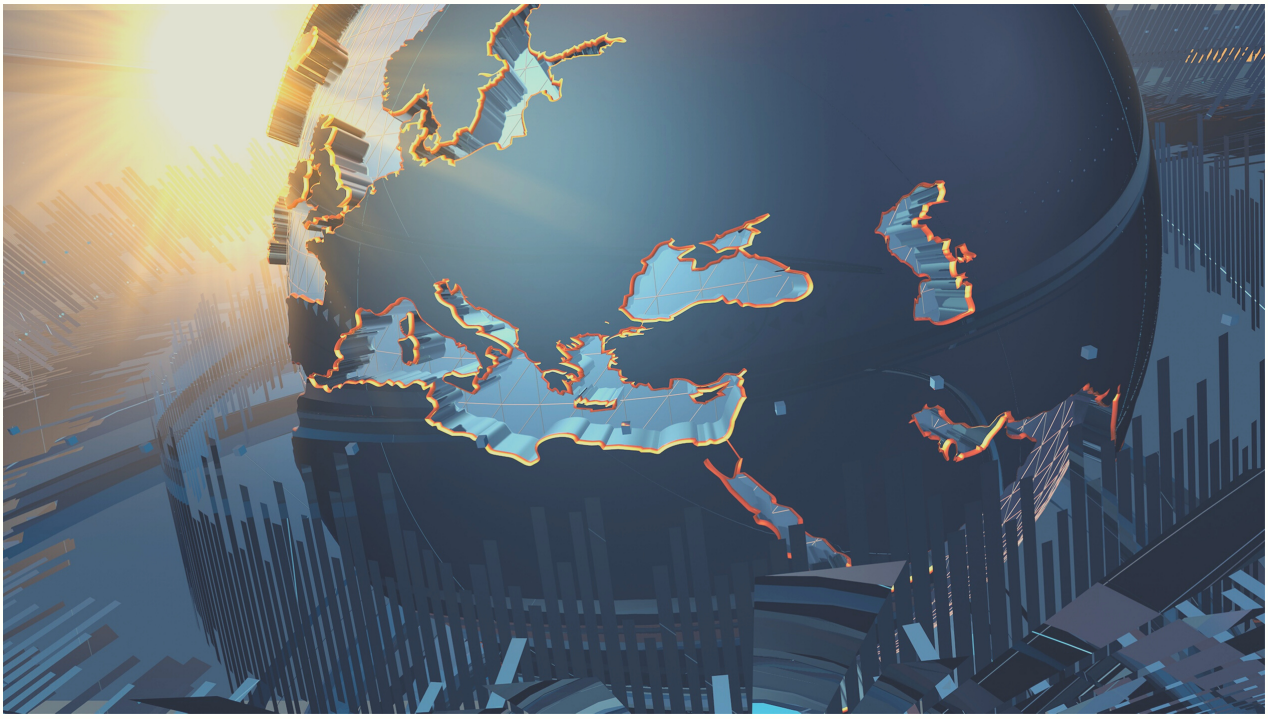
DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE #28

IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP professionals



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PRESIDENT'S BLOG

ROGER COATES

As I prepare to depart in January from my extended term as IRPA President – due to the pandemic it is around 4.7 years, probably the longest term in IRPA's history – I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over this period.

I can say with certainty that we have engaged with the profession and with the key international organisations more than ever achieved previously. This blog cannot cover all that has happened, but I can direct you to the IRPA Term Report (see the IRPA website https://irpa.net/page.asp?id=54824) where there is a full account of our activities. We have certainly made great progress in acting as 'the international voice of the RP profession', as is our Vision, in our interface with the key international organisations such as ICRP, IAEA, WHO and many others. I believe that they genuinely look to IRPA for good, practical input on the key issues of the day. This will become even more important over the coming period as the international radiation protection community will be giving considerable emphasis to the on-going development of the system of protection, leading eventually to the publication of a new set of ICRP general recommendations around the end of the decade.

