



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



JUNE 2021

ISSUE #30

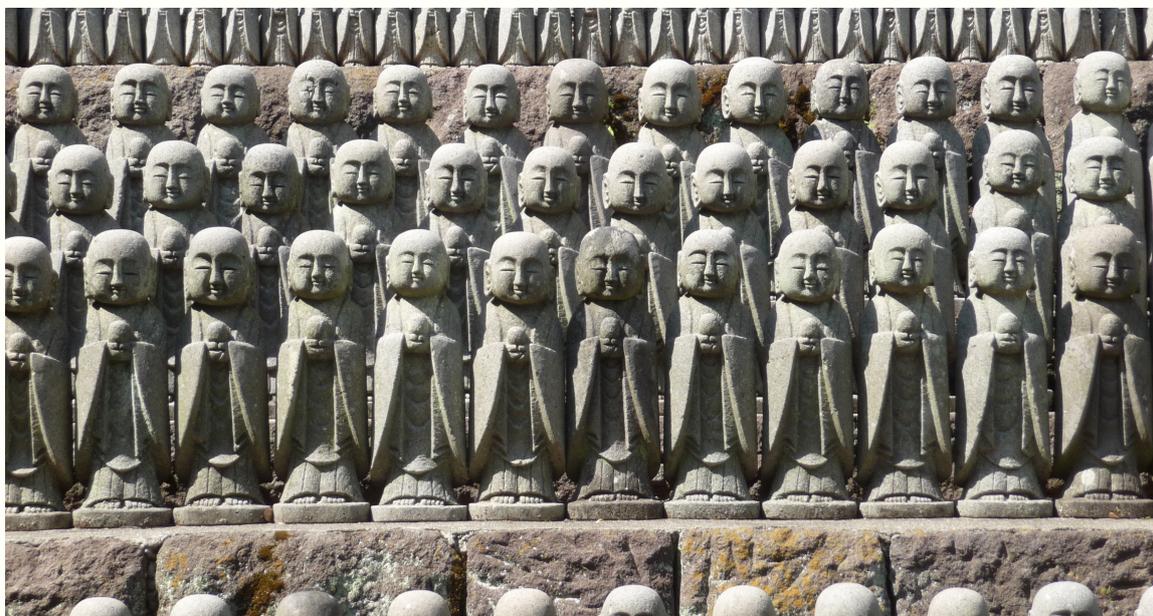


Photo by Andrew Karam

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Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Andrew Karam; Bulletin Editors: Andrew Karam & Dave Niven; Associate Societies Liaison: Adelene Gaw; Website: Managers Andrew Karam & Chris Malcolmson; Social Media Managers: Sven Nagels & Chris Malcolmson; Media Reviewers: Sven Nagels, Young-Khi Lim & Hattori Takatoshi; Proceedings Advisor: Haruyuki Ogino



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

Every so often I run into another iteration of the concept that, over a given number of years (some think it's every three years, others say every seven years, but there are other guesses) all of the cells in our body change over – old cells die and are replaced by new cells. This legend is almost certainly not true, if only because the epithelial cells that line our change over far more rapidly (lifetime of 40 days for some cells of the digestive tracts, 21 days for the skin cells...) while our neurons only rarely reproduce once we reach adulthood. But I keep being reminded of this as an analogy with our professional community – especially these last several months.



We have lost valued colleagues and dear friends recently; most recently Rupprecht Maushart at the end of last year and Wolfgang Weiss just this month. It's a reminder to me that I have been working in this profession for many years, as well as a reminder that many radiation protection professionals are aging (sorry ...becoming more experienced than others! myself included). And it's a reminder that our professional bodies experience turnover just as our physical bodies do and our role is to prepare this transition through the 3 pillars of our profession : knowledge, skills, and competencies. In fact, we see evidence of this in this very issue of the IRPA Bulletin, with an article about IRPA's Young Generation Network and a profile of an up-and-coming radiation protection professional from Egypt, Mohammed Mitwalli.

This is the nature of things – whether it's the gradual turnover of cells in our bodies or the gradual turnover of colleagues in our profession – it's the nature of things to change and to evolve with time. But there's a difference. When one of my epithelial cells dies and is replaced, the new cell knows nothing about the old – except for what is transmitted via DNA, there's no transfer of information that will help the new cell to do a better job or to let it learn from the experience of its predecessor. The cells in my digestive tract, except the accumulation of mutation in the DNA from one generation to the next, can't share this kind of information, they have no lessons-learned to benefit the next generation of cells, their passing will not be mourned or memorialized.

We can do better – indeed, doing better is why IRPA, with its fantastic professional network around the world, exists in the first place. Through our Congresses (international and regional , the first regional congresses will be held now in less than a year) we can share information, experience , tell stories, and rejoice or commiserate with our colleagues and friends. Through the IRPA website we can share information as well – and our capabilities to do so will only grow with time. And the Bulletin is a part of this process, as is the Young Generation Network, the various IRPA Task Groups, and so many of the other activities that we can all engage in, whether as a member of IRPA, our own “home” Society, or our colleagues at work. We change, IRPA changes, and our profession changes – but we have the ability to try to influence the direction of this ongoing process so that the changes will be for the better.



PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

But even though I mourn for our too many friends and colleagues we have lost in too short a period of time, I am gladdened by all of the new colleagues we have added to our professional “body.” It gives me confidence that we will continue to grow, both personally and professionally, in the years to come. And beyond that, I count on our new colleagues to help us to maintain a sustainable Radiation Protection culture that is based on the beliefs, values, and assumptions of the founders of our organization...and also on the beliefs, values, and assumptions brought in by our new members and leaders.



After the Fukushima earthquake. Bernard took this picture less than 3 miles from Fukushima daichi



JOSEPH AMOAKO

Dr Joseph Amoako's career in Radiation Protection began more than two decades ago, following completion of his doctorate in Physics from the University of Cape in Ghana and his post-graduate diploma (PGDip) in Radiation Protection from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. In 2007, he was awarded an IAEA Fellowship in Occupational Radiation Protection, receiving training at the Greek Atomic Energy Commission.



“ I got interested in RP when I joined the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, as research scientist with background in Physics of Solids and materials. I was asked to accompany a team of RP officers of the Radiation Protection Institute to visit some hospitals and imaging centres to undertake quality assurance and inspections.

My interest and passion grew higher when I had opportunity to undertake a postgraduate diploma in Radiation Protection at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa with the sponsorship of the IAEA. That program exposed me to practical Radiation Protection in several settings including nuclear power plants, mines and hospitals. After my studies I came back to Ghana to work as an RP professional at the Radiation Protection Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission".

Joseph's first job in radiation protection was as a Research Scientist with Ghana's Atomic Energy Commission, followed by several years managing the Radiation Protection Institute's Health Physics and Instrumentation Centre. Since then, he has held a number of other positions, leading to his current appointments as Deputy Director of the Radiation Protection Institute and as a Chief Research Scientist and Senior Lecturer at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, developing a deep love of teaching while also supervising a number of graduate students in their studies.

Beginning in 2004, Dr Amoako has also worked extensively in non-ionising radiation, including helping to draft Ghana's Guidelines for the Installation of Telecommunication Equipment, along with training a number of young scientists in routine monitoring of telecommunications sites and overseeing the monitoring of several hundred such facilities in order to help to allay the fears of those living near them.



MEET THE NEW IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: JOSEPH AMOAKO

In addition to all of this, Joseph has also been deeply involved in helping to build Africa's radiation protection infrastructure through projects with the IAEA and collaborative work with colleagues in Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, and Nigeria. These efforts are furthered by his work with the African ALARA Network on Occupational Radiation Protection (for which he also serves as Secretary-Treasurer – in addition to serving as Vice President of the Ghana Association of Radiation Protection).





MEET THE NEW IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ANDREW KARAM IRPA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



Andrew (the tall person in the back) and other members of the team he was with at the Fukushima Medical University Hospital

Andrew Karam first learned about radiation protection in 1981 when he joined the American Navy's Nuclear Power Program. After eight years in the Navy (half of which was spent on a nuclear attack submarine) "The last thing I wanted to do was to work in radiation safety. Then I worked a typical student job at the university and I realized that there were some things even worse than radiation protection. So I got a job with the campus radiation safety office to help pay for college." That was in 1990.

Since then, Andrew has held a number of jobs – he's worked as a regulator in his home state of Ohio, managed the radioactive waste program at a major university and hospital, started the Radiological Services Division for a small environmental consulting firm, worked as the Radiation Safety Officer at a university and hospital, taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and has spent the last decade-plus working on matters related to radiological and nuclear terrorism for the New York City Health and Police Departments.



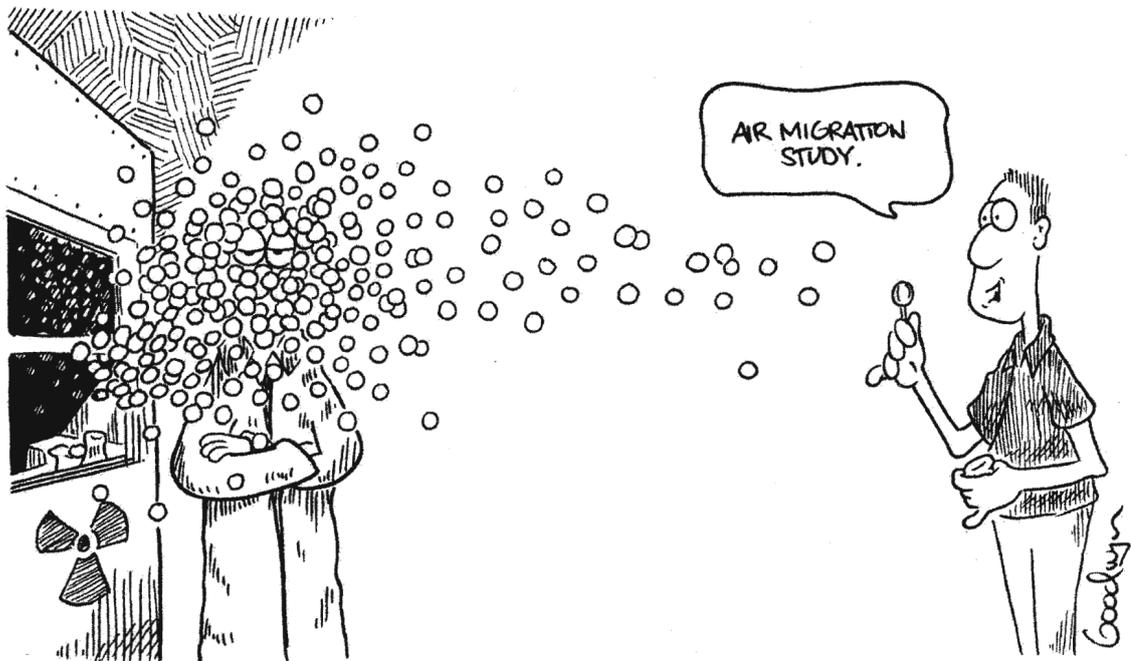
MEET THE NEW IRPA EXECUTIVE: ANDREW KARAM - IRPA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

