



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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Members of the IRPA 16 Organising Committee met in Orlando to prepare the IRPA16 Scientific Program

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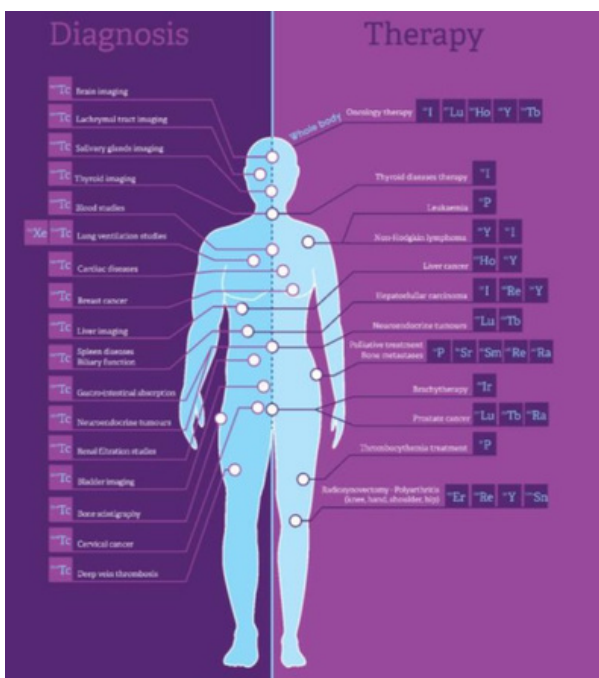
PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

For this installation of my IRPA President's blog, I would like to touch on 3 very current topics. First, of course, is our IRPA16 congress which will be held in just a few more months. I simply can't wait to get there! February allowed me to test the waters, as it were, by participating at the IRPA 16 organising committee meeting in Orlando. This meeting was chaired by Renate Czarwinski and prepared with the very effective help of Charles Wilson of the Health Physics Society.

A wonderful programme has been prepared for the congress, which will alternate between panel discussions in the mornings and oral presentations. In particular, I would like to highlight the first day of the congress which will include two plenary panels related to the future ICRP recommendations. The first of these will provide an opportunity to discuss and compare the two current systems of protection for ionising and non-ionising radiation, while the second panel will cover topical issues for the future of RP with participation of the major international organisations.

I would also like to highlight a plenary panel on fostering education, training and skills in radiological protection. The first priority for the future of RP is to attract young talent, scientists and engineers to the field. This is a critical point for our future. Along with the IRPA Young Generation Network (YGN), we will organise a World Café on "Finding the next Generation of RP Professionals." I know I can count on your participation in this exciting event. And on the subject of young professionals, I have some other great news to share! We received 14 nominations for the IRPA16 Young Professional Award in Radiation Protection 2024. Let the best young professional win!



For my second topic, I recently had the opportunity to participate in a workshop in Brussels on the use of diagnostic and therapeutic radioisotopes in Europe with the evocative title: "Securing access to radiopharmaceuticals for all European patients." Europe has launched a "cancer-beating" initiative similar to the IAEA "Rays of Hope" project. It is a veritable revolution of "Theranostics" that relies on a different alpha- and beta-emitting radioisotopes available for both diagnosis and treatment, such Lu-177, which was among the first to open this door. The demand for these products is increasing and a major constraint on accessibility is the current production limit. Worldwide, although 226 reactors are operational, only 81 are used to produce radioisotopes. Seven of these are in Europe (Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, the Czech Republic and Hungary).

