



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

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A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

August 2008

Message from Chairperson John P. Winston



After attending this year's Health Physics Society (HPS) and American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Annual Meetings, it is clearer than ever that state radiation control programs as a whole need to renew their efforts to oversee the use of x-ray in medicine. With seven years of work behind us, and much more to do, state programs have been challenged with keeping pace with x-ray oversight while trying to meet the demands of homeland security concerns. Recent advancements in computed tomography (CT), interventional fluoroscopy, and computed and direct radiography (CR/DR) are major contributors in the escalation of radiation dose. Various Working Groups in the CRCPD Healing Arts Council are doing their best to provide us with guidance on these rapidly changing technologies.

We have CT equipment being installed in dental offices. These specialized units are not capable of delivering the 30 Gy/min (that's right, 3000 R/min) at skin entrance some of the newer high end units can, but there is no reason not to believe the competitive market will lead to units with higher and higher output in the name of improved diagnostic capabilities.

Nearly every major diagnostic imaging facility has gone filmless in the last several years. The quality management of CR/DR systems is much more complex than the traditional film-screen systems. The regulator is challenged with sorting through an array of manufacturer-specific terminology. Inspectors see an increase in ESE over what was traditionally used

with film-screen, but don't have the data to fall back on when they challenge the appropriateness of the dose being delivered.

In radiation therapy, linear accelerators are equipped with cone beam CT units to localize the target treatment area. Helical intensity modulated radiation therapy delivers the treatment with a design looking much like

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Chairperson's Message

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a souped up CT unit. Electronic brachytherapy brings the x-ray section into a specialty traditionally left to the materials folks. User qualifications have become a concern across the board.

The Board recently discussed the lack of affordable training for the state x-ray inspectors. Over the years, the NRC has assembled many courses for the materials side and some are applicable to x-ray inspection. Florida offers their training courses to people from other state programs at a minimal charge, but travel costs become a factor when a program wishes to train several individuals. A course 'on wheels' we could provide regionally, based on need, may be the answer.

I was pleasantly surprised at the reaction from the AAPM Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee when I mentioned our interest in pursuing regional training for state x-ray personnel. They are very supportive of the idea. The AAPM has offered an excellent assortment of relevant topics at our Annual Meeting for about 10 years now, and their willingness to step up to the plate is most welcome.

I have asked the G-55 Committee on Training to work up a survey we can send out to the Program Directors shortly. If you're one of the lucky ones to receive this survey, please promptly submit your response so that we may weigh the possibility of putting together a regional training program. Initial thoughts are to develop courses with classroom and field instruction and perhaps provide a pilot training at the next Annual Meeting in Columbus.

I have added news with regard to training. In addition to the training the AAPM makes available at our Annual Meetings, the HPS has volunteered to provide training on internal dose bioassay in Columbus in 2009. This is a great opportunity for those of you in emergency response and non-medical licensure. It is the first step toward making an HPS sponsored training course a traditional part of our Annual Meeting.

As always, I welcome your input on innovative ways we can stretch the training dollar. Technology is not going to wait for us. A well-informed inspector is an essential part of a consistent quality radiation control program.

Sit loosely in the saddle of life.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

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Chairperson's Message

[Continued]

On another subject...

I want to stress the importance of encouraging your licensees to register their unwanted sealed sources with Los Alamos National Lab Off-Site Source Recovery Project <<http://osrp.lanl.gov>>.

Our Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) pilot project in Florida was a success and it is time to take the lessons learned and move forward. There is no obligation tied to registering these unwanted sources, but the advantages are many. There are outlets available to the 35 states impacted by the closing of Barnwell and the ideal would be a complete listing of unwanted sealed sources so we can show need and prioritize efficient roundups.

We can provide you with a template cover letter and information packet to send to your licensees holding sources you believe would qualify. I encourage you to add a link to your website and promote the SCATR Program at every opportunity. CRCPD's SCATR website is <<http://www.crcpd.org/SCATR/SCATR.html>>.



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

Opportunities Abound—In Denim?