In addition to the work he gets paid for, Andrew has been active in the American Health Physics Society and in IRPA; he has also conducted several international missions on behalf of the IAEA and the Health Physics Society, in addition to helping teach some courses for Interpol and serving on committees for the National Academies of Science and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The most memorable experience, though, was his work as part of a small team that was training medical and emergency responders in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident. “What really struck me was that, with all the devastation from the tsunami, all the damage from the earthquake, and so many deaths, the only thing that anybody seemed to care about was the one thing that wasn’t hurting anybody – the radiation.”



As IRPA’s Communications Officer, Andrew is responsible for managing IRPA’s website, overseeing the quarterly publication of the IRPA Bulletin, and other duties related to IRPA’s communications with members, Associate Societies, and the public. And in addition to all of this, Andrew has written 18 books (including his most recent, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism), over 30 scientific papers, and several hundred other pieces for both technical and general audiences. He currently lives in New York City.

*At the 2017 ball drop at Times Square
when working with the NYPD*





MEET THE NEW IRPA EXECUTIVE:

CAMERON JEFFRIES



Mr Cameron Jeffries graduated from Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia) with a Master of Applied Science (Research), which investigated radioactive aerosols in a mineral sand dry processing operation. After graduation Cameron worked in a radiation protection role at the Olympic Dam uranium mine and processing plant. He undertook numerous measurements of radioactivity and other occupational contaminants in all areas of the site, spending most of the first year working underground. He undertook research at Olympic Dam, including liaison with a consultant, on a project to update the radon source emissions from site. Cameron completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Occupational Hygiene Science during this time.

Cameron spent his childhood on the Sunshine Coast and Cairns in Queensland. His practical science experience was the Green Island Project during high school in Cairns. This project involved regular trips to the Great Barrier Reef to record tourist use and impact on a coral island. He enjoyed swimming and surfing during university with many great beaches within close to Brisbane. He supported himself at university by driving taxis, as an undergraduate laboratory demonstrator and in the Australian Army Reserve.

Cameron left Olympic Dam in 2002, to move into regulatory roles firstly in New South Wales (NSW) and then South Australia (SA) with their respective Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Cameron was part of the mining and environmental radiation group with the SA EPA, which had responsibility for uranium mining and legacy sites such as the Maralinga nuclear weapons test site and the Radium Hill mine that first produced radium at the start of the 20th Century. He was involved with implementation of spill reporting criteria, oversight and approval of uranium mining and production, monitoring and remediation of legacy sites and contributed to development of regulatory guides.



MEET THE NEW IRPA EXECUTIVE: CAMERON JEFFRIES

Cameron became the radiation safety officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney in 2010. In this role, he was responsible for operational radiation safety across all areas of a tertiary care, teaching hospital providing care in Medical Imaging, Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology. The hospital included skilled medical physics teams in Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Oncology. After eight years, Cameron moved to his current position as a Senior Medical Physicist in the Medical Physics & Radiation Protection group, South Australia Medical Imaging based at Flinders Medical Centre.

Cameron has a love of travel and flying. Aside from personal holidays, his work has allowed him to spend time in many parts of Australia and visit many countries around the world. The picture is of Cameron with a Fat Boy discovered in an aviation museum in the Florida panhandle.

Cameron is passionate about a graded approach to radiation protection and developing national uniformity in Australia's radiation protection system. Improving radiation protection literacy, is a key requirement for implementation of a uniform risk based approach to radiation protection. A holistic approach to safety is also critical to ensure radiation risk fits appropriately within the overall risk picture. Completion of a radiation survey may not always be possible in a complex industrial environment with multiple physical risks. He believes there is a need for a practical approach to implementation of radiation protection.

Cameron is a member of the Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS), Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), Australian Institute of Physics and the US Health Physics Society. Cameron is a past president of the ARPS, and current chair of the ACPSEM Radiation Protection Special Interest Group. Cameron is a member of the NSW Radiation Advisory Council with expertise in NORM. He is on the Australasian Radiation Protection Accreditation Board and the editorial board of the Journal for Radiation Protection and Research.





