Message from Chairperson Michael J. Snee

It has been a busy time for the CRCPD Board starting with the Board meeting on November 18-19 in Austin, TX, to discuss Board activities and policies. As part of the meeting, we received reports on the activities of our federal partners at the USEPA, FDA, NRC and DOE. We also heard from our partners at AAPM, ACR, ASTRO and OAS. Rick White, our new liaison with the USEPA, was able to attend the meeting. Rick is taking the place of Mary Clark who recently retired from the USEPA.

At the meeting, Cheryl Rogers informed us that she had decided to leave state service in Wisconsin and would need to step down from her Member-at-Large position on the Board. We wish Cheryl the best of luck on her new adventures. Fortunately, our friend and former Chair, Earl Fordham, agreed to fill Cheryl’s vacated position until a new Member-at-Large can be elected next spring.

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www.crcpd.org
Speaking of elections, we will be looking to fill three Board positions during the spring election: the Chair Elect, Member-at-Large that Earl is filling for us and the Member-at-Large that Lisa Bruedigan currently holds. Speaking from my own experience, serving on the Board truly is a rewarding experience that you should consider. Keep this in mind when a Nominating Committee member calls.

After the Austin meeting, the Technical Program Planning Committee met to set the agenda for the 47th Annual National Conference on Radiation Control that will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, May 18-21, 2015. The draft agenda is packed with great presentations including a planned TENORM day (regarding technologically-enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material) on the Sunday prior to the official start of the Conference.

During the first week of December, I had one of those rewarding experiences that I mentioned earlier. Bill Irwin, Joe Klinger, Ruth McBurney and I spent the week in Washington, DC, visiting many of our partners. On December 2, Sherrie Flaherty, OAS Chair Elect, joined us at the NRC for meetings with NRC staff and four of the five NRC Commissioners. On December 3, we met with the DOE’s Global Radiological Threat Reduction Program and the USEPA. December 4 was a busy day meeting with FEMA, DOE’s NNSA, ASTRO and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. We wrapped up the whirlwind tour on December 5 with visits to the FDA and ACR. Believe me, a trip like this makes you appreciate the scope of issues that the CRCPD is involved in. I am sure that Bill and Joe would agree that we were lucky to have Ruth with us during the week. Ruth may be the only one who can intelligently speak on all of these many issues.

As always, please forward any other needs or issues that you have to the Board so that we can put the resources of the CRCPD to work for you. We are easily found at http://www.crcpd.org/contact_information.aspx
Greetings from Your Executive Director

Partnersing to Develop Solutions

One of the strategies of CRCPD is to produce radiation protection solutions that meet community needs. During the past several years, CRCPD has been partnering with not only our federal granting agencies, but also with other organizations to work on development of solutions to ever-emerging radiation protection challenges.

Throughout 2014, I have observed a continuation and even an increase in opportunities for CRCPD to join in with other groups to address issues, find solutions, and improve radiation protection in several areas—medical radiation, disposition of disused radioactive sources, emergency response, and technology-enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM).

The partnerships we have developed among members of our organization, our federal agency partners and other organizations that have common interests and goals in radiation protection, provide a broader perspective and build better consensus standards and more effective regulatory products than we could do on our own.

Some of the most recent successes include:

- the work we are following at American College of Radiology (ACR) on patient doses;
- medical events data base coordination with the states and with American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) for analysis, as well as following the work of American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) in this effort;
- working with the scrap industry on contaminated scrap issues through our liaison with the Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries; and
- working with multiple federal agencies on several emergency planning initiatives, including environmental data sharing.