Thomas Edison is quoted as saying, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." CRCPD has been given several new opportunities lately as well as continuation of ongoing ones. Although several of these are "dressed in overalls," they are providing our membership and the regulated community with several chances to make improvements in their circumstances and/or to spread the word on our organization and the capabilities of state radiation control programs. The following are just some of the examples of the latest opportunity updates:

SCATR Program

CRCPD's Office of the Executive Director (OED) just signed the second year financial assistance award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to carry out the Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) Program. We will also have some carry-over funds from the first year that can be used for SCATR projects. The E-34 Committee for Unwanted Radioactive Material has been coordinating with DOE's Off-site Source Recovery Project (OSRP) and with staff of the OED to identify priority collection projects for the coming year. As John Winston mentioned in his column

Executive Director*[Continued]*

this month, we encourage state programs to urge their licensees to register unwanted sources that would qualify for the SCATR Program (see website at <http://www.crcpd.org/SCATR/SCATR.html>).

During this first year of the program, a successful source roundup was accomplished in the State of Florida at very little cost to the owners. There were also lessons learned that we will be able to apply to the program this year, including:

- The OSRP registry was valuable for identifying owners who wish to dispose of material but it was not an indicator of the number of sources that would be submitted for disposal. The state's detailed project registry was essential to the appropriate identification of all the sources. Twice as many sources were collected than were registered.
- The project was very time consuming for the host state (overalls!). Not all states will have a location that can safely and securely accommodate the collection of a large number of sources. An alternative to this model may be to have CRCPD work directly with the waste broker and have the facility purchase the burial permit. Terry Devine of the OED is working with states to facilitate such an arrangement to make it easier.

Joint Special Session with CDC at Health Physics Society Midyear Meeting

Since the topic for the 2009 Health Physics Society (HPS) Midyear Meeting will be Recent Advances in Planning and Response to Radiation Emergencies, CRCPD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have proposed a Special Session on "Radiological Emergency Planning and Public Health." In June of this year, CDC and CRCPD coordinated efforts to bring together representatives from organizations that represent state and local public health agencies, such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Association of City and County Health Officials, to meet with representatives of CDC and CRCPD for roundtable discussions on communication and sharing resources in planning for and responding to radiological emergencies.

The interaction and follow-up activities from the roundtable are directed toward increasing awareness and understanding of the responsibilities of each group in preparing for and responding to radiological incidents, strengthening communications

Chairperson's Message

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and improving working relationships among participating organizations, and sharing information on available resources.

We also are aware of several ongoing efforts in the states that are being coordinated by state radiation control programs or individual staff members providing outreach for expanded response in the health physics and medical physics community or in training first responders. The half-day session that was proposed would provide presentations on collaborative efforts of CDC and the state radiation control programs in reaching out to the public health community for combining resources in radiological emergencies. The session was accepted, but (opportunity dressed in overalls) we need to get abstracts in very soon (by the end of August). If you have a paper you would like to submit that would fit in this session, send the abstract to me by August 22, 2008.

Regional Training

One of the items indicated at the Members Forum and in surveys that radiation control programs need most is basic x-ray training for inspectors. There are several ways this can be accomplished, but the best training for x-ray inspection includes some hands-on training, which would include some travel to a hospital or other facility. The CRCPD Board is exploring ways that this could happen. This could be a great opportunity for state programs if it does come about. So, stay tuned, and don't miss the opportunity, even if it looks like work because it's wearing overalls!



CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities



Report from the E-25 Committee

By William Bell (MA), Chairperson, E-25 Committee on Radon

Comments on New Draft Radon Publication

On April 23rd, EPA released the subject draft document for review and comment by State radon officials and other interested parties. As the Chair of CRCPD's E-25 Committee on Radon, I am the point of contact for collection of comments from State representatives.

The comment period for States was originally only 10 business days beginning with the simultaneous announcement of the comment period and distribution of the draft. States, taken by surprise, scrambled to access the document. More than a few

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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Report from the E-25 Committee [Continued]

States spent precious days just trying to get the document. The deadline for States was extended for an additional five business days.

