



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

August 2009

Message from Chairperson Adela Salame-Alfie, Ph.D.



Greetings, everybody.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. I can't believe we are in the middle of August, and our hottest day so far was in April! That's probably reasonable for a southern state, but it is pretty unusual for New York. I can also share that it doesn't look like we'll have a drought this summer, we've had so much rain... lovely weather if you are a duck! So, do you believe in global warming?

Anyway, in this issue of the *Newsbrief*, I would like to talk to you about communication. I think it is very important to keep our members (you) informed of new developments, initiatives, and activities that may have an impact on your programs while striking a balance so we don't overwhelm you or your Inbox. At the same time, we want to hear from you, since we are representing all of you.

Next month, CRCPD and Organization of Agreement States Board members will be briefing the Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners on several topics. It is important that we capture the input from all the state programs when we prepare these briefings, so it is key that we hear from you. We sent the program directors a short survey that we hope will help us capture information from all the programs, so please make sure you (or one of your staff) complete it. I promise that we will not overwhelm you with requests for information.

Speaking of communication, if you haven't visited our web site recently, I would encourage you to do so. We've added several new features, including a dedicated web page for the "Advisory Team." The Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health is a radiological emergency response group tasked with providing protective action recommendations to state and local governments on behalf of its member agencies. The permanent membership includes representatives from

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Chairperson's message

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the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We had an opportunity to interact with the Advisory Team during the full scale Empire 09 radiological exercise in Albany, New York, and we had an opportunity to work closely with some of the members. Knowing about the Advisory Team can be very useful as you plan, exercise, or respond to radiological events. We've also added a calendar of events that lists national meetings and training opportunities. If you have events or training opportunities that may be of interest to other state programs, please send Sue Smith an email (ssmith@crcpd.org) and let her know so she can add it to the calendar.

When you read Ruth's article, you will see that we've expanded our "area of influence" and are now partnering with public health organizations, in particular when it comes to issues of radiological emergency response, radiological volunteers, etc. This will not only enhance our ability to respond to a radiological incident, but will open the communication doors between radiation control and public health programs. It is amazing that in many instances, some public health departments do not know where the radiation specialists are, and resort to the federal government or consultants when they have questions about radiation. Hopefully these efforts will help educate both disciplines on our respective strengths and expertise.

In the last *Newsbrief* I mentioned my intent to expand our pool of volunteers. I am happy to report that we've made progress in recruiting volunteers for some of our committees and task forces. Please volunteer or support your staff when we send requests for volunteers. We have so much expertise out there, and we'd like to tap into it to better serve our membership.

Lastly, I'd like to tell you that we'll be meeting in November to plan next year's National Conference on Radiation Control and would like to hear from you regarding topics, training opportunities, length of the meeting, etc. If you already have an idea for a presentation, please send your abstract to ssmith@crcpd.org before November so we can factor that in during the planning.

I hope you have a chance to relax a little bit during the last few days of summer!

Adela



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

Partnership: A key word

CRCPD is “A partnership dedicated to radiation protection.” On many levels this year, conditions continue to make forming partnerships even more important. State radiation control programs are looking at ways to do more with less by joining forces with other states and with other radiological and public health organizations. States are less likely to have to “reinvent the wheel” if there are suggested state regulations, guidelines, or other consensus standards to follow. Likewise, over the last few months, CRCPD’s partnership efforts have expanded to address radiological preparedness and response, implementation of international radiation standards, overuse of diagnostic x-ray procedures, and other issues involving the use of radiation.

Partnering in radiological emergency preparedness

As mentioned in the June edition of the *Newsbrief*, CRCPD and three public health organizations—the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, are exploring ways to partner and share information through an alliance of the organizations. The HS/ER-2 Committee is finishing up a report on a workshop that was held in April in Atlanta on expanding radiological preparedness in public health.

As a result of the workshop, several initiatives are being proposed to foster a working relationship with these other public health organizations for a coordinated response to radiological events. One of the initiatives is the formation of a steering committee to develop a proposed alliance of the organizations for sharing emergency preparedness tools, roles and responsibilities. The full report of the workshop and future activities will be available in September. As a follow-up, representatives of some of the organizations attended our annual Conference in May, and recently Pat Gardner (NJ) from the HS/ER-2 Committee and I staffed a CRCPD exhibit and shared information at the annual NACCHO Conference, where our participation was warmly received.

Radiation Response Volunteer Corps: As you are probably well aware, population monitoring, among other duties, during radiological emergencies has been identified as a local and state responsibility. In the event of a major radiological incident, state and local radiation control and emergency response program resources would be quickly overwhelmed by the large number of citizens needing evaluation for contamination.