PRESIDENT'S BLOG

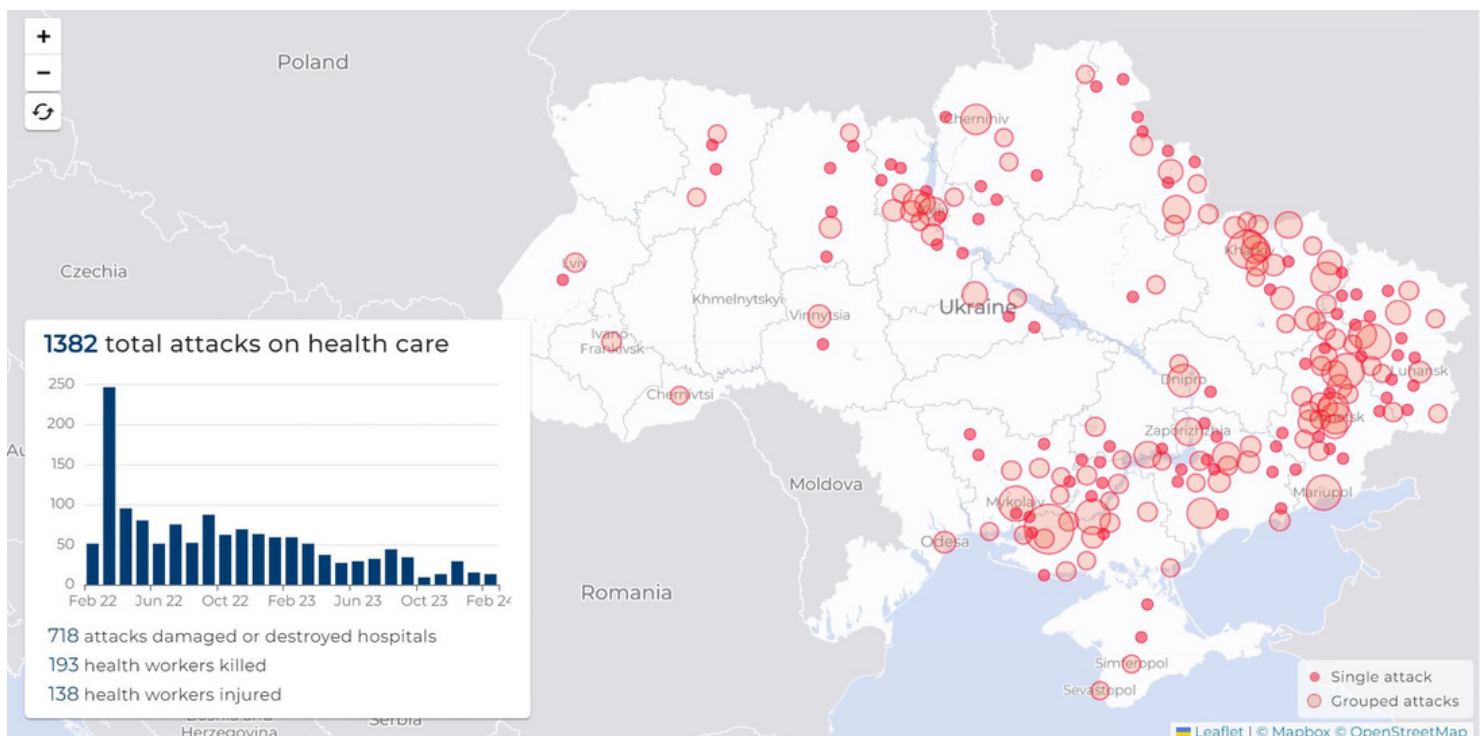
DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

This breakdown of reactor usage gives a good picture of the use of radiation in the general public today. The research reactors available in Europe are very old and it is important to plan for the future and accommodate this growing demand for Theranostics.

Finally, I would like to take advantage of this blog to share with you a little-publicized concern. I was able to participate in the Committee on Radiological Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) which brings together representatives of all member countries every year. Among the various topics discussed, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) carried out a live alert on the country's radiation protection priorities.

Although vigilance is still required regarding the safety of the nuclear facilities, particularly the Zaporija nuclear power plant, another worrying issue has emerged. Nearly 29,700 radioactive sources are located throughout Ukraine, most of them in hospitals and medical facilities. To date, more than 700 medical buildings have been destroyed and controls are virtually non-existent. The risks of damage, orphaning or loss of these sealed radiation sources are very real. Verifying these sources and ensuring their safety remains difficult.

Little is said about this subject, but the medical expert in radiation protection remembers the radiation accidents caused by lost sources and the images of patients treated in France for radiological burns. Every effort must be made to help Ukraine safety all the sources from these destroyed buildings!



