



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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The IRPA 16 keynote lecture was delivered by retired astronaut Norman Thagard



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHRISTOPHER CLEMENT

Welcome to the 2024-2028 IRPA Term: Strengthening Global Engagement in Radiation Protection

I am deeply honored to serve as the President of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) for the 2024-2028 term, marking the 15th presidency since IRPA was established in 1965. While the change in leadership signifies a new chapter, IRPA's core mission and the dedication of the Executive Council (EC) remain steadfast and consistent. The initiatives undertaken by the EC during this term will naturally build upon the efforts of previous terms, ensuring continuity and progress.



IRPA's primary purpose, as outlined in its Constitution, is to provide a platform for radiation protection professionals worldwide to collaborate and advance the field. Its most important functions include hosting an International Congress every 4 years and supporting the Regional Congresses that occur in the interim. While these invaluable events are always well-attended, we must remain mindful of those unable to participate in person. This term will focus on finding innovative ways to include all radiation protection professionals, regardless of geographical or financial constraints.

IRPA is an association of associations, comprising members from the 53 IRPA Associate Societies (AS) across 68 countries. These Associate Societies and their members are the backbone of IRPA. Despite our global presence, many radiation protection professionals, particularly in regions such as Africa and Southeast Asia, face challenges due to the absence of active Associate Societies in their countries. Addressing these gaps is a priority as we strive to create more inclusive opportunities for engagement, professional development, and collaboration. During this term, I will continue to champion an initiative I launched last year as Vice-President to support struggling Associate Societies and to create opportunities for IRPA members and other radiation protection professionals worldwide to network and collaborate, leveraging modern technologies that make this more feasible than ever before. A key priority for this term remains the promotion and support of young professionals and scientists globally, especially as the demand for expertise in radiation protection continues to grow.

By supporting IRPA's Associate Societies and fostering collaboration among professionals worldwide, we will strengthen both the current and next generation of radiation protection professionals, ensuring the continued advancement of our field on a global scale.

Christopher Clement
IRPA President 2024-2028

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S BLOG

BERNARD LE GUEN

We have a new president for IRPA – Chris Clement; I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts related to my fantastic experience with you over the last 4 years.

With 19,000 members, IRPA is truly a unique professional organization that covers all areas where ionizing radiation is used. When I had the opportunity to present IRPA's positions on your behalf, I did so humbly, with responsibility and the will to present all its sensitivities in sectors that affect us all. This was, for example, the case with the discussion on future developments in radiation protection proposed by ICRP.



This is an empowering position! We have to listen, gather, represent, defend, but also propose, encourage, build with others, and understand the viewpoints of others, which is already halfway to reaching a consensus! And this position has enabled me to create friendships in many countries.

We are facing many challenges: preparing for the future, attracting more young scientists and engineers in RP field, playing our role in future discussions with the ICRP, and partnering with other international organizations to organize common events. IRPA16 is behind us and yet we have already begun to prepare for the 2026 IRPA regional congresses!

Our history is long, as IRPA is already celebrating our 60th anniversary next year. IRPA must continue to develop, be ever more open to welcoming young people and give a voice to radiation protection professionals in nations who are unable to form an associate society.

Being the voice of professionals is a good start, but making ourselves heard is even better!

Kind regards,

Bernard

IRPA 16 BY THE NUMBERS

Now that the dust has settled and everyone is back home, let's take a look at some of the conference statistics from the first post-COVID Congress.

Attendance:

- **1241 registered participants** attended,
- representing **70 countries**
- from all **6** populated continents

Scientific Program:

During IRPA 16's **43 sessions** (including **6 Plenary Panel sessions** and **2 Round Tables**), presenters from 57 countries contributed:

- **252 oral presentations** (not counting panel discussions) and
- **400 posters** (although 195 posters had to be withdrawn, often due to travel or visa issues)
- And **104 exhibitors** populated the Exhibition Hall