Despite the extended deadline, several States expressed dismay at the brevity of the comment period. Many States reported that they could not complete the kind of careful review the document deserved. Many were not able to complete their review of the document at all. In all, 22 States sent comments totaling some 125 pages with over 700 individual comments. Several States had more than one commenter. This magnitude of response in such a short time frame reflects the States' intense concern over this document.

E-25 Committee Meets

The E-25 Committee on Radon met in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 1-3, 2008. The main focus of the meeting was program development for the 18th National Radon Training Conference, which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 14-17, 2008. The theme for the upcoming meeting will be "Growing Radon Leaders."

There was extensive discussion on a number of other pressing issues:

- The committee reviewed options for a new meeting evaluation instrument proposed by E-25 Committee members Kim Steves (KS), Mike Pyles (PA), and Sara Morgan (NE). With some very minor modifications the committee adopted the new instrument. The chair thanked the task group for a job well done.
- There was discussion about EPA's plan to release a draft of a new radon document that combines the Citizen's Guide, the Home Buyers' & Sellers' Guide and the Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction into a single document of about 11 pages. The indications are that the comment period may be very short, so States need to be on guard. It was decided that a reality check on the adequacy of the brief comment period be made ASAP and more time requested if needed.
- The committee revised the instructions for the mini-grant program and set a new timetable for the program. Funds permitting, we plan to market the program at the National Radon Training Conference.
- Josh Kerber (OH) and Francesca Provenzano (CT) joined the meeting on the last day to discuss the continuing education

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

[Continued]

Report from the E-25 Committee [Continued]

sessions that will be held in connection with the National Radon Training Conference.

Ohio Department of Health Training for Radon Industry

On the afternoon of April 11th, the Ohio Department of Health conducted a training session for radon professionals regarding radon testing and mitigation in schools. The topics were selected in anticipation of an increased interest in this area of practice resulting from the recent enactment of "Jared's Law," which requires comprehensive school health and safety programs in Ohio. I presented on the topic of radon mitigation in schools. Ohio offered CEU's for licensees who attended.

EPA Region 5 Radon Stakeholder's Meeting

The Regional Radon Stakeholder's Meeting on April 10 and 11 was a day and a half meeting involving radon industry and some EPA and State officials.

The opening session was comprised of three related presentations. Susie Shimek of EPA, myself, and Bill Angell of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists each presented. The intent was to generate enthusiasm for the "Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign." My presentation focused on CRCPD and State Program past and present the State radon leaders' role, and on some general advice about achieving success. The session was well received.

A few of the speakers later in the day demonstrated gross misunderstandings of radon testing and mitigation issues. One individual, an ECO-Realtor, urged radon testers and mitigators to take Real Estate agents to coffee, cut their prices to the bare minimum, and go easy on the technical details when dealing with the parties in a sale.

On Friday morning, April 10th, there were two interesting presentations by physicians, one from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the other a local oncologist. It was clear from the questions posed by the attendees that we still have problems from the Alzheimer's presentations at the National Radon Meeting in 2004. Radon industry folks have a poor understanding of radon health effects, it seems.

Ohio offered CEU's for licensees who attended; that seemed to be the main motivation for keeping people in the room.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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Report from the E-25 Committee [Continued]

Building Technical Capacity

On Saturday, April 12, I traveled to Gambier, Ohio, to the site of the BTC project house. I last visited this property in 2005. Assistance via telephone and email has continued in the interim. Since my last visit, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Radon Licensing Staff has made substantial improvements in their ability to monitor and evaluate the status of the three temporary radon systems which we left there in 2005.

They have upgraded their equipment and have become well organized and methodical in their work. ODH staff have identified, evaluated, and resolved a number of issues related to the temporary radon systems and have documented the systems' effectiveness. Now the need is to replace the temporary systems with permanent ones. The day was spent reviewing data collected, viewing the operation of the current configuration of the temporary systems, and examining the building for possible pipe routes for the permanent systems.

The next steps will involve selecting a route for the permanent systems and arranging for the installation and surveillance. The results of this demonstration/BTC project will be offered as a presentation at a future National Radon Training Conference.