Map of attacks on Ukraine hospitals



MONTREAL FUND

The Montreal Fund was created in 1995 by the Canadian Radiation Protection Association with the proceeds of the IRPA-8 International Congress held in Montreal, Canada, in 1992. It is an essential program that IRPA uses to enhance radiation protection worldwide by supporting attendance of students and young professionals at IRPA Congresses, preferably 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 Montreal Fund is supported by contributions from Associate Societies and other stakeholders. The following Associations made contributions to the fund in 2023. IRPA greatly appreciates their generous support!

- The UK Society for Radiological Protection (SRP)
- The Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS)
- The Italian Association of Radiological Protection (Associazione Italiana di Radioprotezione, AIRP)
- Dutch Society for Radiation Protection (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Stralingshygiëne, NVS)
- Nordic Society for Radiation Protection (NSFS)

Both the UK and Nordic Societies have made pledges to the Montreal Fund for annual contributions in the amount of 2 500 GBP (UK) and 500 EUR (Nordic). IRPA asks other Associate Societies to make annual pledges to the Montreal Fund as they can.

The Montreal Fund provided support in the amount of \$ 13 520 USD for 19 individuals to attend IRPA Regional Congresses in 2022. Unfortunately, the support provided exceeded contributions for 2022 by almost \$9000 USD and contributions for 2023 by almost \$ 3500 USD.

The Montreal Fund is providing support in the amount of \$ 30 000 USD to enable eligible individuals to attend the IRPA 16 International Congress in Orlando in July 2024. This leaves less than \$ 30 000 USD in the Fund for future support. Increased contributions to the Montreal fund are therefore urgently needed for continued support at the same level as now.

We strongly encourage those Associate Societies who are able to contribute to the Montreal Fund this year. Your support will help increase participation at future IRPA Congresses by those who may not otherwise be able to attend the IRPA Regional Congresses in 2026 and the IRPA 17 International Congress in 2028. The need for support is increasing and increased contributions are urgently needed.



**THE SOCIETY FOR
RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION**



IRPA16: INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN NELSON, IRPA16 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CHAIR

What makes IRPA16 such an attractive event?

The IRPA International Congress is a unique opportunity for radiation protection professionals from around the world to gather every four years to discuss common issues and solutions. It's the Olympics of radiation protection meetings!



What does the conference theme, “Radiation Harmonization: Standing United for Protection” mean to you?

As the use of radiation increases across the world, the importance of a unified approach to the risks becomes paramount. International radiation protection organizations such as IRPA, IAEA, ICRP and NCRP play a critical role in this unified approach.

As a member of the organizing committee, what do you think attendees have to look forward to at IRPA16?

I will be attending the IRPA 16 Program Committee meeting in Orlando 5-9 February. We have nearly 800 abstracts to review. The quality and diversity of the abstracts is outstanding. For those attending IRPA 16, you can look forward to some wonderful talks and posters submitted by some of the world's leading experts in radiation protection. In addition, this is an outstanding opportunity to network with your colleagues.

What are you, personally, most looking forward to?

For me, IRPA 16 will mark the end of a wonderful 11-year journey to bring this meeting to the United States for the first time in 51 years. My sincere hope is that radiation protection professionals that have not previously had the opportunity to attend an IRPA International Congress meeting, avail themselves to this opportunity.



IRPA16: INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN NELSON, IRPA16 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CHAIR

What topic(s) do you think will generate the most discussion?

I am biased, but I think IRPA 16 will have interesting talks and posters for everyone. In particular, I believe a series of talks and discussion related to the revision of ICRP's system of radiation protection will garner much interest.

What sort of social events are being organized?

The Orlando area offers unparalleled entertainment opportunities for IRPA 16 attendees. Disney World, Universal Studio with Harry Potter and Sea World are only a few kilometers away. A tour of Kennedy Space Center is being offered as a technical tour. At the meeting, a Gala is being planned!



Is there anything specific you would like to say to encourage the radiation protection community to attend IRPA16?

