



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



MARCH 2026

ISSUE #49



THE CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED!

For the last two years, individuals have been able to make donations to the Montreal Fund online. This is one of the most important IRPA initiatives, and is used to support the attendance of young professionals from developing countries at IRPA Congresses. The fund can only be maintained through the support of our generous donors.

Kevin Nelson, IRPA16 President and current Executive Council member, has thrown down the gauntlet - he will match individual contributions made to the Montreal Fund in 2026, up to a total aggregate of \$4000 USD.

Are you up to the challenge? [Donate online now](#) to contribute and support young IRPA professionals!

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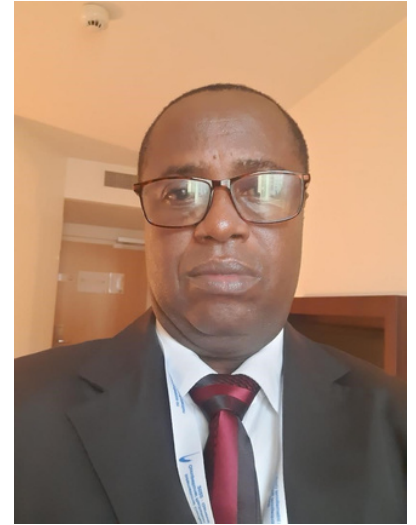
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

JOSEPH AMOAKO

Radiation Protection at the workplace: Why is it important?

No matter where in our career we find ourselves, it is easy to become so wrapped up in what we are doing that we forget why the work we do is so important. We are so familiar with working with radiation and we understand it so well that we can forget that most of our fellow citizens lack our knowledge and view radiation as a frightening hazard that they simply do not understand. With that in mind, I felt that sharing a short reminder as to why what we do is so important and how to share some of these thoughts with our families, friends, and neighbors might be welcome.



Did you know?

Radiation plays a very important role in industry, energy production, research and healthcare. The benefits are numerous as it is used for industrial radiography, laboratory research, medical imaging and cancer treatment. If radiation is not properly controlled it can pose serious health risks in the short term and long term. That is why radiation protection at the workplace is crucial.

What are the risks?

The exposure at the workplace may involve ionising radiation (X-rays, gamma rays, radioactive materials) or non-ionizing radiation (UV, radiofrequency, microwave). Ionising radiation is of particular interest as it can damage cells and tissue of living humans and increase the risk of cancers, cataracts and other adverse health effects when not managed properly. Low levels of radiation exposure may even account for some ailments. Measures are therefore needed for both emergency and routine daily operation.

What are the Legal and Regulatory responsibilities?

Radiation Protection and Safety is mandatory. Bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Commission on Radiological Protection have set scientifically based standards that help various countries to formulate their regulations.

Employers have the obligation to ensure that:

- Radiation doses are kept within approved limits and the principles of optimization applied
- The workplace and occupationally exposed workers are monitored
- There are proper training and supervision at the workplace
- Facilities and equipment are well maintained and kept safe

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

JOSEPH AMOAKI

Building a Safety Culture

Radiation Safety and Protection is not just regulations, rules and equipment but is a culture that must be embraced and adopted by Management and workers. Regular audits, inspections, training and re-training; and an active emergency preparedness and response plan are very important parts of both radiation protection and a safety culture.

