individuals are selected in accordance with the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Montreal Fund Committee.

The next Congress is IRPA16, which will be held 7 – 12 July 2024 in Orlando Florida, USA. The Montreal Fund will contribute \$30 000 USD to support attendees at this event. Distributions will be coordinated through the IRPA16 International Congress Support Committee (ICSC).

The ICSC would like to offer all IRPA Associate Societies the opportunity to nominate younger individuals from your society for a travel grant that meet the following criteria in order of preference:

- Applicant is 35 years of age or up to 39 if they have fewer than 10 years experience in radiation protection field.
- Applicant has had a presentation or poster accepted by the International Congress Programming Committee;
- Applicant is from a developing country;
- Applicant has access to supplementary funds;
- Applicant's attendance likely provides a benefit to radiation protection in their home area;
- Applicant has not attended a previous IRPA Congress.

Visit the [IRPA16 website](#) for more information.

The Montreal Fund is supported by contributions from Associate Societies and other stakeholders. Our Association would not be able to maintain the Fund without your generosity. Participation at IRPA16 and other IRPA congresses by those who may not otherwise be able to attend is not only be beneficial for expanding radiation protection knowledge, but also will serve as an important opportunity to interact with participants from various countries. We encourage all Associate Societies to consider contributing to the Montreal Fund.



AS UPDATE: ROMANIAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION (RSRP)

THE 2023 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Constantin Milu, RSRP President
Bucharest, Romania.

www.srrp.ro

The Romanian Society for Radiological Protection (RSRP) was created in 1990 and was admitted to the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) as an Associate Society in 1992. Today, the RSRP has 77 active members; among them, physicists, physicians, chemists and engineers, researchers, teachers and radiation protection experts from across the country.

The annual RSRP Conference is an important event that typically attracts large numbers of participants and covers many topics of special interest. Ten years ago, Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom was adopted in the European Parliament, which laid the foundation to create European Basic Safety Standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionizing radiation. The main topic of the 2023 RSRP Conference was “Actual aspects regarding the exposure situations to ionizing radiation in Romania,” comparing the situation today with what it was ten years ago.

For the first time, the 2023 RSRP Conference was organized over a period of two days. Thursday October 5 was an online session and Friday October 6 was the main session, which was conducted in person. 53 people attended the online session, where the speakers presented live from the conference room of the Atomic Physics Institute in Magurele, Romania. The topic of the online session was “New methods and their application in individual dosimetry.” Dr. Filip Vanhavere from the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK-CEN presented the latest results in personal online dosimetry: “Computational Personal Dosimetry – Status and New Applications.”



The presidium of the main session: Daniela DOGARU, CNCAN, Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Constantin MILU, RSRP President and Mirela Angela SAIZU, RSRP Executive Secretary

AS UPDATE: ROMANIAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION (RSRP)

71 people attended the main session of the 2023 conference on the Friday. In order to offer to all participants a general view on the situation in Romania, the session began with a plenary presentation given by Constantin Milu, the RSRP President and former member of the Euratom Article 31 Group of Experts. Constantin presented the new concepts, terms and principles recommended by ICRP Report 103 from 2007, which were later used in the Directive, and also pointed out some aspects regarding the transposition and practical implementation of the Directive in Romania in the ten years since its adoption. 18 oral presentations and 5 posters followed the plenary, plus a round table discussion on medical response in case of an emergency situation in Romania.

In line with IRPA's Policy of encouraging participation by young professionals, the award for best scientific paper submitted by an early career scientist was given at the end of the conference. Four applications were received for this competition, with Mrs. Mara Popovici from ELI-NP on the topic of "Neutron dosimetry with PADC detectors" taking top honours.

We also want to mention the excellent ongoing collaboration with specialists from the Republic of Moldova. Two individuals - Liuba Corețchi and Mariana Gîncu, presented very interesting scientific work at this years conference.

The conference ended with the General Assembly of the active RSRP members.

The 2023 Annual National Conference of the RSRP was hosted in the wonderful facilities offered by the MB Telecom Ltd., in Bucharest- Otopeni. All of the conference presentations and materials, including some very useful IRPA reference information, were included in the conference proceedings whose technical editing was done by Mirela Angela Saizu and Nicolae Mocanu. 100 copies were distributed to all participants and to some competent authorities.