**Executive
Director***[Continued]*

A roundtable was held in February 2009 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the development of a radiological volunteer corps that could be activated by local authorities in the event of a large-scale radiological event. The outcome of the roundtable was an action plan to establish resource typing and training requirements for radiation protection volunteers.

The next step is to implement such a program in several states in conjunction with the radiation control programs and the Medical Reserve Corps in those states. Outreach for a pool of volunteers would focus on radiation professionals who are trained in radiation safety practices and perform some of the same duties that would be necessary in the event of a catastrophic event. We encourage state radiation programs to engage with other radiation professional groups in their states in order to use trained radiation professionals, such as health physicists, health physics technicians, medical physicists, and nuclear medicine technologists, for population monitoring in preparing for and responding to major events. CRCPD and CDC are in the process of exploring ways to assist the states in this effort, so stay tuned as this project is developed further.

Input on international standards

With the development of new International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP) standards and proposed Basic Safety Standards from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requesting input on whether and to what extent these standards should be implemented in the United States. Since we want to provide a clear picture of input from the states, it is important that state program directors provide initial comments through a survey of state programs on this issue. The Board leadership will be briefing the NRC Commissioners on this issue in September, and request your thoughts on implications for state programs and the regulated community.

Overuse of medical imaging

I recently participated in a Summit on Medical Imaging: Addressing Overutilization, sponsored by the American Board of Radiology. Some of the key issues that were discussed include justification of practice; reduction in self-referred procedures (by practitioners who have financial interest in the facility and/or equipment); and optimization of imaging procedures through quality control processes, accreditation programs and sharing of digital images among practitioners and facilities. These

Executive Director

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issues are being discussed in concert with the impact of overuse of radiological procedures on overall health care costs and unnecessary radiation exposure. During the next few years, it will be important for professional organizations to collaborate to address the problem of overutilization of diagnostic imaging procedures, including those used for administrative, health insurance and legal reasons. In addition, we will continue to work with professional organizations to develop appropriate education and training criteria for those who administer radiation to humans for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

So, we continue to partner to expand our capability to assist state programs to do their jobs better and in a more cost effective manner. As an organization that does most of its work through a cadre of volunteers knowledgeable in the field of radiation control, it takes all of us plus some to address all that is on our plate right now. But all of us, including those that we partner with, have a stake in the end goal: enhanced radiation protection and health.



Texas program director wins award

Susan Jablonski, MS, PE, Director of the Radioactive Materials Division (RMD) at the Texas Commission on Environmental



Quality (TCEQ), was selected as the 2009 winner of the prestigious Health Physics Society (HPS) Elda E. Anderson Award. Each year, the Elda E. Anderson award is presented to one young member of the Health Physics Society (under the age of

40) to recognize excellence in (1) research or development, (2) discovery or invention, (3) devotion to health physics, and/or (4) significant contributions to the profession of health physics. The award was presented to Ms. Jablonski at the HPS Awards Banquet on July 14, 2009.

Ms. Jablonski is the first state radiation control director to receive the Elda E. Anderson Award. In her role as RMD Director at TCEQ, she manages the program as it performs activities associated with the licensing of facilities involved in the storing, processing, or disposing of radioactive material (e.g., uranium ore, by-product radioactive waste, low-level radioactive waste, non-oil and gas naturally occurring radioactive waste, and radioactive

Texas Program Director *[Continued]*

waste generated from federal government activities). The citation for her award stated in part: “Ms. Jablonksi’s innovation and leadership culminated in TCEQ issuing the first low-level radioactive waste disposal facility license in two decades. Ms. Jablonksi’s innovative licensing practices married with a risk-informed public policy foundation will create a much needed avenue for management and disposal of radioactive waste.”

Susan began her career in health physics at the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority in 1993, where she served as Radiation Safety Officer and Director of Health Physics. She began work at TCEQ in 1999, where she became the technical expert on radioactive waste management and disposal matters before becoming Division Director and Radiation Program Officer.

CRCPD congratulates Susan on receiving this award.



Call for papers



My name is Sue!

You are invited to present a paper at the 42nd Annual National Conference on Radiation Control that will be held in Newport, Rhode Island, April 19-22, 2010. If you are interested in presenting a paper, please submit your topic along with a brief summary (a couple of sentences) to the OED <ssmith@crcpd.org> **no later than September 30, 2009**, for consideration by the Technical Program Planning Committee.

Acceptance of a submitted paper does not imply that CRCPD will pay the travel expenses of the speaker to give the paper.