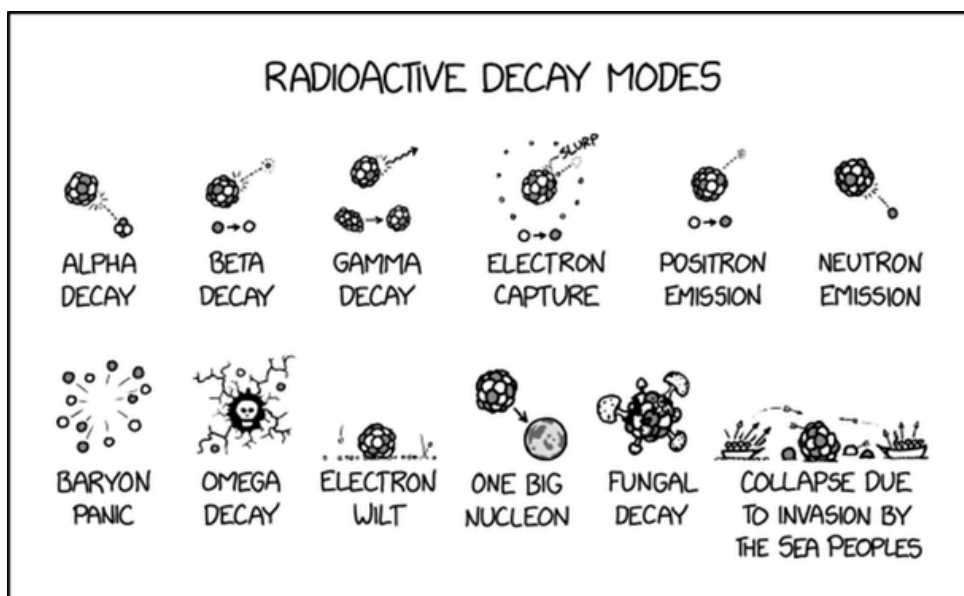
Bottom line

Always remember that “radiation is a useful and powerful tool, but safety always come first”. Prevention, monitoring and taking responsibility are the fundamental building blocks of radiation protection and safety at the workplace.

What Should You Do Now?

- Check whether your workplace has current and compliant radiation safety protocols
- Contact your HR or safety department to learn about training opportunities
- Request information about your facility's radiation protection programme and emergency procedures
- Attend refresher training and participate in safety drills
- And share what we do with those who don't know and don't understand how RP actually works.

Joseph K. Amoako,
IRPA Executive Council Member
School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences
University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ASSOCIATE SOCIETY: CONGOLESE RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (ACORAP)

Arel Beverly M'BYLA



Created in 2024, ACORAP brings together radiation protection professionals from many different fields. This includes engineers, researchers, technicians, physicians, teacher and students – all those either working in or having an interest in any and all sectors where there is a need for protection against ionizing or non-ionizing radiation.

Under the leadership of it's founding president, Arel Beverly M'BYLA, the Association aims to raise awareness of and advance radiation protection by promoting training, information and research, and by offering networking opportunities to professionals either directly in or in fields related to radiation protection.

ACORAP was founded out of a desire to raise awareness of the radiological risks associated with the use of ionizing radiation. Launched in 2024, the process to become an IRPA Associate Society is the result of the group's strong motivation to become part of the international radiation protection network. Bernard Le Guen, Christopher Clement, Gaspard Liyoko Mboyo, and Joseph Amoako provided invaluable assistance to achieve this goal; ACORAP benefited greatly from their help in providing information and resources to facilitate the membership process.



Now, ACORAP is positioning itself on the national stage as a partner in raising awareness, training and establishing a culture of nuclear and radiological safety, in order to achieve the objectives set out in the IAEA General Safety Requirements (GSR) Part 3.



IRPA WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS GENDER EQUITY IN RADIATION PROTECTION



On 16 March 2026, IRPA's Task Group on Women in Radiation (TG WiR) hosted a 90-minute webinar that drew nearly 180 participants worldwide. The session introduced the [IRPA Statement on Women in Radiation Protection](#) and its eight Calls for Action, emphasizing visibility, equity, and inclusion. TG WiR Chair Marina Di Giorgio delivered a presentation recognizing pioneering women in the field, outlining current challenges, and calling for collective action to empower women in radiation protection. The webinar was moderated by Dr Bernard Le-Guen, IRPA Executive Officer and Past President, who guided the proceedings.

A panel of TG WiR members followed, engaging in a dynamic discussion on barriers to career progression, leadership pathways, childcare support, and outreach to younger generations. The strong participation underscored a shared commitment to advancing gender equity and fostering inclusivity across the profession, with Associate Societies encouraged to endorse and implement the IRPA Statement.