Mrs. Mara Popovici receiving her award from the RSRP President



A group photo of (almost) all the conference participants



IN MEMORIUM - DR. RICHARD E. TOOHEY

SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 - NOVEMBER 13, 2023

(Republished with permission from the National Commission on Radiological Protection)

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of Richard Toohey. Dr. Toohey was a gentle giant in radiation science and a towering personality in life. He was brilliant and humble, kind and compassionate, wise and diligent, innovative and trustworthy, thoughtful and steadfast, and a friend to all of us. His accomplishments are legion from the study of radium dial painters to the Million Person Study. His leadership and mentoring were extensive and lasting, nationally with NCRP and internationally with the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA).



Dr. Toohey received his PhD in Physics from the University of Cincinnati in 1973. He started his career at Argonne National Laboratory and continued as a Senior Health Physicist until 1993 when he joined Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). At ORAU he managed programs in internal dosimetry, dose reconstruction, environmental health physics, and radiological emergency response, retiring in 2012. At the time of his death, Dr. Toohey was a Consulting Health Physicist with M.H. Chew and Associates.

Dr. Toohey was a Certified Health Physicist, President of the Health Physics Society (2008 to 2009), Treasurer of IRPA (2008 to 2019), and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries (2015 to 2018). He received the 2019 Health Physics Society Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, had over 140 publications, and was a retired Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve.

Dr. Toohey was first elected to the NCRP Council in 2006 and became a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 2018. He served on the Board of Directors (2010 to 2016), and on the Budget and Finance Committee (2006 to 2015) —his financial acuity led to his much appreciated service as Chair (2007 to 2015). Dr. Toohey was Chair of the 2012 Annual Meeting Program Committee, and Co-Chair in 2016.

Dr. Toohey was the 2016 Warren K. Sinclair Keynote Speaker and spoke on “WARP: Where Are the Radiation Professionals?” He was Co-Chair of Council Committee 2 (CC 2) on Meeting the Needs of the Nation for Radiation Protection. During his tenure with NCRP, he was Co-Chair of Scientific Committee (SC) 6-9; Staff Consultant for the Million Person Study; and a Member of SC 6-3, SC 6-4, SC 6-9, SC 57-17, and WARP. He was advisor to the NCRP’s Fifth President (John D. Boice, Jr.) from 2012 to 2018.

Dr. Boice recalls relying on Dr. Toohey as a trustworthy advisor. They spoke frequently on topics to enhance the NCRP leadership in radiation protection, notably the WARP initiative, renewed strength in occupational and internal dosimetry, holding program area committee meetings before each annual meeting, rapidly publishing annual meeting summaries in Health Physics News, and creating CC 2. Dr. Toohey worked tirelessly with Dr. Boice, under the radar, and produced! He was fond of comparing himself with Ado Annie (in the musical Oklahoma) as being the feller “who can’t say no.” To our great fortune, Dr. Toohey continued “never saying no” and enriched our lives personally and professionally for so many years. Rest in peace old friend!

Dick and his wife Beverly were avid supporters of Smoky Mountain Service Dogs. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made at <https://www.smokymountain servicedogs.org/>.



UPCOMING EVENTS



**RADIATION HARMONIZATION:
STANDING UNITED FOR PROTECTION**

 **IRPA 16**

7-12 July, 2024 • Orlando, Florida USA
Rosen Shingle Creek

With the theme “Radiation Harmonization: Standing United for Protection” the IRPA16 congress aims to draw attention to the fact that as the uses of radiation continue to expand, the need for harmonization continues to be an integral component in our practice. Our sessions will welcome talks and discussions on the differences that may exist between countries in their approaches to the regulatory processes as well as differences within the protection community itself. This will help identify successes and challenges that can assist the review process currently underway by the ICRP for the next revision of their general recommendations for radiological protection. Also, ICRP is currently reviewing its recommendations for radiation protection which will be discussed at IRPA 16.

You can expect a wide range of topics from the basics of radiation protection to improvements in its practice. Presentations will be delivered in a modern, attractive and interactive format with up-to-date technical contributions and opportunities for the active involvement of all participants in the discussion. The Congress organizers and hosts are issuing a special invitation to younger scientists and professionals to attend.



SEND US YOUR NEWS!



Do you have news to share? Send it to cop@irpa.net, and 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!

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