On 14 January we will have our delayed General Assembly, the first to be held as a virtual meeting. Sadly this is open only to accredited delegates from the Associate Societies (due to the need to preserve the integrity of the voting processes), but a recording of the session will be made available on the website shortly afterwards. This GA will open the door to the next IRPA term, with the appointment of a new Executive Council who will then develop their programme of activities. Once again, some key pointers to what is likely to be included are contained in the final section of the Term Report as above.

The GA will be shortly followed by the long-delayed IRPA15 International Congress, again with essentially a virtual flavour. This commences on 18 January, with some really good live sessions over the period up to 27 January, together with an enormous number of sessions, papers, posters and refresher courses available at your personal discretion as congress delegates on a ‘click and play’ basis over the period up to 5 February. It has been a major undertaking to deliver this event in its twice-revised style, from the expected normal congress in May 2020 to a normal congress in January 2021, finally to a largely virtual event. My heart and appreciation goes out to Congress President Jong Kim and his team from the Korean Association (KARP), together with the members of the Scientific Programme Committee under Wolfgang Weiss, for all the hard work it has taken to achieve this.

Finally, I am proud and honoured to have had this opportunity to serve as your President, but it is now time to hand over the reins. I really do believe that IRPA is in a very strong position and is in good shape, although as ever there is still much to be done. And I am pleased to now let others get on and do it.

In mid-September, we decided that we would be holding a hybrid type congress for the IRPA15 Congress next January. This decision resulted in many changes. We had to greatly reduce the size of the great event hall that had been booked for three years. All other events that were planned had to be cancelled as well. Due to the spread of the coronavirus, just like in many other parts of the world, all government and private events in Korea were switched to online events. This even led to a lack of availability on the part of the excellent IT-related PCO agencies needed to facilitate these online events. The International Congress Organizing Committee (ICOC) of IRPA15 also fell victim to this unfortunate situation, and the progress of the preparations slowed. ICOC would like to take this opportunity to apologize to our colleagues around the world for any inconveniences caused during the course of the preparation for IRPA15.

New Program Organization for the Hybrid Congress

- Offline Event

For the first two days, 18-19 January, the congress will be held offline at Seoul's COEX facility, as planned. We would like to advise Korean presenters to participate as much as possible. Of course, international
presenters are more than welcome as well, but considering the spread of the coronavirus in Korea at the moment, it may be very difficult to do so. The greatest obstacle is that all those who enter Korea from a foreign country are obliged to remain in quarantine for 14 days.

During this period, the opening ceremony, Sievert Lecture, and two special sessions will be streamed live, along with three technical session presentations, and two days of poster presentations. There will also be exhibition booths as well. We are also making preparations in case the Korean government raises the social distancing level to Level 3 (i.e., the highest level, at which all meetings are banned).

- **Online Event**

The official online event will be held from 20 January to 27 January. During the online event, one plenary session ("The Future of the System of Radiological Protection"), seven special sessions, three thematic sessions, and two enhanced topic sessions (ETS) will be streamed live. During the live sessions, there will be panel discussions after each presentation, in which all participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. All topic sessions (TS) will follow the original schedule as planned. All presentations for the competition for Young Scientist Award (YSA) will take place online, and the 25 refresher courses (RS) will be held as planned. Aside from the live sessions, all presentations will be made in pre-recorded videos, and will be available on demand until 5 February. Unfortunately, all 'Related Meetings' that were to be side events were cancelled except one, the UNSCEAR virtual workshop. A short Congress Closing session following the last live session on 27 January is currently being planned. Although the congress is going to be held in a hybrid form, the ICPC tried to maintain the original format of the congress as much as possible. The following is a reminder of the key dates for the event.