Some of the key takeaways include:

- Women's participation is growing—but leadership gaps and biases remain
- Pioneers like Marie Curie, Lise Meitner, Chien-Shiung Wu, and Edith Quimby remind us of women's vital contributions
- Diversity strengthens innovation across medicine, industry, research, environment, and even space
- Persistent barriers (PPE design, childcare, cultural expectations) must be addressed
- Mentorship, training, and equitable funding are critical for career development
- Workplace reforms (flexibility, parental support, transparent hiring) are essential

A [detailed summary](#) of the webinar can be found on the IRPA website, or you can [watch the full webinar](#) on YouTube!



WHY I SUPPORT THE MONTREAL FUND

The Montreal Fund is used to support the attendance of young professionals from developing countries at IRPA Congresses. The fund is maintained through donations (including the option of making [automatic monthly donations](#)), and we need your help to keep it going. Here are short reminiscences by two IRPA members about why they decided to contribute to the Montreal Fund. Feel free to share your story!

Kevin Nelson. Ph.D.
President IRPA 16
IRPA EC 2024 - present



One evening at IRPA 16 we hosted an informal gathering of young professionals after the daily session had concluded. It was well attended and included many individuals who were able to participate at the meeting because of the Montreal Fund. I tried to try to talk to everyone in attendance. I found their stories very compelling and inspiring. They were grateful for the gift of funding to allow them to attend IRPA 16 which was beyond the imagination of many, and, as mentioned by numerous young professionals, their attendance at IRPA 16 would only serve to make them work even harder in their professional development. It rekindled feelings I felt over four decades ago when I was starting my radiation protection career. I asked myself, 'Why not support this next generation of radiation protection professionals by contributing to the Montreal Fund?' Because I was so moved by my interaction with these young professionals, I contributed to the Montreal Fund! Now I ask you, why not do the same and consider contributing to the Montreal Fund?

I will match individual contributions made to the Montreal Fund in 2026 up to a total aggregate of \$4000 USD.



Andrew Karam

The first international meeting of any kind that I attended was an IRPA Congress – the IRPA 9 Congress in Vienna in April, 1996. I was a graduate student at the time, married with two children and a house and, excited as I was to have the chance to present some of my research to colleagues from, well, everywhere, we were barely able to pay our bills each month. Luckily, the Geology Department (I was working on my MS in Geology) had a fund to help out in just such circumstances and I was able to scrape together enough additional money to make the trip to Vienna, give my two poster presentations, and marvel at all the fact that I was standing there – in Vienna – with colleagues from around the world, talking about the science and practice of the field that I had only recently realized was going to comprise my career. After returning home I remained in contact with several of the people I met there – some have, sadly, passed away in the intervening years, but I'm still in regular contact with two, and even after thirty years we still reminisce about what was, for all of us, our first introduction to the global RP community.

The reason I support the Montreal Fund (via automatic monthly deductions) is to help others to have the same experience I'd had.

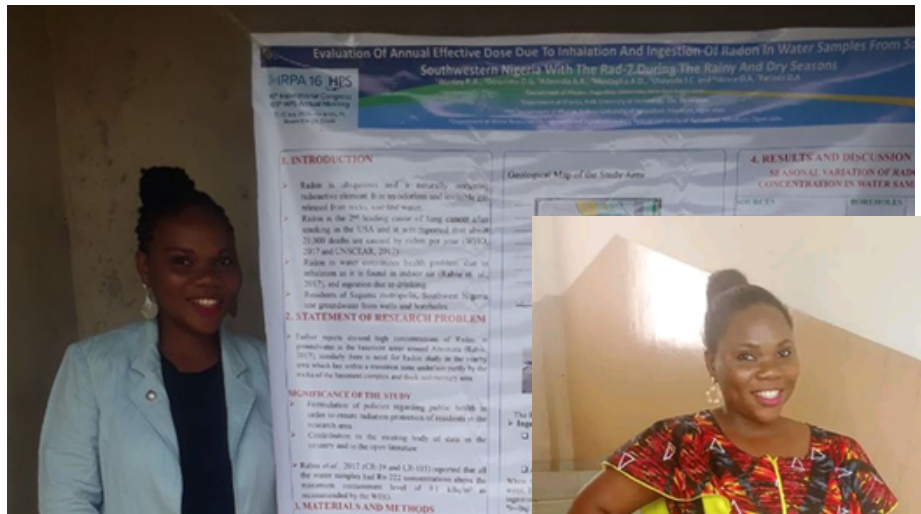
RECLECTIONS OF SOME MONTREAL FUND RECIPIENTS

Pauline Ayoola Atanley (Nigeria):

I am 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): 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.