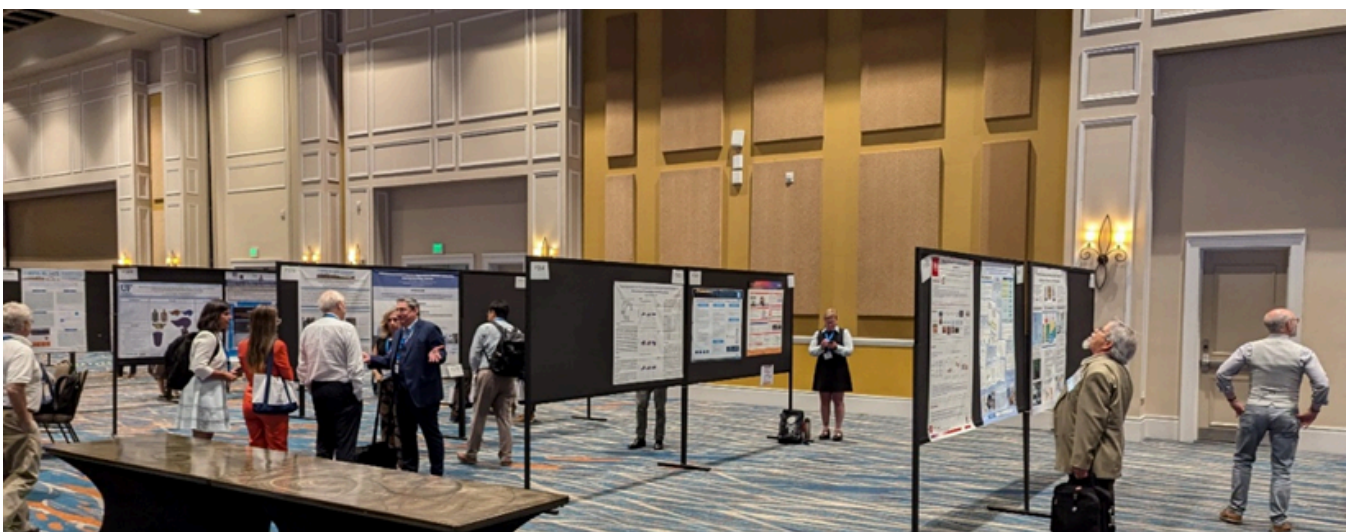


Sievert Awardee Maria del Rosario Perez

Notable attendees included:

- **Guest speaker Norman Thagard** (an astronaut, and the first American to ride in a Soyuz capsule, who completed 5 missions with 140 days in space)
- **Sievert Awardee Maria del Rosario Perez** of Argentina and WHO
- Young Professional Awardees
 - Gold: **Gabriel Dupont** (France)
 - Silver: **Riya Dey** (India)
 - Bronze: **Francesca Luoni** (Italy)

**Thank you to Renate Czarwinski for collecting all these statistics!*

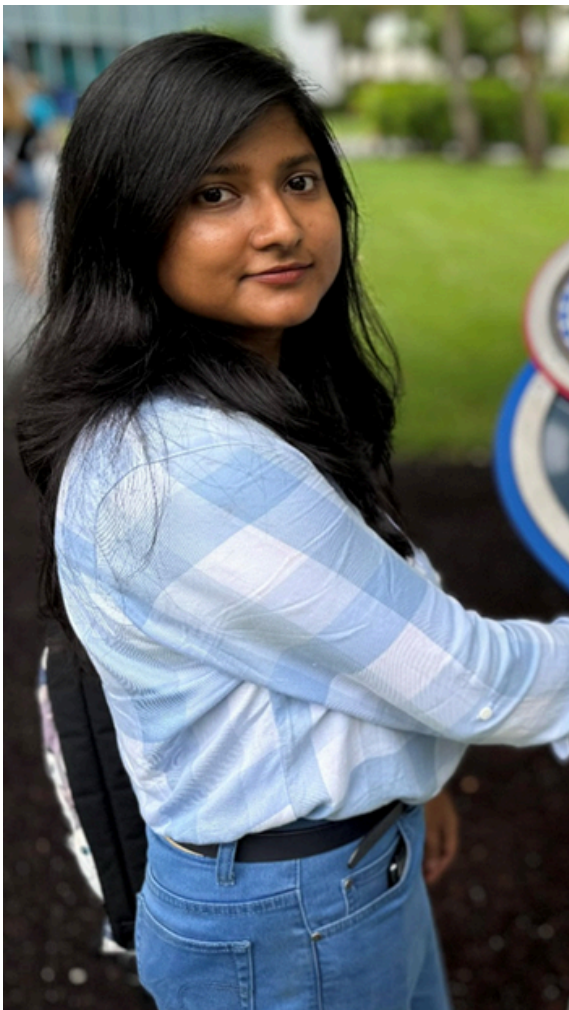


YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARDEES

Gold: Gabriel Dupont (France)

Gabriel Dupont is a young radiation protection professional working at Atron Metrology. Gabriel gave a talk at IRPA 16 on the topic of Calibration of Radiation Survey Meters and Dosimeters Without Using Radioactive Sources.