- Presentation File Submission Deadline: 31 December 2020
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15 January 2021
- Late Registration (Online) Deadline: 17 January 2021
- Off-line Registration Deadline: 18 January 2021

The ICOC is trying its best to successfully hold the first hybrid-type congress in the history of the IRPA Congress. We would like to ask you one more time to please visit the IRPA15 website, www.irpa2020.org, and ask for your active participation.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact IRPA Secretariat, info@irpa2020.org.

ASSOCIATE SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS: THE JAPAN HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY (JHPS)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the secret of a successful meeting of the Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS) held during June 29-30, 2020 was the first web conference among the 53 annual meetings.

Presentation materials (power point documents and videos) uploaded by the presenters in advance were made available for viewing by the participants. In addition, a discussion board was set up for questions and answers. More than 300 participants, including professors, medical professionals, researchers, operators, regulators, students, etc. were gathered online and discussed the recent progress of their researches and shared valuable information and experiences related to radiological protection.

Six special sessions/symposiums, which were organized by the board of directors, standing committees, and specialized research groups, were carried out by live discussion style using the webinar format. The main themes of the presentations were the following: environmental radioactivity, radon and thoron, radiation measurement, dosimetry, medical exposure, radiation effects, risk analysis, risk communication, theory of radiological protection, education, prevention and emergency response, regulation and standards, and the Fukushima accident.

Especially, not only domestic participants but also overseas participants were joined on a webinar symposium, entitled "How do we find the solution to radiological protection of tritium water?" In this symposium, the experts of the relevant fields in radiation protection from Japan (Dr. Ichiro Yamaguchi), Korea (Prof. Ik Jae Chung) and Taiwan (Dr. Chang, Shu-Jun) presented their professional views, then residents, fisherman, and local activist in Fukushima reported the current situation, experience, and their thoughts on this issue, followed by a panel discussion. Presentation materials and the summary of the symposium are available at http://www.jhps.or.jp/cgi-bin/conv/page.cgi?id=90

The next annual meeting of the JHPS will be the 3rd joint meeting with the Japanese Society of Radiation Safety Management (JRSM), which will be held in Kanazawa city in December 2021.

ASSOCIATE SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS: THE JAPAN HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY (JHPS)

Authors: Hirokuni Yamanishi and Michiaki Kai

WELCOME TO THE CHILEAN SOCIETY (SOCHIRPA)

HTTP://WWW.SOCHIPRA.CL/

IRPA is pleased to welcome the Chilean Society for Radiological Protection (SOCHIPRA) as our newest associate member. Since its foundation in 2010, SOCHIPRA has been committed to promoting Radiological Protection and Safety Culture through the implementation of various activities in Chile, the linking and working together with other Associations in the region and the collaboration with International Organizations.

Chile is a spectacular nation that extends over 4300 km, from the Antarctic territory, through the fjords and glaciers of the south, magical forests and lakes located at the foot of imposing volcanoes, beautiful central valleys, reaching the Atacama Desert which, along with the beaches and valleys of the region of Arica and Parinacota are part of the great north of the Republic. Given its geography it is possible to go from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes in a few hours, where it is possible to observe a great biodiversity of flora and fauna, which adds an enormous potential to the territory.

It is one of the most stable and prosperous nations in the South of America, with a high standard of living and a good level of democratic development, which has currently been favored by the influence of its citizens. In addition to its natural beauty and industrial development, Chile has great potential for scientific development in its universities and contributes to the international scientific world since, among other things, today it is home to one of the largest collections of telescopes and radio telescopes in the world, taking advantage of the excellent conditions in the north of the country.

Chile joins IRPA as our 68th nation and 53rd Associate Society. It is our pleasure to welcome Chile to the IRPA family.

Part of the directive of the SOCHIPRA together with the Undersecretary of Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Chile Dra. Paula Daza (center).

The ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array) radio teles-ope is the largest astronomical project in the world, the result of an international effort based on Chilean territory.

Santiago's neuralgic center on a winter day The imposing Andes Mountains can be seen on its eastern border.

