

## **What is IRPA – and why should we be members?**

The International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) is the international association of all the national radiation protection societies, joining together to support the sharing of radiation protection developments affecting our world-wide profession. IRPA has a membership of about 45 national and regional associate societies, and through them involves over 16,000 radiation protection professionals around the world. Involvement in IRPA is a significant route for enhancing the contribution that the UK makes to effective radiation protection at the international level.

The IRPA Mission Statement:

IRPA is the international voice of the radiation protection profession and promotes excellence in national and regional associate societies and radiation protection professionals by providing benchmarks of good practice and enhancing professional competence and networking.

Through membership of IRPA, UK radiation protection professionals have an enhanced opportunity for:

- Influencing developing radiation protection practice and international standards through IRPA's involvement with key international organizations such as ICRP, IAEA, EU, ICRU, WHO, ILO and many others.
- Engagement with developing experience of excellence within our profession. IRPA has active programmes sharing and promoting experiences in many fields, currently including Stakeholder Engagement, Training and Qualifications, and Radiation Protection Culture, amongst other issues.
- Sharing radiation protection experiences at a range of IRPA-sponsored international meetings, including international and regional congresses and topic-specific discussions.
- Supporting the development of new or emerging radiation protection professional societies in lesser developed parts of the world in order to embed good radiation protection practices, often in challenging circumstances.

Membership of IRPA for UK radiation protection professionals is through membership of the Society for Radiological Protection (SRP), including the SRP International Member category available to all appropriately qualified members of SRP's Partner Societies:

- Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (AURPO)
- British Institute of Radiology (BIR)
- British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS)
- College of Radiographers (CoR)
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)
- Royal College of Radiologists (RCR)

Further information on IRPA can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.irpa.net/>