Silver: Riya Dey (India)



My name is Riya Dey, and I am from India. I completed my undergraduate and postgraduate studies with a major in Physics. Afterward, I joined the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai as a Scientific Officer. While working in the Health Physics Division at BARC, I earned an M.Tech degree in Nuclear Engineering. My primary responsibilities include shielding calculations, detector simulations, groundwater transport modeling, nuclear reaction simulations, and aerosol transport and deposition studies.

I am currently stationed at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), where I contribute to radiation protection research. Alongside my professional commitments, I am pursuing a PhD, with research aimed at advancing our understanding of how inhaled radioactive particles and gases behave within the human respiratory system, ultimately refining dosimetric models to improve radiation safety protocols.

Outside of my professional life, I find solace and inspiration in the arts. I express my creativity through painting and photography, capturing fleeting moments, and occasionally writing stories for magazines. I take great joy in exploring cultural heritage sites and unravelling their histories. As a movie enthusiast, I enjoy watching films and series from various languages and genres. Whenever I'm out, I love observing people and learning about their unique stories.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARDEES

Bronze: Francesca Luoni (Italy)

My name is Francesca Luoni and I am originally Italian. I graduated in Nuclear Engineering at Politecnico di Milano. After graduation, I was lucky enough to find a PhD (and PostDoc) position at the GSI institute, in Germany, in the field of experimental ground-based research on radiation protection in space. This allowed me to combine my knowledge about radiation and my love for outer space.

After a total of 6 years in Germany, I moved to the border between France and Switzerland, as I am currently a fellow at CERN. Here, I work on radiation protection at the accelerator complex.

Following a 1.5-year break from space radiation research though, I am about to start a PostDoc at NASA Langley, where I will work again on radiation protection in space.

In my free time, I love staying in contact with nature as much as possible (there is no planet B!) and doing outdoor activities and sports. I love art in every form. Therefore, I enjoy art galleries, exhibitions, cultural events, and theatre. My active way of being involved in this has been mainly science outreach and improv theatre, so far.

I also love learning about people and human psychology. I am curious about new cultures and points of view.

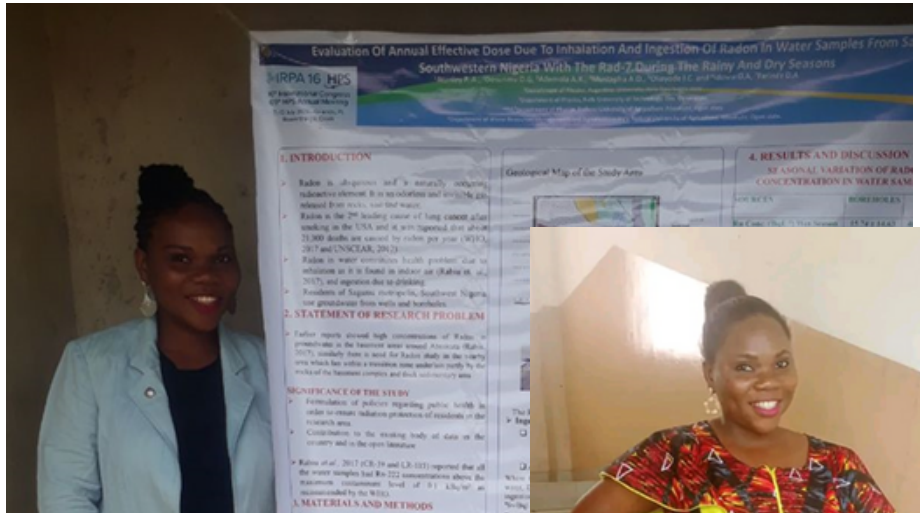


MONTREAL FUND RECIPIENTS

IRPA's Montreal Fund helps RP professionals attend international conferences by providing travel grants; this year the Montreal Fund contributions came out to \$30,000. Some of this year's Montreal Fund recipients wrote about themselves and their impressions of the IRPA 16 Congress. This year's contributions totaled over 50% of the Montreal Fund balance; if you or your Society would like to make a contribution, information on how to do so can be found on the [Montreal Fund web page](#).