Call for nominations for 2010 John C. Villforth Lecture

The purpose of this annual lecture is to honor Mr. Villforth’s steadfast support of state radiation agencies as a working partner with the Food and Drug Administration/Center for Devices and Radiological Health (FDA/CDRH) in the protection of the American people from unnecessary exposure to electronic product radiation, radioactive materials (especially radium), and protection of the environment from radioactive contamination, as well as his strong support of the CRCPD in its early years of development.

Mr. Villforth has long recognized the capacity of state radiation personnel to make valuable contributions to the success of

Villforth Lecture nominations

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the national programs to protect the public health of our citizens. CRCPD has the utmost respect, admiration, and appreciation for the unceasing friendship and support Mr. Villforth has extended to our organization and the state radiation control programs over his many years of public service. With this lecture series, CRCPD pays tribute to a man with impeccable integrity, a person with outstanding leadership credentials, and a giant in the field of radiological health.



The criteria for nominations, with a link to the nomination form, can be viewed at www.crcpd.org/Awards/Villforth/FactSheet.Villforth.pdf. Deadline: September 30, 2009.



EPA reviewing standards for uranium and thorium milling

EPA is reviewing and may be revising its regulations first issued in 1983 for uranium and thorium milling to bring them up-to-date with the current technologies and to take into account a number of other issues relevant to 40 CFR Part 192. These issues include revisions in EPA drinking water and groundwater protection standards, judicial decisions on the existing regulations, and updated dose and risk factors for assessing both radiological and non-radiological risk.

To ensure an open and transparent rulemaking process, EPA will develop a Web site with postings of relevant documents, notices of opportunities for public input to the process, and notices of meetings at which the proposal may be discussed.

EPA welcomes CRCPD members to visit <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/tenorm/> and sign up to receive notification of changes to the page at the envelope icon: ( Get e-mail updates when this information changes).



CRCPD working group & liaison activities



Liaison network meeting

By Ray Dielman (FL)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Joint Commission's 17th annual meeting July 7 and 8, 2009, in Chicago (Oakbrook Terrace), Illinois.

This meeting currently provides the only opportunity to raise the bar on many areas of patient radiation safety shared by both organizations and this was no exception. We were able to interact with many decision makers and create or refine CRCPD opportunities.

The vice president and chief patient safety officer, Peter Adgood, M.D., is no longer with the Joint Commission. We will now work with Paul Schyve, M.D., executive vice president, with a view toward moving several items of interest forward, i.e., the CRCPD fluoroscopy and other related initiatives. Dr. Schyve was in Washington D.C., during the Liaison meeting, testifying before Congress regarding Joint Commission patient safety efforts surrounding the VA Hospital brachytherapy events. His presentation amplified the need for the Joint Commission to acquire and utilize a modicum of expertise in radiation medicine safety.

Environment of Care specialists and I continued our discussion about creating an advisory committee on radiation use and safety in medicine with CRCPD as a participant, the Joint Commission linking of radiation safety and laser safety, and Joint Commission emergency response criteria.

The Education and Field Directors for Surveyor Development and Management request that CRCPD assist the Joint Commission surveyors by identifying 5 -10 areas that health care professionals without knowledge of radiation medicine could successfully utilize to determine hospital radiation medicine program adequacy.

Other areas of continued discussion included CT use, dose and regulation; USP 797 requirements for sterile preparation of radiopharmaceuticals; laser use and regulation, and the Joint Commission Medication Management Standard, which defines contrast and radiopharmaceuticals as drugs.

Consideration should be given to the question: Should CRCPD become a national accrediting agency of medical uses of radiation in healthcare? Various states and specialty organizations

CRCPD working group reports/liaison network meeting

[Continued]

perform similar financially viable functions in place of the Joint Commission, i.e., the College of American Pathologists, etc. Medicare is seeking performance measurement organizations for the congressionally mandated program to begin (2012) assessments of the same health care advanced imaging organizations we inspect.

Further, I reiterate my annual recommendation that CRCPD request the Joint Commission provide a senior officer to address a plenary session of our annual meeting.

Finally, although leadership and other changes have impacted the Joint Commission this year, we continue to move forward in our relationship. Patient safety progress is “value added” to both organizations.