THINKING BACK A DECADE: RECOLLECTIONS FROM FUKISHIMA

ANDY KARAM

I came in to work on March 11, 2011 and my phone started ringing before I even sat down at my desk. It was a colleague, asking me what I knew about a nuclear reactor accident in Japan. I didn't know anything – I'd woken up late and hadn't listened to the news. But it was in all the news – I caught up quickly and called my colleague back, then started putting together a briefing for my management. That was the pattern for the next few weeks – get into work, catch up on events of the previous 24 hours, put together a briefing, and send it out to an ever-growing list of people in the NYC Health – and later, Police and Fire – departments.



A sumo wrestler who was visiting one of the shelters we saw, there to help keep up morale of the people who were there.

A few weeks later I got a call from a colleague asking me if I was able to travel to Japan as part of a small group – a NYC-based non-governmental organization had been contacted by a Japanese medical response organization, asking for assistance. Over the next few weeks we worked out who was going to be in our group (we ended up with a physician, a risk communicator, and me covering the radiation protection angle) – what was needed was training for medical and emergency responders to help them better (and more safely) care for contaminated patients. We arrived in Japan on April 21, and went right to work. We got to sleep around midnight the first day and, for the next 10 days, we went to sleep late and woke up early.

We spent the first few days in areas affected by the tsunami and fallout from the plume of airborne radioactivity. We visited some shelters, met with the mayors of some of the affected cities, saw neighborhoods that had been wiped away by the water, saw piles of cars that had been caught by the water their drivers were trying to flee. It was heartbreaking.

I had also brought some instruments with me – an ionization chamber, a small scintillation detector designed for radiological interdiction, and a hand-held sodium iodide gamma spectroscopy unit. Plus, as the only RP person in our group, I made sure that we all had dosimetry, which I checked daily when we were in the vicinity of Fukushima. Background dose rates in Tokyo and outside of the plume footprint were about 0.05-0.1 $\mu\text{Gy/hr}$ – in the plume I was measuring anywhere from 1-5 $\mu\text{Gy/hr}$, and had had fairly solid detections of Cs-134, Cs-137, and even traces of I-131. When I returned to New York I asked a lab to take a look at the spectra I'd saved – they found a few other radionuclides buried in the data as well (although I can't remember which ones).



THINKING BACK A DECADE: RECOLLECTIONS FROM FUKISHIMA

ANDY KARAM

When we returned to Tokyo we spent a day developing our training, then sent a copy to the daughter of one of the physicians we were working with, who threw herself into translating our slides into Japanese overnight. And the next day we hit the road. For the next week we traveled and gave one or more lectures each day – we woke early, went to the airport or train station, traveled to wherever our schedule sent us. What we talked about was, well, a variety of things. I spent some time going over the health effects of various doses of radiation exposure as well as how to work safely with contaminated patients – among other things, I discussed the case of Alexander Litvenenko and pointed out that his medical caregivers were unaware that he was shedding radioactivity, yet nobody had a significant intake of Po-210...the result of simply following standard precautions. The point I made was that they already knew how to work with contaminated patients – they just didn't realize it.



Where we stopped during the time we spent in the affected areas, compared to the plume footprint and the 20 and 30 km radii



THINKING BACK A DECADE: RECOLLECTIONS FROM FUKISHIMA

ANDY KARAM

When I finished our physician spoke about how to recognize radiation injury, went into greater detail about the health effects of radiation exposure, and discussed the reproductive effects of radiation exposure. The latter was a topic we spent some time discussing before including it in the program – we eventually decided that, since there is so much concern about pregnant women exposed to radiation, we should provide enough information to help the physicians to give good advice to their patients. The final presentation was our risk communicator – he discussed his experiences in working with people in the midst of a foot-and-mouth epidemic in the UK, those in bomb shelters during Scud missile attacks in the Middle East, people responding to chemical attacks, and those in the vicinity of radiological accidents. Using this experience he helped the attendees to understand how their patients, and their patients' families might be reacting to the events they had survived, how to communicate their radiological conditions to them, and how to communicate with the public if the opportunity arose. Luckily we were provided with translators, although we had to learn how to best work with them.



And where we gave our lectures

When all was said and done we'd given talks to over 1200 people – mostly physicians and nurses, but also a number of firefighters and even a group of dentists (the latter surprised me at first until I was reminded that dental records were often the only way to identify those who had died). We were also told that, as a result of our work, a major hospital corporation had decided to open up as many as 5000 beds for patients from the contaminated areas in their hospitals across Japan. That alone made the trip worthwhile.

On the flight home I was physically and emotionally exhausted. It was the first chance I'd had to actually think about everything we'd seen during our first few days in Japan – looking out the window of the airplane a few hours into our flight home I saw white debris from the tsunami littering the ocean, visible from more than 10,000 meters. When I realized where it had come from – when I put that together with the reefs of cars, the mudflats that had once been neighborhoods, the flooding maps we'd been shown by the Mayor of Soma City – I found myself trying to hold back my tears. Eventually I fell asleep, waking up about 12 hours later when we landed in New York.