Pauline Ayoola Atanley (Nigeria)

I am Dr. Pauline Ayoola Atanley, a young academic and researcher at Augustine University, Ilara, Epe, Lagos, Nigeria. I chose Radiation Protection as a career due to the comprehension and insight in the Health Physics Courses I studied during my first degree. I was very interested in attending the IRPA North American Congress because I wanted to learn, meet, and collaborate with experts in the Radiation Protection field and also seek an opportunity for a postdoctoral fellowship. The IRPA Montreal Fund came to my aid because I had no personal or sponsored funds to attend the congress from Nigeria. I discovered the Montreal Fund at the point of registration when I could not afford the registration fee. I was able to connect with scientists and researchers from around the globe and loved the friendly participants as well as the serene environment in which the congress took place. The Montreal Fund is a commendable and wonderful support for early career scientists and those from developing countries. I am most grateful for the opportunity to be a beneficiary of the Montreal Funds.



Kofi Akyea-Larbi (Ghana)



My name is Dr. Kofi Okyere Akyea-Larbi, I am a young research scientist, radiation protection officer and a medical physicist working with the Radiation Protection Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. My centre is in charge of radiation protection training and consulting for occupationally exposed workers and monitoring of Occupationally Exposed Workers (OEW). I train occupationally exposed workers on radiation protection, conduct safety assessments on radiological facilities and perform quality control on radiological equipment.

My goal for attending the IRPA 16 congress was to meet and network with experts in Radiation Protection worldwide and also to acquire knowledge that will be helpful in my career growth.

MONTREAL FUND RECIPIENTS

The IRPA Montreal Fund helped me achieve this goal by providing me with a travel grant that was sufficient enough to embark on the trip to attend the congress. I found out about the Montreal Fund on the IRPA website.

Some of the favorite moments from the congress were the exhibition sessions and the meeting and photograph of the Montreal Fund beneficiaries.

The Montreal Fund is very beneficial to the radiation protection community since it supports the attendance of young professionals at IRPA Congresses, thereby improving radiation protection worldwide because the young professionals are the future of radiation protection.



Front row, left to right, IRPA President Christopher Clement, Joana Otoo (Ghana), Lonah Moraa (Kenya), Riya Dey (India), and IRPA Executive Officer Bernard Le Guen. Back row, left to right, Calvince Odeny (Kenya), International Congress Support Committee Chair Brent Rogers, and IRPA Financial Officer Sigurður M. Magnússon.



MEET YOUR 2024 - 2028 IRPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL!

The Executive Council has the responsibility for the general management of the affairs of IRPA. The Council is composed of six ex-officio members (officers) and six members who represent the General Assembly and are elected by and from the General Assembly. In selecting the members of the Council consideration is given to maintaining a balance in representation among the Associate Societies.



President
Christopher Clement



Vice-President
Ana Maria Bomben



Executive Officer
Bernard Le Guen



Treasurer
Sigurður Magnússon



Vice President, Congress Affairs
Eduardo Gallego



Communications Officer
Dave Niven



Executive Council Member
Joseph Amoako



Executive Council Member
Hielke Freerk Boersma



Executive Council Member
Claire-Louise Chapple



Executive Council Member
Cameron Jeffries



Executive Council Member
Kevin Nelson



Executive Council Member
Michiya Sasaki

Executive Council Support



Assistant to the IRPA President and the IRPA Executive Council
Sara Dumit

We'll be interviewing the new members of the IRPA Executive Council over the next few Bulletin issues - so stay tuned!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to:

cop@irpa.net



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

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

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Andy Karam, Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Manager: Dave Niven

Social Media Managers: Sara Dumit & Dave Niven

Great news! You can now donate directly to the IRPA Montreal Fund through PayPal! Visit the [Montreal Fund page](#) on the IRPA website for the donation link.