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.

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.



2025 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONTREAL FUND

The [Montreal Fund](#) is a vital IRPA initiative that supports the attendance of young RP professionals from developing countries at IRPA Congresses. We would like to recognize and thank the Associate Societies and individual IRPA members who have made contributions to help keep the Montreal Fund going strong.

BRONZE - UP TO USD 249

N/A

SILVER - USD 250 - 499

German Swiss Association for Radiation Protection
Spanish Society of Radiological Protection
Australasian Radiation Protection Society (Australia, New Zealand)
Japan Health Physics Society

GOLD - USD 500 - 999

Nordic Society for Radiation Protection
Belgian Society for Radiological Protection
Canadian Radiation Protection Association
P. Andrew Karam (USA, via monthly contributions)

PLATINUM - USD 1000 - 2499

French Radiation Protection Society
Dutch Society for Radiation Protection (Netherlands)
Italian Association of Radioprotection
Sigurdur M. Magnusson (Iceland)

DIAMOND - USD 2 500 - 4 999

Society for Radiological Protection (UK)
Health Physics Society (USA)
Kevin Nelson (USA)
Proceeds from the WNA-ICRP Workshop

URANIUM - USD 5000+

YOUR NAME HERE NEXT YEAR!



SOME RECENT AMERICAN EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELATED TO RADIATION PROTECTION



In May of 2025 the White House issued four Executive Orders that have the potential to dramatically change the manner in which radiation protection is regulated and practiced as well as streamlining the process of licensing, constructing, and bringing online new nuclear power stations. In the American government laws are passed by Congress and signed by the President; these laws remain in effect until they are repealed by Congress or are replaced with newer regulations. Executive Orders are issued by the President to the Executive Branch of the government – the Executive Branch consists of the people and agencies that report directly or indirectly to the President and include the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and other such agencies. Due to the Constitution’s separation of powers, the President can issue such orders to the Executive Branch only, but not to the Judicial Branch (the various courts) nor the Legislative Branch (the House of Representatives and Senate).

Even among those working for the American government there appear to be some misconceptions about these Executive Orders and what they mean; contrary to some readings, they do not seem to order the elimination of ALARA or the Linear No-Threshold model for radiation dose response. Order by Order, here’s what they call for.

[EO 14299](#): **Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security**

This Executive Order outlines a strategic directive to speed up developing and deploying advanced nuclear reactors to provide power for artificial intelligence data centers, national laboratories, and defense facilities that can’t be taken offline by failures of the electrical grid.

- The Department of Defense is charged with starting up and operating a reactor at a military base in the United States by 30 September 2028;
- The Department of Energy is tasked with operating a new-technology reactor at a DOE site within 30 months and releasing at least 20 metric tons of High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) for use in private-sector projects, and
- The State Department was directed to sign at least 20 agreements to open new markets for American nuclear fuel and technology via international agreements before the end of 2028.



SOME RECENT AMERICAN EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELATED TO RADIATION PROTECTION

[EO 14300](#): Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Executive Order 14300 aims to again establish the US as the global leader in nuclear energy, beginning with quadrupling the amount of American nuclear energy from 100 GW to 400 GW by 2050. A large part of this is aimed at powering AI and quantum computer centers as well as “national security.” To do this, the NRC is ordered to reduce its overall staff while increasing staff dedicated to reviewing and approving licenses for new nuclear reactors. In addition, NRC is to reduce license application and final decision to no more than 18 months with a 1-year limit for decisions regarding existing reactor operations. In addition the NRC is told to reduce reliance on the Linear No-Threshold (LNT) model for radiation dose response as well as the ALARA principle, both of which are described in the Executive Order as having no sound scientific basis.

[EO 14301](#): Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy

This Executive Order is aimed at reducing over-regulation of nuclear reactors in the US by creating a “fast-track” license review process so that some test reactors can become operational within two years of being licensed, in part by bypassing some regulatory requirements aimed at commercial reactors if the reactor being licensed and constructed is for research purposes – research and proof-of-concept reactors would fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy rather than the NRC. This EO also streamlines environmental oversight by expediting or eliminating reviews for new nuclear reactor projects.