As Mike Snee mentions in his article in the Newsbrief this month, we visited with several of our federal partners and organizations during a recent trip to the Washington, DC. Many of the issues on which we are working were discussed during the visits.
Looking forward, we also plan to work with the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) on TENORM Issues. Both organizations have or soon will have committees established to assess the risks of TENORM in the oil and gas industry, primarily as it is being altered through fracking techniques used for extraction, and to make recommendations regarding radiation protection measures. CRCPD has been invited to provide representation on NCRP’s committee; likewise, we will have some radiation protection experts as resources and advisors on the products we develop. By working together with these organizations and agencies, we are better able enhance the capabilities of state programs to address these radiation protection issues.

Update on SCATR

The Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) program continues to be a successful partnership with the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration. During 2014, the major collection of disused Class A sources that were in facilities in states that had not had access to a low-level waste compact site was completed and is headed to the Energy Solutions Facility in Clive, UT, for disposal. In addition, disused Class B and C sources at those facilities will be disposed of at the Waste Control Specialists Facility in Texas. The effort has resulted in the collection of over 7,000 sealed sources for disposal. Through our grant with DOE, we were able to partially fund all of the collection on a cost-sharing basis with the facilities.

A similar collection is being planned for 2015 in all states. We ask that the state programs inform their licensees to sign up with the DOE/GTRI program to take advantage of this opportunity for their disused sources.

Volunteers

A lot of these initiatives cannot be accomplished without the dedication of our member volunteers who serve on working groups to develop solutions to state regulatory issues. Please volunteer if you haven’t already found an area of your interest and expertise. It’s easy—just go to the working group interest form at: http://www.crcpd.org/Working_Groups/WG%20Interest%20form.pdf, fill it out and send it to us. Also, encourage others in your program and affiliated radiation organizations to join and become involved in CRCPD.
Meet Us in St. Louis!

Following the CRCPD Board Meeting in Austin in November, the Technical Planning Committee met to start gearing up for the **47th National Conference on Radiation Control, to be held in St. Louis, MO, May 18-21, 2015.** In addition to some really interesting presentations, several great training and networking sessions are being planned. Here is a sampling:

- **Sunday, May 17, 2015,** AAPM one-day training session on a healing arts topic
- **All-day Workshop on TENORM** with invited speakers and ample time for discussion of an action plan
- **Monday, May 18, 2015,** Half-day topical training on:
  * Proton Therapy;
  * Web-based Licensing; and
  * Waste Estimation Support Tool.
- **Special interest meetings throughout the week on:**
  * I-131 Patient Release Issues;
  * RadResponder;
  * TENORM;
  * 10 CFR Part 20 changes;
  * Rad/Nuc Emergency Response Toolkit; and

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Conference in May.

In closing, I also want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season, and a happy, healthy and productive new year in 2015!
Delaware Authority on Radiation Protection Launches Public Awareness Initiative

by Frieda Fisher-Tyler, CIH, Radiation Control Program Director, Delaware

On November 7, 2014, at a press conference held at Delaware State University (DSU) in Dover, the Authority on Radiation Protection launched a web-based initiative to guide Delawareans to useful, plain language resources to raise awareness of radiation protection principles, and enable patients and parents to become more informed consumers of health care procedures presenting radiation dose. To learn more please visit www.deradiationprotection.org.

The objective of this initiative was to provide all Delawareans user-friendly access to radiation-related information useful to improving personal health and quality of life, and to provide science teachers and students with appealing resources for use in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curricula and projects.

The agenda for the press conference included:

• a welcome by Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, Authority member and Dean of Mathematics and Natural Sciences & Vice-President of Research for DSU;

• an overview of the public awareness initiative by Authority member William Holden, III, Vice-President of Cancer Services for Christiana Care Health Systems;

• a keynote talk by Authority Chairman and Chief of Radiology for Beebe Hospital, Dr. Frances Esposito; and

• the presentation of a Governor’s Proclamation declaring November 2-8, 2014 to be Radiation Protection Week in Delaware by Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director of the Delaware Division of Public Health.
Each of the speakers shared their insights in how far radiation protection has progressed within the time horizon of their careers, with Dr. Esposito describing mammography as an experimental technique early in her medical training. She contrasted those early conditions with the recent advent of 3-D mammography, where she is scanning multiple inputs of data and images across multiple monitors when evaluating a case. She emphasized the value of learning more about medical procedures and radiation dose by accessing links on the Authority webpage to user-friendly resources such as Radiologyinfo.org, Image Wisely, and Image Gently, with an emphasis on “right-sizing” the dose to provide optimal image quality while controlling radiation to only that which is truly necessary for each patient.