SOCIEDAD CHILENA DE PROTECCIÓN RADIOLÓGICA

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) collects, evaluates and reports environmental radioactivity measurements under its mandate in the Euratom Treaty in support to the Directorate General for Energy with the overall goal to set environmental radioactivity levels and protection of the population.

While initially focusing on anthropogenic radioactivity, data collection has been extended to naturally occurring environmental radioactivity. In this more global perspective, it first focused on indoor radon, since it contributes to half of the annual dose received from natural sources of radiation and because it is a technically challenging topic to present on a map.

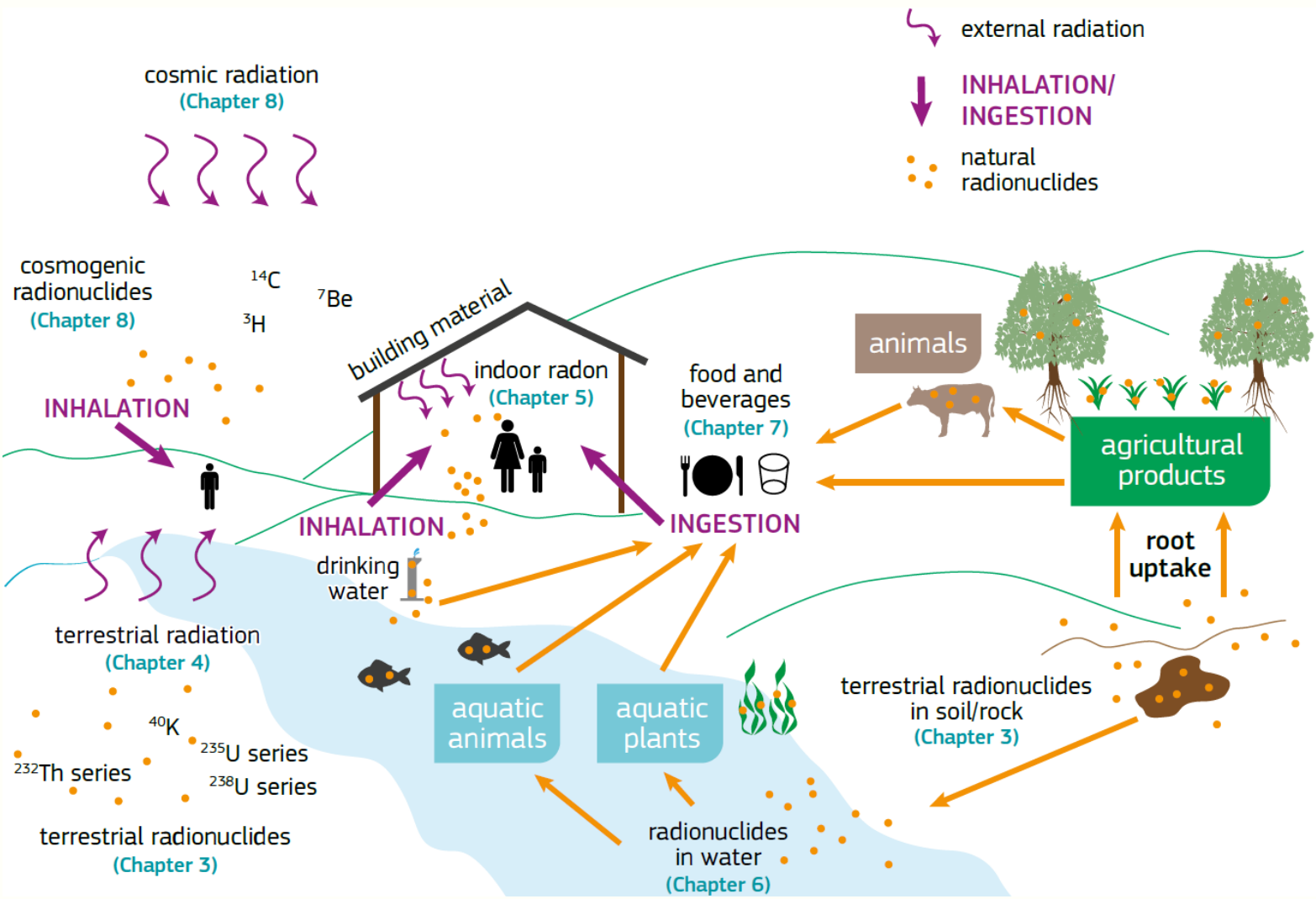


Figure excerpted from the European Atlas of Natural Radioactivity

It started in 2005 with a European-wide survey of available data sources for indoor radon. Unsurprisingly, no two countries used the same approach in terms of survey design, measurement techniques and mapping strategies, resulting in heterogeneous international maps and thus discrepancies along national borders. Subsequently the JRC decided to develop a harmonized European map of indoor radon concentration. The 2005 survey showed that indoor radon measurements were available in most European countries; however, collecting this information from different authorities and integrating it into a common framework implied a number of conceptual and technical challenges. The decisive discussions on how to develop a European Indoor Radon Map, including an agreement on the technical procedures, took place at the international radon workshop in Prague in 2006. As a result, both EU and non-Member States participated to the mapping effort. More than one million measurements from 35 