[EO 14302](#): Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base

Executive Order 14302 orders the Department of Energy to reinvigorate the American nuclear fuel cycle by developing a national spent reactor fuel policy as well as expanding uranium enrichment as well as the chemical processing of uranium to permit fuel manufacture. It also changes the American spent fuel recycling policy back to one of plutonium extraction and processing into MOX fuel for advanced nuclear reactors (the US had been recycling reactor fuel until President Jimmy Carter [ordered the process stopped](#) for non-proliferation reasons). Other aspects of this EO include up-rating existing nuclear reactor plants, beginning construction on 10 new large commercial reactors by 2030, and creating grants to help nuclear engineering students pay for their education as well as creating new technical training programs and apprenticeships to broaden the nuclear workforce. Finally, EO 14302 requires the government assess either restarting or repurposing nuclear power plants that are currently closed to determine if they can serve as energy hubs for military power networks.

A last consideration

Since Executive Orders are not voted into law by the Congress, they can be repealed as easily as they are enacted, with the stroke of pen held by the next President. This means that all of these can be declared reversed, modified, or cancelled altogether by the next President. On the other hand, any parts of these Executive Orders that are codified into law by Congress are not subject to the whim of the President; they can only be modified or repealed by Congress.



UPCOMING EVENTS




The Asian and Oceanic Congress on Radiation Protection (AOCRP) is a key regional forum endorsed by IRPA, serving as a vital platform for scientific exchange, policy dialogue, and professional networking across the Asia-Oceania region. The upcoming 7th AOCRP (AOCRP-7) will be hosted by the China Society of Radiation Protection (CSRP) in Beijing, China, from 8 to 12 September 2026, under the auspices of IRPA; they are looking for support from Associate Societies in the Asia-Oceania region for representatives to help with the Programme Committee and to nominate Plenary Speakers who can discuss challenges in radiation protection area that are relevant across the region or beyond.

Regional AS involvement will not only enhance the international character and regional inclusiveness of AOCRP-7 but also strengthen the collaborative network that IRPA seeks to foster among its member societies.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Wei Cheng (Email: chengwei@cirp.org.cn), who has been designated as the AOCRP-7 Organizing Committee's liaison for international collaboration. You can also click here to [Submit an Abstract](#), or [follow this link to register](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



EUTERP Training & Education in Radiation Protection

10th EUTERP Workshop
Competence-based approaches in radiation protection
PSI Switzerland, 7-9 July 2026

Call for abstracts!

PSI

The [EUTERP Foundation](#) is pleased to announce its next workshop, continuing our tradition of fostering dialogue and collaboration on key themes in radiation protection education and training. The 10th EUTERP Workshop will take place from 7–9 July 2026 at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Villigen, Switzerland. This event brings together experts, educators, regulators and other stakeholders to explore competence-based approaches in radiation protection, covering themes such as competence design and management, evaluation methods, qualification pathways for RPE/RPO profiles, and evolving European competence frameworks.

Submit your abstract and contribute to the dialogue shaping the future of radiation-protection training across Europe. Abstract submissions are open until 17 April 2026, and registration is available until 24 June 2026, with early-bird rates valid through 1 June 2026. More information is available on the website: <https://www.sckcen.be/en/euterp2026>



UPCOMING EVENTS



IRPA Refresher Webinar

Thursday, April 9, 2026

12:00h – 13:30h UCT (including welcome, presentation and Q&A)

**Radiation shielding in interventional radiology:
wearable lead, devices and barriers**

7th European IRPA Congress

'Encouraging Collaboration in Radiation Protection'

1 – 5 June 2026, ACC Liverpool (UK)

The largest Radiation Protection event in Europe and one of the largest in the world.
This Congress won't be back in the UK for at least 10 years!

XIII Congreso Regional de
Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear

XI Congreso Regional IRPA

18 al 22 de Octubre de 2026

Centro de Eventos Fórum UPB

Medellín-Colombia



SEND US YOUR NEWS & EVENTS!

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!

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