ASSOCIATE SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS: EGYPTIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY MOHAMED GOMAA

During the first quarter of 2021 several international activities were carried out online. To start with, holding both the IRPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CONGRESS in the first quarter of 2021 was a huge achievement. Kudos to the work done by the IRPA council from 2016 till Jan. 2021, and congratulations to all who were elected to the new council for 2021 to 2024. Furthermore, the hygiene IRPA CONGRESS was also very successful. Everything went very smoothly, and as participants we are looking forward to the publication of the congress proceedings - the presentations by video were superb and covered variety of radiation protection topics. The only downside was that most of us were not able to see Seoul, South Korea in person. Hopefully most of the pandemic restrictions will be lifted in time for us all to participate in the regional activities for 2022.

As Vice President for the International Radiation Physics Society (IRPS) for Africa and the Middle East I received a request from the IRPS NEWSLETTER EDITORS to write about what I did during one year with the pandemic . As usual, the IRPS held their council meeting on-line and the newsletter that was released contain news and views from the council members. The next Symposium shall be held in MALAYSIA in Dec. 2021.

IAEA activities also continued as usual - or at least, as usual as possible. I participated in the international conference on radiation safety (IRSC) as well as an international technical meeting on radiation protection education and training for health professionals. The conference covered all topics of radiation safety while the technical meeting covered all topics of radiation protection education and training.

While representing my country at the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR) several on-line meetings were held including the following:

- A pre-session meeting in July, and the annual meeting in November, where UNSCEAR activities were reviewed for 2019/2020
- Approval for publication of three documents on the topics of medical exposure, Fukushima and Biology

Furthermore, the ongoing activities were written in the report to UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Three more activities were completed in the Spring of 2021, namely

1. Online webinar on Fukushima
2. Online webinar for national contact persons (NCP) for UNSCEAR global survey for public exposure.
3. My colleague and I managed to translate IRPA BULLETIN 28 into Arabic.

I am pleased to see how the UN organizations were participating in the previous activities, particularly the WHO as well ICRP and IOMP.

For the near future, it looks better to continue online meetings and other activities until the pandemic is over.



CHINESE SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION (CSRP) 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

On December 2-6, 2020, the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Society for Radiation Protection (CSRP) 2020 and the 18th meeting of the "Radiation Protection Forum in the Early 21st Century" were held in Huizhou, Guangdong. The five-day meeting was held in the forms of plenary, parallel and poster sessions. At the same time, the executive meeting of the society, the editorial board meeting of "Radiation Protection Journal", and the theme activities of the Youth Committee were carried out. More than 500 in total academics, experts, leaders and representatives from government departments, universities, scientific research institutes, and nuclear-related units attended the meeting.



The annual meeting of the Chinese Society for Radiation Protection (CSRP) and the "Radiation Protection Forum at the Beginning of the 21st Century" are held once a year. They are the most comprehensive, largest and most influential academic exchange platform in the field of radiation protection in China. Due to the impact of the epidemic, this year the two events were held jointly. Under the conditions of normalization of pandemic prevention and control, more than 500 radiation protection science and technology workers have come from afar to gather in Huizhou, which is not easy.



CHINESE SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION (CSRP) 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

14 senior academics and experts in the field of radiation protection in China gave wonderful plenary reports and answered the questions raised by the participants in detail. The topics of the plenary reports include:

- New Progress in Scintillation Detection Technology
- Challenges in the Development of Advanced Nuclear Energy and Research Progress of an Ultra-small Mobile Advanced Nuclear Energy System
- The Main Problems in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Internal Radiation Dose
- Progress Report on the National Nuclear Emergency Management System and Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities
- Progress and Challenges on Radioactive Waste Management in China
- Several Issues on the Level of Medical Exposure in China
- Practices on Independent Supervision and Evaluation of Nuclear and Radiation Safety to Large Nuclear Power Group
- Research and Development of Real-time Assessment Methods of Nuclear Accident Consequences
- Research on Calculating Human Radon Intake Based on the Jinping Underground Laboratory in China
- Discussion on the progress of HIAF and CiADS projects and related key issues of radiation protection
- Radon Exposure Supervision and Dose Evaluation-Current Status and Challenges
- The Influence of Technological Progress of Radiotherapy Equipment on the Formulation and Revision of Radiation Protection Standards
- History and trend of Radioactive Waste Incineration Technology
- Research on the Progress of Radioactive Waste Management Legislation

A total of 370 papers were submitted for the conference. After review by experts, 338 papers were included in the proceedings, 102 of which were selected as oral presentations at the parallel technical sessions. The parallel technical sessions included"

- Nuclear and Radiation Emergency
- Radiological Environment Monitoring and Evaluation
- Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities
- Radiological Health
- Safety of Radioactive Material Transportation
- Trans-Uranuclide Radiation Protection, and
- Radiation Therapy

For the second time, the Youth Committee organized the "Story of the Predecessors" theme event, tracing the development process of the nuclear industry, exploring the fighting spirit of the industry and inspiring young professionals with the power of the historic examples. Through various forms of academic exchanges, the conference energized academic and jointly promoted the prosperity and application of radiation protection technology.



At ICRP 2017 in Paris, France, ICRP Chair Claire Cousins announced that the organisation was undertaking a capital campaign to “Free the Annals” to celebrate their 90th anniversary.