European countries of long-term indoor radon concentration in ground-floor rooms of dwellings were collected, averaged and mapped on 10 km × 10 km grid cells. The achievement of this map was a fundamental step to proceed with the creation of the European Atlas of Natural Radiation.

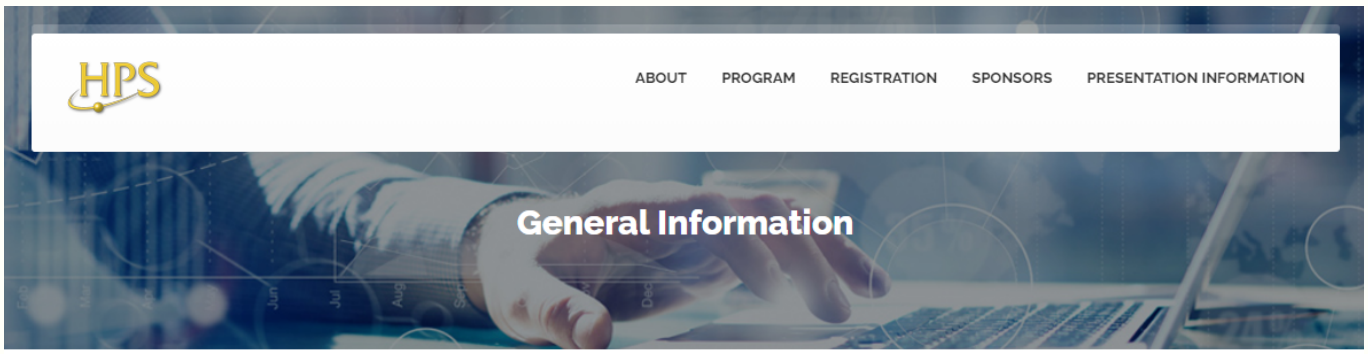
The Atlas, intended as an encyclopaedia of natural radioactivity, describes the different sources of such radioactivity, cosmic and terrestrial, summing the knowledge on the subject. To this aim, in addition to the above described indoor radon mapping efforts, the issue of displaying natural radioactivity caused by other sources needed to be addressed. To discuss the development of these maps and topics linked to natural radioactivity, as well as the progress of the Atlas content, JRC organized and hosted several international workshops and meetings for more than a decade. Therefor the publication of the Atlas is the result of many years of fruitful scientific collaboration with more than 100 experts from 60 different institutions, such as universities, research centres, national and European authorities, and international organizations, without whom this work would have never come to the current result.
The authors hope that the Atlas will be widely recognised as a standard publication on natural radioactivity providing reference values as well as harmonised data for the scientific community and national competent authorities in support to further scientific use and research. At the same time it offers an opportunity to a wider audience to become more familiar with natural radioactivity; assess radioactivity levels caused by different sources; and gain a balanced view of the annual dose received by the world's population, to which natural radioactivity is the largest contributor.