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International Activities

By Edgar D. Bailey, Chair
G-61 International Outreach and Relations Committee

The members of CRCPD continue to be active in international activities. Since the last update from G-61, Ruth McBurney, our Executive Director, and I had the opportunity to meet with Koo Bon Cheol and Han Sang Eun from the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety during their visit to the United States to look at radiation regulatory programs here. Ruth included their visit in her Executive Director's portion of the April 2008 edition of the *Newsbrief*.

Following are two articles prepared by CRCPD members who have recently experienced working in the international arena albeit each in a unique way. Karen Farris (MA) tells of her opportunity to be an instructor on x-ray issues in a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sponsored training course in Taiwan. YES, I did say x-ray in the same sentence with NRC; wonders will never cease.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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G-61 International Activities [Continued]

Our second article in this issue is from Gary Robertson (WA), who got to participate in an extended International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) review of the radiation regulatory and radioactive waste programs in Mexico. From the feedback I have received, Gary became very proficient in the use of the Spanish phrase, “Dos mas por favor” during his trip to Mexico.

I am aware that several CRCPD members are planning to go to the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) meeting in Argentina later this year, but I have not heard of any other international activities which CRCPD members have undertaken or are planning to undertake. Please let me know if you learn of other international efforts by members of the CRCPD.

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Taiwan

By Karen Farris (MA)

During the CRCPD meeting in Spokane last year, I was asked if I would consider having my name (along with two other people’s) forwarded to the NRC for consideration as a speaker at a Medical Quality Assurance Workshop in Taiwan. The Taiwan Atomic Energy Council (AEC) had contacted the NRC and asked if the NRC would assist the AEC with this workshop. The AEC would like to implement its own mammography regulations. The goal was to have new regulations in place by July 2008.

A couple of months later, I received an e-mail from the NRC telling me that I had been selected to participate in the workshop. I would be speaking on regulations for computed tomography (CT), regulations on mammography, how one becomes an accrediting body, and how to conduct a mammography inspection. Shirley Xu from the NRC was also selected to speak on radioactive material issues.

Shirley and I contacted each other and coordinated our flights so that we could fly together. In addition, we both decided that a trip to Hong Kong would be interesting. So, after our visit to Taipei, Taiwan, we went to Hong Kong. We spent two days in Hong Kong. The light show down at the harbor was cool and they have their own version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The view from the top of the mountain with the Golden Buddha was spectacular. I did get “scammed.” A worker took my picture with the rickshaw driver and then asked for a “donation.”

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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G-61 International Activities, Taiwan [Continued]

I did have some concerns before my trip. Would I get my passport in time? Could I handle 14 hours on an airplane? How big of a language barrier would there be? Well, I did get my passport in plenty of time. I passed the 14 hours by watching the movies, reviewing my presentations, and earning some CEUs (direct readings). And thank God for Shirley, she can speak Chinese.

There are 186 facilities in Taiwan that can provide mammography services. The AEC conducted a random sampling of facilities



and found that there were some major problems. These included a lack of quality assurance (QA) instruments and a lack of training for the QA personnel. Since returning to the United States, I have assisted the AEC

in getting in touch with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) so that members of the AEC can come over here and go through the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) training courses.

Our first day in Taiwan was broken up with some sightseeing arranged by Dr. Huang (an Associated Attending Physicist) for the morning and then the workshop in the afternoon. The audience was made up of AEC staff, medical physicists, and mammography technologists. My first presentation was on Regulations for CT. I was told that the Taiwan facilities are very interested in what facilities here in the United States are doing. Not every state has regulations for quality control (QC) and/or QA for CT. So I decided to gear my presentation on the American College of Radiology's CT accreditation program, information from the CRCPD's website, and the NEXT 2000 CT survey. All of these resources are very useful if you want to implement regulations for CT.

Later that day, my second presentation was on Mammography Regulations. The Taiwan AEC is interested in modeling its program after MQSA. When preparing for this presentation, I was told to gear my presentation to a person who knows nothing about mammography and wants to start up a program.