The aim was to raise €500,000, with the result being that all publications, save for the most recent two years, would become free-to-access for all organisations, professionals, and members of the public.

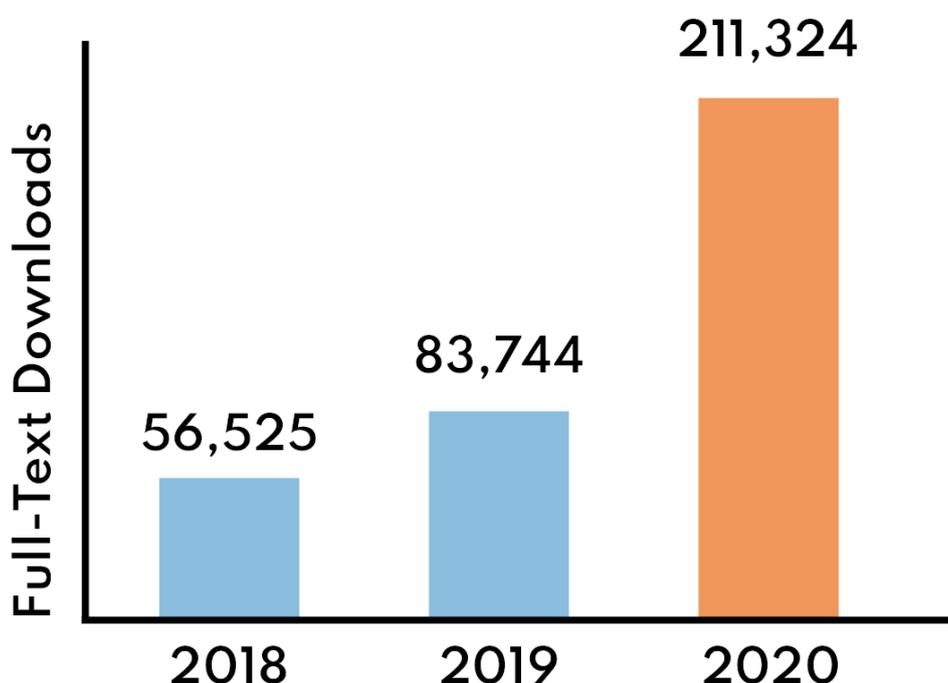
Thanks to individuals and organisations around the world, including IRPA, the campaign was a resounding success. Starting in 2020 (and continuing every year indefinitely), on the 1st of January, two-year-old ICRP Publications no longer require a fee to access them. Simply go to the ICRP Publications page and select the report you are looking for.

The result has been significant. Between 2019 and 2020 the number of downloads of ICRP Publications nearly tripled year-over-year, with noticeable increases in developing nations. With ICRP embarking of the review and the revision of the System of Radiological Protection, communication and engagement with all regions of the world will be critical.

While Free the Annals will continue to make a transformational impact in protection from ionising radiation globally, more support is needed to produce the updated replacement of Publication 103, the last General Recommendations released in 2007.

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to contact ICRP to play a role in radiological protection for the next generation. Being a part of the process today ensures we are all better prepared for tomorrow.

Those interested can contact Kelsey Cloutier (Kelsey.cloutier@icrp.org), Development and Communications Manager.





Why a strategic agenda?

For IRPA, the year 2021 is the beginning of the chairmanship of M. Bernard Le Guen and also the elaboration of the IRPA Strategic Programme for the next four years. The IRPA YGN will develop its Strategic Agenda in line with the core of the forthcoming IRPA Strategic Programme and close collaboration with the IRPA Chair and Mrs. Hiroko Yoshida, the Contact Person with the Executive Council. Both have expressed their support to the IRPA YGN and foster the activities already engaged by the YGNs.

In addition, the world context has become somewhat different in the last months and the Strategic Agenda should reflect these evolutions.

The use of webinars – and other tools for virtual interaction – has skyrocketed as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and radiation protection should not be an exception. The IRPA YGN will support IRPA in engaging a global reflection on the usage of the large variety of tools now available for distant interaction and how it can interface in IRPA organization.

The IRPA YGN will then particularly consider the use of videos and webinars to promote radiation protection education and communication with the public. The benefits of webinars and videos are numerous: their impact, their flexibility (access at own pace), and accessibility are only some examples. It brought the potential to disseminate radiation protection to a wider audience: the students and the next generation, the general public and professionals in developing countries. The IRPA YGN will first engage the national YGNs in a video contest: this is in line with the opening of the IRPA TV Channel. Then, IRPA YGN will engage a reflection about webinars (pros/cons), based on the experience of the IRPA YGN Members and the reflection will paramount with the planning of a dedicated webinar.

Most RP organizations are present on social media, generally on different platforms and for various purposes: information, outreach, education, etc. This content can be easily created and shared with a wider audience. Social media is not a one-way channel but rather an open field for networking: it can present live information from the field, generate a dialogue, and obtain feedback from the community. The young generation plays a particular role in the digital transformation and is positioned at the interface between the experts and the next generation/the public. Plus, the IRPA YGN can give a younger vision of the main radiation protection topics and engage students and potential radiation protection professionals. As such, the IRPA YGN proposes a survey on the usage of social media by the young generation in radiation protection with a spotlight on education and training and actions engaged toward the next generation. The results will inform IRPA on the strategic use of these platforms and to (re)boost the links between radiation protection experts, the Associate Societies and Network, and foster IRPA to remain *“the international voice of the radiation protection profession”*.