To my international colleagues, thank you for the friendship and kindnesses shown to me as the IRPA VP for Congress Affairs while I was speaking to you in person or during virtual IRPA regional Congress meetings the past few years. I hope to see you at the IRPA 16 meeting in Orlando in July.

To my HPS colleagues, this is a wonderful opportunity to attend an IRPA International Congress meeting in your own backyard. In past IRPA International Congress meetings I've attended, I have had the opportunity to meet so many colleagues that have had interests and issues I've encountered in my own workspace. Many of these colleagues have become good friends. It took us 51 years to host this meeting again on US soil. I hope you can take advantage of this opportunity.... it may not come again for another 51 years.



EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION WORKSHOPS

MOHAMED GOMAA

The Egyptian Radiation Protection Workshop was held from September 19-20, 2023 and focused on Personnel Radiation Licences for Medical and Non-Medical Applications. This workshop was hosted by the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA) in Nars city, Cairo and attended by about 40 participants - mostly post-graduate students from Egyptian universities, joiner staff from EAEA or ENPPA, or Radiation Protection Officers working at industrial companies.

After the opening approval of Professor Amr El-El Hag Aly, Chairman of the EAEA, the EAEA Vice-President Professor Haydat Ahmed Kamal chaired the opening session of the workshop.



Prof Haydat Kamal and Prof Mohamed Gomaa

The highlights of the workshop were:

- History of Radiation protection in Egypt (1955-2022).
- The cooperative role of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety requirements in updating radiation protection regulations.
- A detailed overview of IAEA General Safety Requirements from part one to part seven.
- An overview of the chapters of the Egyptian law entitled *Nuclear and radiological regulatory activities* (2010), its executive regulations dated 2011 and later modified in 2017.



EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION WORKSHOPS

MOHAMED GOMAA

- From this legislation, the establishment of The Egyptian Nuclear Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA) as the sole Egyptian competent authority to issue personnel licences.

The core of the workshop was the latest ENRRA publication entitled *Personnel Licence Regulations (PLR)*, published in 2022. This document contains detailed requirements to grant and renew personnel license for users, doctors, technical staff, radiation protection officers, and radiation protection experts for both Egyptians and foreign nationals.

The last item focused on the transfer of radiation protection knowledge and experience from senior experts to new staff.

At the closing of the workshop participation certificates were distributed to all participants. With the help of Professor Sherif Gohary, EAEA media consultant, several local newspapers were able to publish detailed notes about the Radiation protection workshop.

I myself was glad to be among Egyptian radiation protection experts who are 80 years of age with more than 40 years experience in the field. My colleagues in this same bracket include Professors Gaber Hassib, Rifaat Shinawy, Mourad Aziz, and Ahmed El-Khateeb.



Prof Mourad Aziz



Prof Ahmed El Khateeb



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!

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Managers: Dave Niven & Chris Malcolmson;

Social Media Managers: Sven Nagels & Chris Malcolmson;

Media Reviewers: Sven Nagels, Young-Khi Lim & Hiroki Fujita;

Proceedings Advisor: Haruyuki Ogino

IF YOU CAN'T WAIT UNTIL IRPA16, THEN PLEASE [REGISTER FOR THE 4TH IRPA WEBINAR](#) WHICH WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 24TH. THIS EVENT WILL COVER NEWS FROM THE IRPA TASK GROUP ON PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING, THE YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK (YGN), AND ALSO PROVIDE THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

2024 Election of the Executive Council Members of the Association

The IRPA General Assembly (GA) will take place during the IRPA International Congress on Wednesday July 10, 2024, from 03:30 p.m. to 07:00 p.m. (Orlando, Florida, US, local time) at the Rosen Shingle Creek Conference Hotel, Orlando, Florida, US. During the GA the election of the Executive Council Members of the Association will be carried out. IRPA received five nominations that fulfil the requirements of [IRPA Rules](#) Annex B: Procedure for submitting a candidate for nomination to the Executive Council.

All candidate profiles and other information regarding the elections can be found on the [IRPA website](#).