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G-61 International Activities, Taiwan [Continued]

Instead of just spewing out what the MQSA requirements are, this presentation covered what QA is and what a program should include with regard to the frequency of each QC test and the control limits for each test. I discussed having an orientation program, what needs to be in your QA manual, and how it differs



from the QC manual. A brief description of each QC test that is performed by the mammography technologist and the medical physicist was discussed.

We were picked up at our hotel

on day two of the workshop. The second day I spoke first on Approval and Evaluation of an Accrediting Body for Mammography and second on the Mammography Inspection. The accrediting body presentation was easy to research. I took everything from the Federal Register that the FDA requires any organization or state agency to do in order to be approved as an Accrediting Body. The afternoon presentation on mammography inspections was also easy to present. I used my FDA computer and went through a routine MQSA inspection.

Day three was set up a little differently. The morning session was spent discussing mammography issues and what we as inspectors are finding during our inspections. The afternoon was spent at the National Palace Museum. The museum is a very interesting place. The artifacts were amazing. I can say yes, I have seen artifacts from the Ming dynasty. Unfortunately, you could not take any pictures.

Day four we went to a hospital. There, we brought everything we had been talking about in the prior three days and tied it all together. I used my FDA computer. I brought with me a medical physicist report, credentials (stats on how many mammograms I had done in the prior two years), CEUs, and a license (my Massachusetts Radiological Technologist license), and QC data sheets. With this, I went through an inspection. I discussed what records we look for and what we accept for documentation. We then went to test their mammography unit. Even though the FDA

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G-61 International Activities, Taiwan [Continued]

no longer takes physical measurements on mammography units, I had planned on going through the process anyway. Things got interesting when my meter started giving me weird measurements. So, I improvised. I told them we would assume we were getting typical readings and continued. We did several phantoms and went through how to score the phantom.



The last thing we covered was the exit interview. I went through items that are covered whether the facility is compliant or non-compliant. I was able to show them a compliant Post Inspection Report and then went back into the inspection, made some changes, and brought up a non-compliant Post Inspection Report.

It was a great trip. I found the people to be very friendly. If you stopped someone on the street and asked for directions, they would help you. Not like here in Boston. I was amazed at the number of people in the city. Whether it was 9 in the morning or 10 at night, the subway was always jam packed. The continental breakfast that came with our rooms would put hotels here in the U.S. to shame. You had your choice of fruit, cereal, eggs, French toast, or pancakes every day. And, they had a chef there to make the eggs any way you wanted.

Of course, no trip is without its challenges. I had a few. Some of the signs were difficult to read. But, some were in both Chinese and English. Now, let's just say that the first time I went to the ladies room was "challenging." In the end, it was a trip of a lifetime.

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Mexico

By Gary L. Robertson (WA)

In June 2007, an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) colleague asked me to join an IAEA 15-member peer review team that was scheduled to conduct an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in Mexico from November 26 through December 5, 2007. The review was being done at the request of the Mexican Government and was scheduled to take place at

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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G-61 International Activities, Mexico [Continued]

the Comision Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear y Salvaguardias (National Commission on Nuclear Safety and Safeguards [CNSNS]), which is the regulatory authority for nuclear and radiation safety.

The team was heading to Mexico City to review and make recommendations on how Mexico regulates its nuclear power plants, research reactors, medical practices, industrial and research activities, waste facilities, decommissioning, remediation, transport, communication, and public information.



As you will see from the list below, the IAEA review team was very international in make-up:

- ŽIAKOVÁ, Marta (Team Leader, Slovak Republic)
- BIRO, Lucian (Deputy Team Leader, Romania)
- BASAEZ, Hector (Chile)
- DA SILVA, Francisco (Brazil)
- HOLIAN, Brian (USA)
- HOMMA, Toshimitsu (Japan)
- MUNUERA, Antonio (Spain)
- ROBERTSON, Gary (USA)
- TOSTES, Marcelo (Brazil)
- WALDMAN, Ricardo (Argentina)
- GRAVES, David (IAEA/NSNI, Team Coordinator)
- HEINBERG, Cynthia (IAEA/NSRW, Deputy Team Coordinator)
- CALPENA, Stephane (IAEA/NSNI, Review Team Coordinator)
- JOVA-SED, Luis (IAEA/NSRW, Review Team Coordinator)
- KOBEIN, Marlene (IAEA Administrative Support)