IRPA YGN STRATEGIC AGENDA 2021-2024

THE IRPA YOUNG GENERATION LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

The future of the radiation protection profession is a durable element in IRPA's Strategic Programme. The IRPA YGN would like to survey the views from individuals and national YGN about the current challenges faced by young professionals and scientists, about their career aspirations, and how to foster the next generation of the profession.

On this theme, the IRPA YGN will continue the activities already engaged, such as the Portrait Initiative and the collaboration with other organizations with an interest in professional development and education, and training (ex. EUTERP). In addition, IRPA YGN activities promote collaboration between the national young groups of the different radiation protection societies and generate synergies between them.

The eruption of Covid-19 has transformed the life of many of us and early initiatives (cf. the Collection of Testimonies about the Impact in RP in 2020) have shown that the impacts are far from negligible for the young generation in radiation protection. There is a need to formalize and share these early elements and continue the reflection. Anticipation is key and IRPA YGN would support the national YGNs to survey and report about the state of the situation and what could be the far-reaching consequences.

The IRPA YGN on the map (06/2021)

Legend:
■ IRPA YGN Leadership Committee
■ Candidate



RP NEW GENERATION - IRPA EGYPT

MOHAMED GOMAA

As the President of IRPA-Egypt, I am pleased to introduce you to our junior RP officer, Mr. Mohamed MITWALLI. Among other things, Mr. Mitwalli has translated IRPA Bulletins #22-#29 into Arabic. After graduating from the Mansoura University Faculty of Science (located about 100 km North East of Cairo) in 2014, Mr. Mitwalli completed a month-long radiation protection training course organized by the training center of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA), a facility that has been active for the last 50 years and has trained thousands of students.



Mr. Mitwalli obtained his master's degree in Nuclear and Radiation Physics from Mansoura University in October 2019, researching and writing a thesis titled "Environmental Radiation Dosimetry and Radiological Hazards in Sukari and Hamash Gold Mines by Using Several Nuclear Techniques" in which he measured the radiation dose caused by exposure to environmental radioactivity and the resulting radiological hazards. The areas he studied, Sukari and Hamash, are strategic areas as they host the largest and most important gold and mineral mines in Egypt. Mr. Mitwalli demonstrated a talent for science as well as for writing, publishing a number of scientific papers in the field of environmental radioactivity and radiation protection. Continuing his academic work, he is studying for his Ph.D. at Mansoura University in the field of nuclear and radiation physics.

In addition to his studies, Mr. Mitwalli is a co-PI researcher in a tripartite project between Mansoura University, Egypt's National Network of Nuclear Science at the Academy of scientific Research and Technology, and Russia's Joint Institute for Nuclear Research; this project aims to create an atlas of natural radioactivity and to monitor environmental radioactivity. The main objective of the project is to assess and evaluate the abundance of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) in selected areas in the Arab Republic of Egypt. In December 2019, Mitwalli participated in JINR's International Winter School, where the following pictures show him engaged in some of the scientific activities during training on linear accelerators. His project entitled "Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources" and you can find the project presentations online at <http://ucnew.jinr.ru/en/4-stage-2019> and <http://ucnew.jinr.ru/en/isp-archive/415>.





In November 2020, Mitwalli earned a diploma in radiation protection, environmental protection, and civil protection from Romania's Institute for Nuclear Research, RATEN-ICN. Here he was able to learn a variety of environmental radioactivity monitoring methodologies, in addition to learning neutron activation analysis (using the 14 MW Triga reactor) under the supervision of Professor C. Dulama.

Mr. Mitwalli has presented his work at a number of conferences, including:

- 7th, 8th, 9th Scientific Symposium for Young Researchers (MU) 2017, 2018, 2019 respectively.
- IRPA-15 conference (2021), reference number, PS2 (T2.1-0075) Jan. 18-28, 2021.
- The 13th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development through Nuclear Research and Education May. 26-28, 2021
- 28 International Seminar on Interaction of Neutrons with Nuclei: Fundamental Interactions & Neutrons, Nuclear Structure, Ultracold Neutrons, Related Topics May. 24 - 28, 2021



In addition, he is also a member of the National Network for Nuclear Sciences / Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, NNS-ASRT Egypt. Mitwalli is also a member of the International Radiation Protection Association IRPA-Egypt, and he is also a member of the Egyptian Society for Nuclear Sciences and Applications, ESNESA. And on a more personal note, I have been fortunate to supervise some of his activities, including his translation of nine IRPA bulletins into Arabic between July 2019 and the present (you can see his work on the IRPA website).

As you can see, Mr. Mitwalli is already an accomplished Radiation Protection Professional; it has been my pleasure to work with him and I look forward to seeing his accomplishments – and his career – grow in the years to come.



IN MEMORIUM: DR. WOLFGANG WEISS

Dr. Wolfgang Weiss passed away recently following a long and productive career in Radiation Protection.