Dr. Esposito reported that the Authority on Radiation Protection, Delaware Medical Society, Delaware Osteopathic Medical Society, Delaware State Dental Society, and Delaware Society of Radiology Professionals had taken the pledge, and are now featured on the Image Wisely Website Honor Roll.

Delaware’s Public Awareness Initiative

Wisely Pledge Takers

Dr. Bruce Matthews, Executive Council, Delaware State Dental Society; Mark Thompson, External Affairs Officer, Medical Society of Delaware; Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director, Division of Public Health (DPH); Crystal Webb, Deputy Director, DPH; Dr. Frances Esposito, Authority Chairman/Medical Society of Delaware; Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, Authority on Radiation Protection/DSU; Frieda Fisher-Tyler, Radiation Control Program Director, DPH; Dr. Robert Arm, Authority on Radiation Protection/Delaware State Dental Society; David Hill, Board Chairman, Delaware Society of Radiology Professionals; William Holden, III, Authority Education Committee Chair; Joanna Suder, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice. Photo by Donna Sharp, DPH
Dr. Esposito also recognized the excellent educational resources available from the Health Physics Society (HPS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) links on the Authority webpage.

The press conference was covered by local radio stations (WDDE, WILM) and print media (Delaware State News).

Following the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011, the Authority renewed its long-standing interest in addressing public concerns regarding the beneficial uses of radiation, and in 2013 initiated planning for a public awareness initiative to be launched in conjunction with Radiation Protection Week in 2014.

The Authority acknowledges the expert assistance of Penny Butler, MS, Medical Physicist & Senior Director for the American College of Radiology, for her valuable presentation to the board in May 2014.

The Delaware Authority on Radiation Protection is a Governor-appointed public board of volunteers charged with providing strategic direction and regulatory oversight for ionizing radiation protection in Delaware. The Authority has members representing medical and dental professional societies, universities, and industry as well as members with expertise in nuclear medicine, radiologic technology, radiation oncology, pharmacy, physics and law.

The Office of Radiation Control (ORC) in the Delaware Division of Public Health serves as the administrative agent for the Authority, providing operational resources to meet its statutory obligations.

The mission of the Office of Radiation Control is to protect the health and safety of Delawareans by regulating the use of ionizing radiation in medicine, industry, research and education, and to provide health protection resources in the event of a radiological emergency.
I attended the annual meeting of *Image Gently* held in conjunction with Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) in Chicago, Monday, December 1, 2014. As in past years the meeting consisted of updates from representatives of the various aspects of the organization and their respective activities specific to their efforts with *Image Gently*. The following updates were provided.

- **Keith Straus provided information relative to new Computed Tomography (CT) protocols and American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) working group.** He indicated that the CT Radiographic Techniques were originally published in 2008 and used the Computed Tomography Dose Index (CTDI) vol parameter which is NOT a dose value but rather an output measurement of radiation production of the CT system. He emphasized that different protocols across all scanners are needed. The current parameter that should be used for dose measurement is the Size-Specific Dose Estimate (SSDE) which is size specific dose estimate. There is a chart on the *Image Gently* website that references this information and there are multiple pages of instruction that explain the use of the parameter. There was also a recent publication addressing *Image Gently* As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) information that was presented as part of ALARA conference that was held earlier in the year.