Our goal was to help facilitate regulatory improvements in Mexico, with the expectation that many of the suggested improvements, as well as the ideas generated during discussions, could be

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G-61 International Activities, Mexico [Continued]

applied to our own programs at home. A loftier goal was that our work would initiate improvements throughout the world via the knowledge we gained, the experiences we shared, and the networking we helped create. These IAEA reviews are neither an inspection nor an audit, but a mutual learning mechanism that accepts different approaches to the organization and practices of a national regulatory body, considering the regulatory technical and policy issues, and that contributes to ensuring a strong nuclear safety regime.

The key objectives of this type of mission were to enhance nuclear and radiation safety by:

- ✓ Providing the host country (regulatory body and governmental authorities) with a review of the discussions of nuclear and radiation safety regulatory technical and policy issues;
- ✓ Providing the host country with an objective evaluation of their nuclear and radiation safety regulatory practices with respect to international safety standards;
- ✓ Contributing to the harmonization of regulatory approaches among Member States;
- ✓ Promoting sharing of experience and exchange of lessons learned;
- ✓ Providing key staff in the host country with an opportunity to discuss their practices with reviewers who have experience of other practices in the same field;
- ✓ Providing the host country with recommendations and suggestions for improvement;
- ✓ Providing other states with information regarding good practices identified in the course of the review;
- ✓ Providing reviewers from states and the IAEA staff with opportunities to broaden their experience and knowledge of their own field; and
- ✓ Providing the host country, through completion of the IRRS questionnaire, with an opportunity for self-assessment of its activities against international safety standards.

The review was very comprehensive. It included assessments of the following areas: legislative and governmental

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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G-61 International Activities, Mexico [Continued]

responsibilities; the regulatory body's organization and its authority, responsibilities, functions, and management system; the authorization process; review and assessment; inspection and enforcement; the development of regulations and guides; and emergency preparedness. The assessment areas were assigned during our internal meetings at the hotel before we met with CNSNS.

Each of us conducted a series of independent interviews and discussions with key personnel at Mexico's CNSNS and at other government and private organizations, literally working from dawn to dusk. Except for a single free Saturday in which we visited some of the larger ruins around Mexico City, we were busy and that's with a capital B!!

We were all impressed by the open, transparent, and willing attitude of CNSNS staff to learn from us throughout our mission. It was very evident that CNSNS had put significant effort into preparing for our visit. During the review, the administrative and logistical support was excellent, and we were extended full cooperation during technical discussions with CNSNS personnel, even to the point of bringing in translators when I was having problems with my Spanish skills (what Spanish skills?). As the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does when auditing Agreement State programs, we identified the good practices and made recommendations and suggestions where we felt improvements were necessary or desirable to further strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory oversight.

Because of my assignment, I was able to take several interesting one-day side trips that also allowed me to see the Mexican countryside. I flew to Veracruz with Brian Holian from the NRC to review waste operations at the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Station (LVNPS), while he reviewed the reactor operations. An interesting side note is that the power station is said to be located at the same spot where Cortez stepped off the boat and began his exploration of Mexico.

I was also taken to the government-owned and operated radioactive waste processing facility that is located in the mountains (over 10,000 feet) about 50 miles from Mexico City, and to the interim waste storage facility at Centro de Almacenamiento de Desechos Radiactivos (CADER), which was once operated as their low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) disposal site before it failed as a disposal facility and was reclassified.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

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G-61 International Activities, Mexico [Continued]

Mexico's waste disposal situation really needs to be addressed soon because there is currently no operating disposal facility in the country, and the LVNPS continues to generate radioactive waste; its onsite waste storage facilities are projected to be full within the next two years. All non-nuclear radioactive waste collected from across the country also ends up at the CADER site for temporary storage.

The first IAEA mission I was invited on was to Africa in 2003, and it was kind of the luck of the draw. I was a last minute replacement for someone who had to cancel and IAEA needed someone with LLRW experience. I saw the e-mail request from CRCPD and volunteered. It's wild enough to somehow have become the director of my state's program (oh, the power), much less being invited to exotic foreign places to help shape programs.