The Atlas (A3 format, 190 pp) is available in digital format (https://remon.jrc.ec.europa.eu/) and can be ordered as a printed version (https://op.europa.eu).

Benefits of a Virtual Conference - the 2020 Health Physics Society Meeting

Emily A. Caffrey, PhD

The Health Physics Society, like many professional societies, transitioned our 2020 annual meeting to the virtual world due to the pandemic. While everyone missed the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and network with vendors face to face, the meeting was incredibly well attended and a positive experience for all involved. Virtual meetings allow for attendance at nearly all sessions, and if a session is inconveniently timed, the ability to watch it later! I don't know about you, but I'm generally picking and choosing between sessions and running between meeting rooms – a virtual format allows you to watch all presentations that interest you. The convenience of being able to watch a session as it fits into my schedule is another huge benefit of a virtual meeting. If you do attend live sessions, you can actively participate in the session by asking questions and adding to the discussion via the chat feature of virtual platforms, meaning that you don't miss out on the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion with colleagues. Finally, virtual meetings are less costly to attend and ultimately take less of your time than in-person meetings. The world has undergone a paradigm shift in how we interact and communicate with each other, but this does not mean that scientific progress should come to halt. Rather we must adapt and utilize the tools at our disposal to ensure we continue to advance the science of radiation protection and bridge the knowledge gap between scientists and the public.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The HPS Virtual Meeting will take place over 7 weeks starting September 10 through October 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first session on September 10 will be free.

The virtual meeting will be run through the GoToWebinar software platform.

Each day that you have registered for a workshop/PEP you will receive an email from customercare@gotowebinar.com 6 hours prior to the start of the session (approximately 8:00 AM EST). This email will contain instructions to log into GoToWebinar as well as a weblink to do so. Please note that this link is unique to your registration for that day only so be sure to only use the link in that day's email. Another reminder with the link will be sent 1 hour prior to the start of the session.

Please be sure to check your spam folder and add customercare@gotowebinar.com to your safe senders list. If you do not receive your unique link, contact us at VirtualMeetings@burkinc.com.

IN MEMORIUM - RUPPRECHT MAUSHART

IRPA Pro Tempore Executive Council, Paris 1964.
From left: Maushart, Courvoisier, Duhamel,
Jammet, Bonnet-Maury

Rupprecht and IRPA President Roger Coates at a social event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FS - held on the Baltic coast, September 2016.

Rupprecht Maushart, one of IRPA's founding members passed away peacefully at the age of 90 in his home on November 17, 2020. Rupprecht played a key role in founding the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), serving as IRPA treasurer and member of the Executive Council from 1989 to 2000. Rupprecht was a driving force behind the constitution of the German-Swiss Association for Radiation Protection (Fachverband, FS) and its incorporation into the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) as an Associate Society in 1966.

Rupprecht was nationally and internationally respected for his expertise in radiation protection, especially in measuring methods and devices. His work in this area included more than 38 years as Research Officer at the Karlsruhe Research Center, and Scientific Director of the Berthold Company. Following his retirement, Rupprecht continued to serve on advisory committees and task groups dedicated to radiation safety as well as his editorial duties.

His passion and most heartfelt pursuit was communication with the public, a topic on which he repeatedly presented at IRPA congresses, and this was one of the reasons for which he developed and managed as Editor-in-Chief the German radiation protection journal StrahlenschutzPRAXIS. To many he was a colleague, leader, mentor and friend.

Rupprecht has left a lasting legacy within the radiation protection community in Germany and around the world. His contributions to our profession and to the Fachverband fur Strahlenschutz have been memorialized with the Rupprecht Maushart Prize, first awarded in 2010.