CRCPD exhibits at AAPM meeting

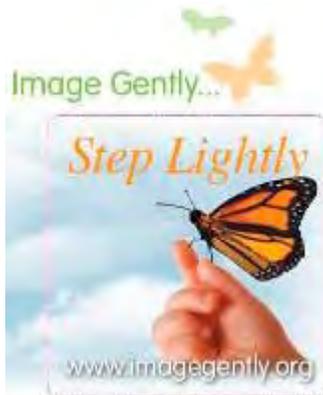
By Debbie Gilley (FL), CRCPD Liaison to AAPM

On July 26-31, 2009, Jennifer Elee, Healing Arts Council chair, John Winston, past chair of the Conference, and I attended the American Association of Physicists in Medicine’s (AAPM) annual meeting in Anaheim. CRCPD provided an exhibit on Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR). We also answered questions on the proposed Qualified Medical Physicist Registry and Radiation Response Volunteer Corps with hundreds of attendees who visited the booth.

Some old friends and colleagues brought to our attention issues that should be reviewed by the Conference, such as outreach to educate veterinarians and their staff; improved documentation of fluoroscopic doses and alternative methods to measure these doses; and the need to collect registered sources.

CRCPD members attended many educational and committee meetings, and John and I provided a regulatory update to AAPM membership on Tuesday. Topics of our presentation included: the security requirements for medical facilities responsible for IAEA Category 1 and 2 sources; opportunities to receive security assistance from the National Nuclear Security Administration; updated regulations for x-ray and radionuclides in the healing arts, medical therapy; and the proposed regulations regarding security and credentialing of radiation professionals. The last topic was the CR/DR protocol recently developed by CRCPD and the training conducted at the CRCPD annual meeting.

CRCPD working group reports/CRCPD exhibits at AAPM meeting [Continued]



Questions and comments from the audience included concerns about fluoroscopy computed tomography (CT) and cone beam CT regulations and inspection procedures.

This is the third year that CRCPD has exhibited at the AAPM meeting and each year more attendees recognize CRCPD and our purpose. We now have the opportunity to describe current activities and how they will impact the medical physics community.



New Step Lightly message

CRCPD and the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging announce the new Step Lightly message—Offering Free Interventional Radiology Dose Reduction and Interventional Radiology Patient Education Materials

Dear Member:

CRCPD is an active member of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging, a coalition of 44 health care organizations serving more than 500,000 health care providers world-wide. The Alliance goal is to raise awareness of opportunities to lower radiation dose used in pediatric imaging exams and procedures through its informational “Image Gently” campaign (www.imagegently.org).

We are happy to announce that the Alliance has developed easily accessible online teaching materials and checklists to help interventional radiology providers “Step Lightly” and use the lowest dose necessary to perform interventional procedures on children. Interventional radiologists, medical physicists, and radiologic technologists are encouraged to visit the Image Gently Web site to review these important materials and factor the information into their clinical decision making.

New on the Image Gently Web site are:

- Downloadable slide presentation for use by providers to teach their staff methods to reduce dose and maintain quality. Radiologists are encouraged to give this talk locally
- Downloadable checklist of dose reduction steps the team can review for each patient

Image Gently Step Lightly message

[Continued]

- Downloadable outline of dose reduction and quality maintenance steps to take in the department
- Patient brochure including answers for parents about interventional radiology procedures. Providers can use this as a guide to communicate concerns and benefits of interventional procedures to patients.

Please download these provider materials from the Image Gently Web site, www.imagegently.org. Encourage and support the Image Gently Step Lightly campaign, and encourage your staff to make facilities aware of the material available to them at the imagegently.org website.

[Click here](#) to visit the Image Gently Web site today and pledge to do your part to “child-size” the radiation dose used in children’s imaging. Your active participation is appreciated.



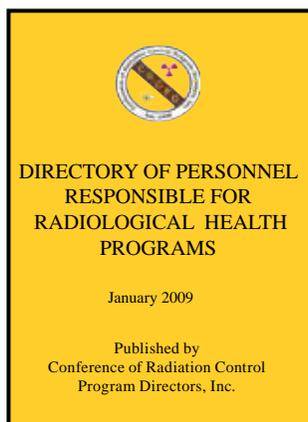
New CRCPD members/classification changes

Associate members

DeWolfe, James (CO)
Granger, Jennifer (CA)
Malone, Mindy (CA)
O’Connell, Heidi (CA)
Ottmer, Tammy (CO)

Affiliate members

Payne, Tom (MN)
Ruckdeschel, Thomas (GA)



CRCPD Board of Directors

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The Newsbrief is written to address the needs of all radiation control program personnel. Readers are encouraged to contribute newsworthy or informative items for the Newsbrief, with neither charges nor stipends for the items that are selected. News of state radiation control programs is especially sought.

Articles should be sent to CRCPD, Attn: Sue Smith, 1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-7862; email: <ssmith@crcpd.org>. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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