I am amazed that I managed to meet IAEA expectations and then to be invited again! Well, this time, to my

surprise (and relief), I learned during the visit to LVNPS that the government had decided to apply the regulations of the country who designed and built LVNPS and that was—drumbeat please—the NRC, as well as IAEA, for safety standards. This I do know how to do, so I happily conducted performance reviews based on good ol' familiar Title 10 Part 20, 21, 50A (also B, E, G, H, I, J, and K), 55, 73, and 100, as well as a series of Regulatory Guides (1, 4, 7, 8, and 9). Startlingly, at the governmental level there is no established national policy on radioactive waste management and no corresponding strategies. Hmm.....that sounds a little too familiar. Hopefully it will be changed soon.



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CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

[Continued]

H-4 Committee on Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends (NEXT)

By Warren Freier, RT, Chairperson, H-4 Committee on NEXT

The H-4 Committee on Nationwide Evaluations of X-ray Trends (NEXT) conducted a two day meeting May 14-15, 2008. This meeting was set to coincide with the 40th CRCPD Annual National Conference on Radiation Control held in Greensboro, North Carolina. All members were in attendance. Committee member rotation was postponed this year in order to maintain continuity for the upcoming training and survey endeavor.

Website changes and updates have been a work in progress for the Committee. Since the CRCPD website will be undergoing major restructuring, the Committee decided to postpone any suggestions for change until this restructure is completed.

The 2003 Upper GI Fluoroscopy survey is receiving additional review. The date for final submission for publication of the trifold and data summary is slated for end of year 2008.

The majority of time was spent discussing preparations for the upcoming 2008-2009 NEXT Cardiac Catheterization survey. Similar to previous surveys, this survey will include a facility questionnaire and an inspector on-site measurement protocol. Committee members will be testing these survey instruments prior to state inspector training and finalization. The survey will use the CDRH fluoroscopic phantom and the Radcal MDH survey meter. FDA has agreed to calibrate these instruments for participating states. Three training dates have been set for October & November with surveys to begin immediately following training.

A presentation was given during the National Conference highlighting the past year activities, and a small hint of proposed inspection methodology for the 2008-2009 survey was given by David Spelic, Ph.D., the lead FDA investigator for NEXT. Also during this presentation, an earnest request was made to Program Directors to devote staff to this opportunity to participate in the upcoming training and subsequent survey activities.

Committee members have performed diligently throughout this past year and are to be commended for their active participation. Committee advisors were kept abreast of activities and some chose to take active participation.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

[Continued]

“Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Response”

By Frieda Fisher-Tyler, Member, Committee for Fostering Partnerships & Developing Operational Guides to Support Emergency Preparedness and Response (HS/ER-2)
Adela Salame-Alfie, Ph.D., HS/ER-2 Chairperson

On June 17-18, 2008, a diverse group of experts was convened at a roundtable hosted by CRCPD and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the roundtable was to assist the nation in preparing for a public health threat involving nuclear or radiological incidents by exploring ways to increase awareness among multiple organizations with respect to preparing for or responding to radiological incidents, strengthening communications and enhancing working relationships, and sharing information on available resources from CDC and other sources. An expected outcome of the roundtable was to provide feedback to ensure that CDC produces effective public health guidance and communications materials for local and state health departments and other public health officials, and explore opportunities to assist agencies with implementing the available resources.

Attendees at the roundtable included experts in the fields of emergency medicine, epidemiology, health physics, hospital preparedness, public health preparedness, and risk communication. Representatives from the following organizations were specifically targeted to participate in this roundtable:

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Group shot of all participants

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

[Continued]

HS/ER-2 Report on Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork

[Continued]

The meeting started with introductory presentations by each organization, to provide all present with a broad understanding of the organizations' mission, membership and role in developing or providing access to guidance about radiological emergency preparedness and response. Following the short presentations, CRCPD and CDC provided a detailed overview of traditional activities of radiation control programs, and a description of some of the resources available, such as the CRCPD RDD Handbook & Pocket Guide.

