

IRPA14 is looking forward to your participation!

It's now just a little more than six weeks to the most important event in radiological protection: the IRPA14 International Congress in Cape Town, 9-13 May 2016! This means that the Congress preparations are now shifting into top gear. We are pleased to see an accelerating rush of registrations, but please do not worry: it is possible to register online all the way until 1 May. You can even register on site, on arrival at the Congress (albeit admittedly at an extra cost of 1000 ZAR).



IRPA President Renate Czarwinski and Core ICPC Members visiting the very impressive IRPA14 Congress venue, CTICC (Cape Town International Congress Centre).

All members of the International Congress Programme Committee, ICPC, have been busy evaluating proffered abstracts, keeping in mind the Congress Theme: '*Practising Radiation Protection: Sharing the Experience and New Challenges*'. Back in November 2015, the Core Members of the International Congress Programme Committee met in Cape Town to complete the programme structure and fit in oral presentations.

We were all delighted at the high quality of the abstracts submitted, and since then we have received a significant number of additional abstracts for poster presentation. Furthermore, for various reasons we have made quite a lot of further amendments to the programme after the November ICPC meeting – in fact, it is as if we've had a continuous web meeting since then!

Now the programme is almost completely finalised, and it will be really exciting, covering all exposure situations, all exposure categories, and virtually all sorts of sources of ionising and non-ionising radiation.

Highlights will include, e.g.,

- the Sievert lecture (by John D Boice);
- the scientific and social 50th Anniversary celebrations of IRPA;
- the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Gold Medal presentation (by Ethel Gilbert);

- the Russian Health Studies Program (sponsored by the US Department of Energy) which will bring us up to date on, e.g., Techa River and Mayak studies;
- in-depth discussions and analyses of other major cohorts including, e.g., LSS, Chernobyl, and Fukushima;
- ‘hot’ issues such as cataract and the new eye dose limit, and radon in the light of the new risk factor;
- radiological protection in medicine after the ‘Bonn call for action’;
- radiation safety of paediatric patients;
- radiation safety challenges for nuclear newcomers and new build countries;
- severe accidents, emergencies, and developments after Fukushima;
- the latest developments in radiation detection, monitoring, and dosimetry;
- the progress from theorising to actual protection of the environment;
- enjoying the benefits and minimising the risks of radioactive sources;
- the latest news from UNSCEAR, ICRP, ICRU, ICNIRP, IAEA, WHO, OECD/NEA and other organisations, and a peek behind their curtains to see what’s in the pipeline;
- presentations by the excellent young members selected by their IRPA Associated Societies to compete for the Young Professionals Award;
- and an impressive range of Refresher Courses covering 20 important radiation safety topics.

And this is just a small sample of the multitude of plenaries, panels, and scientific sessions on a wide range of scientific and applied topics ranging from fundamental science to hands-on applied radiological protection.

In short, the question you need to ask yourself is not whether you can afford to go. It is, can you afford *not* to go? You will surely come to the conclusion that you must participate!

Registration. For more information, and to register, please visit the official Congress web site at

<http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za/registration.asp>

In conjunction with the ICPC meeting, a meeting between the IRPA President, Renate Czarwinski, and the IRPA14 Congress President, Thiagan Pather, was also organised. On that occasion, the final contract between IRPA and the South African congress hosts was signed.



Pre-Congress Technical visits and tour. Delegates will be able to visit a variety of installations, including the Koeberg nuclear power station, the Groote Schuur and Tygerberg Hospital, the iThemba Labs (all of the above are 1-day visits on 6 May departing from the

CTICC), and a 2-day tour to the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, NECSA (5-6 May departing from the Holiday Inn Johannesburg Airport).

The Koeberg visit will include the Low/intermediate level waste storage facility, the emergency preparedness and response control centre, the turbine hall, the cooling water intake basin and filtration system, the visitors' centre, and the radiation protection training facility. The Groote Schuur and Tygerberg visit entails a tour of the 'Heart of Cape Town' museum where the first heart transplant surgery occurred and also a visit to the radiotherapy department. The iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator-Based Sciences is a group of multi-disciplinary research laboratories providing facilities for basic and applied research using particle beams, particle radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer, and the supply of accelerator-produced radioactive isotopes for nuclear medicine and research.

Facilities included in the 2-day NECSA tour are the SAFARI-1 Research Reactor, NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd (by far Africa's largest producer of a range of medical isotopes and an important international supplier of ⁹⁹Mo), Pelstore for pre-disposal operations of all solid radioactive waste originating from Necsas operational facilities and also the interim storage area for all solid radioactive waste from Necsas decommissioned enrichment programme, the Necsas Emergency Control Centre, and the Necsas Visitor Centre.

Full details of these visits and the tour, as well as sight-seeing tours and how these can be combined, are available at the official Congress web site, see http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za/Tours/tours_Technical.asp; http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za/Tours/tours_HalfdayFullday.asp; and http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za/Tours/tours_overland.asp

ICNIRP Workshop. As a particularly useful arrangement, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) will hold its 8th International NIR Workshop in conjunction with IRPA14, at the same venue (CTICC) from 9-11 May 2016. More information about the workshop is given at <http://www.icnirp.org/en/workshops/index.html>. Favourable dual registration rates are available, see http://www.irpa2016capetown.org.za/registration_DUAL.asp



The ICPC worked very hard but we did have to eat in the evenings, and Cape Town offers excellent dining at quite attractive prices and in comfortable, pleasant settings. You too will enjoy the hospitality and the very favourable prices!

Jack Valentin
ICPC Chair, IRPA14