- **An update was provided that addressed a project that has been ongoing between *Image Gently* and Medical Imaging Technology Alliance (MITA) whereby specific information and testing conditions were explored.** A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sponsored grant stipulated four deliverables which included a Technology Matrix for Manufacturers as well an Educational Matrix for Manufacturers. These documents address both hardware and configuration parameters that were issues with the organizations involved. The MITA representative
indicated that XR-29 for CT report has been completed and incorporates some “leave behind” documents for use by the facility.

- **Steve Don provided an update on Computed Radiography and Digital Radiography (CR/DR) progress and the American College of Radiology (ACR) CR/DR Dose Index Registry (DIR).** He indicated that ACR had pulled together a collaborative subcommittee in pediatric digital radiography. Since undertaking that project they have seen a 20-fold change within facilities’ dose reporting for a specific view. AAPM Task Group 252, which is involved with the ACR Dose Index Registry for Digital Radiography, conducted a pilot study that has five facilities participating but unfortunately only one of them is specifically a children’s facility. He reported that overall facilities are doing pretty well with chest exams but not so well for shoulders and extremities with regard to dose index values.

- **Additional updates were provided that addressed the Nuclear Medicine Campaign which has been active on the international front as well as unveiling a new pamphlet in August 2014 that expanded exams from 12 to 18.**

- **Greg Morrison provided an update relative to American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) issues** and indicated that there would be a Fluoroscopy Initiative launched later that day that provided for free 0.5 CE credit for radiologists, technologists as well as medical physicists. He also commented on an article that would appear in “Radiology” this month that explored CT metrics. The article is meant for the lay person and not a physicist.
Alliance Meeting - Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)

*Image Gently* - Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging - CRCPD Board of Director’s Report (continued)

By Mary Ann Spohrer (IL)

- **Information specific to the Alliance that was provided included current membership numbers that indicated that there are now 85 organizations which include 16 new ones over last year and 15 of them have dental affiliations.** The increase in dental affiliations is related to the most recent campaign involving dental applications that was unveiled earlier in the fall. The website material for the Dental Campaign includes information for parents, patients, and the dentist.

Following the attendance at the annual Alliance Meeting, I also volunteered at the *Image Gently* booth on the floor of RSNA where information was provided relative to the various campaigns as well as any questions were answered. **As in past years, I am appreciative of the opportunity to represent the CRCPD at this meeting and thank you again allowing me to participate in this capacity.**

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**Image Gently Alliance Meeting Report**

By Mary Ann Spohrer (IL)

**Meeting:**

Chicago, IL,

December 1, 2014

“I am appreciative of the opportunity to represent the CRCPD at this meeting and thank you again allowing me to participate in this capacity.”

*Mary Ann Spohrer*
E-25 Committee on Radon
Planning Session
By Patrick Daniels (IL), Chairperson

The E-25 Committee on Radon met in Orlando, FL, on December 2-4, 2014, to start creating an agenda for the National Radon Conference scheduled to be held in Bloomington, MN, on September 20-23, 2015. The planning includes sessions:

- from health professionals who are national leaders in educating the public on radon health issues;
- on scientific research on the effectiveness of radon policies;
- on measurements made of each foundation type of multiple foundation homes; and
- about Radon Resistant Construction projects from various states, including presentations from builders and state initiatives.

Building Technical Capacity Training is planned for the September 20. This day long pre-conference training has both a classroom and hands-on component. This training will be an off-site, hands-on, diagnostic course in a Radon Resistant New Construction (RRNC) home. Activities include evaluation of the RRNC system including air flow and pressure measurement under different operating conditions. The training will include a review of diagnostic equipment, modern building techniques and ventilation appliances.
CRCPD Welcomes New Members

**Associate Members**

Megan Barrow (OH)
Trevor Jackson (TN)
Amy Pegram (TN)
Erick Ziegler (OH)

**Affiliate Members**

Bradley E. Kraai (MI)
Katie Neal (GA)
Michael L. Perla (NJ)
Kwame Ulmer (UT)
CRCPD Board of Directors

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CRCPD Councils

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