A scenario discussion was used to elicit ideas from participants, which involved a covert radiation emission device placed in a shopping mall food court, which became more interesting as food protection investigators also fell ill with acute symptoms common to certain foodborne illnesses, and acute radiation exposure. The scenario began as an incident that many working in public health are familiar with (apparent foodborne illness investigation) and progressed into a much more complex situation requiring input from radiation control programs, and consideration of communicating about an unfamiliar threat with groups or agencies that many individuals in the room usually did not interact with.

A professional facilitator guided the group through a structured activity utilizing "post-it" notes, to capture participant feedback in a number of areas:

Gaps/Capabilities/ Strategies:

- Gaps with respect to communicating on radiological issues in their community or organization
- Capabilities that their organization has that could be used to resolve gaps
- Strategies that could be employed to bridge or eliminate gaps



Adela Salame-Alfie and the post-it notes.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

[Continued]

HS/ER-2 Report on Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork

[Continued]

Strengthening Communication:

- Challenges to internal and external coordination
- Short-term and long-term solutions to communication issues
- List of organizations to partner with

Emergency Awareness Responsibilities

- Short-term and long-term solutions/strategies for internal and external partners

Partnerships

- What steps can realistically be taken to effect change, in the short-term and long-term.



HS/ER-2 members and advisors the day after the roundtable, capturing roundtable invitee comments and suggestions from post-it notes.

The initial feedback from the participants was very positive, and many hoped to continue these discussions in the future, especially with respect to building partnerships in the context of their organizational relationships with other agencies and associations.

HS/ER-2 is in the process of drafting a Roundtable Report to the CDC, which will capture the nature of the discussions and recommend actions to take

to meet the goals of this roundtable: to increase awareness, strengthen communications and share information on available resources for coping with a public health threat involving nuclear or radiological hazards.



New CRCPD Members & Classification Changes

Associate Members

Follette, John (NV)
 Gauthier, Nathaniel (SC)
 Goyal, Vidya (NY)
 Huggins, Joylin (SC)
 LaScala, Amanda (VT)
 Otto, Justin (ND)
 Rankar, Jim (SC)
 Sulas, Diana (WI)
 Torres, Angelique (SC)
 Tran, Mai (NY)

Affiliate Members

Carter, Steve (MD)
 Doruff, Mark (IL)
 Gardner, Emily (MD)
 Harling, Sean (NY)
 Palazzola, Michael (WI)
 Pandya, Jatin (IL)
 Patterson, Jack (MD)
 Perry, David (GA)
 Ray, Garrett (NJ)
 Smith, Alvin (PA)
 Tomlinson, Cindy (VA)
 Van Valkenburg, Jane (WY)



Directory Changes

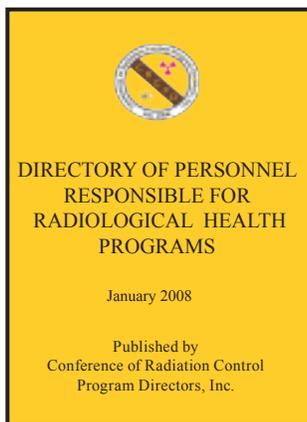
Page 12 - CA - George Faggella-Insert new e-mail address:
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Page 14 - CO - Chrystine Kelley-Insert new e-mail address
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Page 16 - CT - Insert new e-mail addresses for the following individuals:

Edward Wilds <edward.wilds@ct.gov>
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Page 43 -MS - B. J. Smith-Remove Radioactive Materials
 Director and insert Director.



Directory Changes

[Continued]

Page 87 - WV - Remove Dan Hill and insert Vacant.

Page 88 - WI - Insert new e-mail addresses for the following individuals:

Paul Schmidt <paul.schmidt@wisconsin.gov>
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 Dan Stefenel <daniel.stefenel@wisconsin.gov>
 Conrad Weiffenbach
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Page 89 - WY - Steve Melia-Insert new e-mail address:
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Articles should be sent to CRCPD, Attn: Curt Hopkins, 205 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-4928; email: <chopkins@crcpd.org>. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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