Dr. Weiss earned his undergraduate and doctoral degrees in Physics from the University of Heidelberg, completing his doctorate in 1975. After graduation he accepted a post-doctoral position at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts (USA), where he investigated the distribution of fallout in the world's oceans from the era of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, a line of inquiry he continued to pursue in subsequent years. In 1982, he was appointed the Director of the Institute for Atmospheric Radioactivity in Freiburg Germany, where he was involved in environmental surveillance programs with a strong emphasis on measuring noble gases. His work in environmental monitoring continued in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, including his work in emergency preparedness and in helping to establish environmental monitoring systems near a number of Russian nuclear power plants.

In the mid-1990s Dr. Weiss was asked to advise the German government during international negotiations regarding the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), after which his institution began hosting an aerosol and noble gas station as part of the CTBT monitoring network. Several years later, Wolfgang played a very important role in the Bonn (Germany) call for action initiative launched in 2012. He was very instrumental in having the German government host the 2012 International Conference on Radiation in Medicine in Bonn and served as Chair of the Bonn Conference.

According to IRPA President Bernard le Guen and many testimonies from colleagues from the IAEA and WHO "During the conference Wolfgang woke up very early each morning before the Conference started and convened several colleagues of the scientific committee in a small office close to the main plenary room for a debriefing on the previous day. He consolidated the key outcomes and messages, which were presented in a very clever way to produce what became the BONN CALL FOR ACTION. He presented this preliminary material at the closing session, opening the floor for the hundreds of participants from all over the world and collecting comments/feedback and summarizing them in a very wise and strategic way".



"Wolfgang was always promoting the Bonn Call for Action at international Conferences including IRPA Congresses. Indeed, he was the one who proposed having this session at IRPA15 and also having it included as a paper in the IRPA15 JRP Special Issue."



IN MEMORIUM: DR. WOLFGANG WEISS



Dr. Weiss was also quite active in a number of other international organizations, including serving as the German delegate to UNSCEAR and eventually serving as Vice Chair and Chair of the Committee. Additional international work included his involvement in defining and implementing several EURATOM research programs and his work in initiating the Multidisciplinary European Low Dose Initiative (MELODI) and the Association of the Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA). In addition to all of this work, he was also active in ICRP, chairing the ICRP Task Groups that developed ICRP Publication 109 (Application of the Commission's Recommendations for the Protection of People in Emergency Exposure Situations), and ICRP Publication 122 (Radiological Protection in Geological Disposal of Long-lived Solid Radioactive Waste). He was also a member of ICRP Task Group 94 (Initial Lessons Learned from the Nuclear Power Plant Accident in Japan) vis-à-vis the ICRP System of Radiological Protection, which identified issues and made recommendations that helped guide the response of ICRP and others for the decade after the accident. Finally, he was a member of ICRP Committee 4 from 2001 through 2013, serving as the Committee's Vice-Chair from 2009-2013.

He finished his career as Head of the Department of Radiation Protection and Health of Germany's Federal Office for Radiation Protection, from which he retired in 2012. Most recently, Dr. Weiss served as Chair of IRPA's International Program Committee for the recent IRPA 15 Congress in Seoul, South Korea.

In the course of his career, Dr. Weiss earned the respect and the friendship of many in the Radiation Protection Community. His loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him.





UPCOMING WEBINARS AND SYMPOSIA

6th European Congress on Radiation Protection

30 May - 3 June 2022
Budapest, Hungary

<https://akcongress.com/irpa2022/>

RADIATION PROTECTION FOR EVERYONE



6th European Congress on Radiation Protection



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

irpa2022.eu



CONGRESS VENUE

Budapest Congress Centre & Novotel Budapest City

The BCC provides the largest, most modern congress and meeting facility in Hungary. It is located on the Buda side, just behind Gellért Hill, surrounded by picturesque chestnut trees and is close to the city center and the historic Castle District of Buda.

CONGRESS TOPICS

NIR: Non-ionising radiation
Education and training
Medical applications
Measurement and standardisation
Radioecology
Personal dosimetry
NORM & Radon
Radioactive waste management and geological disposal
Radioactivity monitoring and emergency monitoring
Regulation
Radiobiology
Industry & NPP
Other Radiation Protection

PARTNERS



REPS-HPS
Roland Eötvös Physical Society
Health Physics Section



Fachverband für Strahlenschutz e.V.
Für Deutschland und die Schweiz
Mitgliedsorganisation der IRPA
International Radiation Protection Association



Romanian Society for Radiological Protection



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Education
Medical
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Personaldosimetry
Indoor radon
Radioactive waste management and geological disposal
Radioactivity monitoring and emergency monitoring
Regulation
Industry & NPP

Benjamin Zorko

Tünde Katona
Mercè Ginjaume

IMPORTANT DATES

2021

Registration and abstract submission opens: May
Abstract submission deadline (oral and poster): 30 September
Abstract acceptance notification deadline: 31 December

2022

Early registration and payment deadline: 15 February
Standard registration and payment deadline: 1 May
On-site registration: 2 May
Full papers submission deadline: 1 May
Full papers publication: 31 December
IRPA 2022 Congress: 30 May – 3 June