



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

December 2006

Message from Chairperson Pearce O'Kelley



I assume everyone has heard the good news. The Board has selected Ruth E. McBurney, CHP, as the new Executive Director of CRCPD. Most of you know Ruth and know that she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization. Ruth has worked for radiation control programs in Texas and Arkansas. She has been very active in CRCPD, including serving as Chair from 1995-1996. Ruth also received the Gerald S. Parker Award in 1994. Ruth recently completed her term as President of the Health Physics Society. She is recognized both nationally and internationally for her work in radiation protection. We are fortunate to have such a highly qualified and dedicated person working for us.

I would like to thank all the other candidates for the Executive Director position. The Board and I are very appreciative of their interest in CRCPD and their willingness to offer their service. We had a very strong candidate pool to consider and the decision was very difficult.

The Conference again owes a sincere thank you to Chuck Hardin. Chuck came to our rescue again by agreeing to serve as Interim Executive Director. Chuck really helped us through a difficult time. Hopefully, he can now retire for good.

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Chairperson's Message

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I would also like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee that evaluated the future direction of the Conference. Mike Mobley, Chair, Don Flater (IA), Ed Bailey (TX), and Aubrey Godwin (AZ), along with several board members did a good job of outlining the options and presenting both advantages and disadvantages of each. We may have to call on them for additional help in the near future.

The Board will be having the fall board meeting December 11-12, 2006. We have a lot of issues on the table. One issue in particular will be for the Board and the new Executive Director to determine how the Conference and Office of the Executive Director will operate without the Executive Director being physically in Frankfort. Hopefully we can minimize the transition obstacles. We also will be addressing the budget and funding issues.

One last heartfelt thank you goes to the staff of the OED. This group of dedicated and talented individuals constantly does their best to serve CRCPD and its members. They, too often, are taken for granted.

I wish all of you the happiest holiday season and wish you and your family well.



Introducing CRCPD's New Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

The CRCPD Board of Directors is pleased to announce that effective January 8, 2007, Ruth E. McBurney, CHP, will be CRCPD's new full-time Executive Director. Ruth replaces Thom Kerr, who resigned in June 2006.

Ruth comes to CRCPD with a B.S. degree in Biology and an M.S. degree in Radiation Sciences, and she is a Certified Health Physicist. She has been a long time supporter of CRCPD. Ruth has served on the Board of Directors as Chairperson and Treasurer. The treasurer is also the organization's historian, and in that role she authored *CRCPD: The First Twenty-Five Years*, which was published in 1993, the CRCPD Silver Anniversary. She has also been very active in CRCPD working groups, including chairing several committees. She received the Gerald S. Parker Award in 1994 and a CRCPD Board of Directors Outstanding Achievement Award in 1987. For 2005-2006, she served as President of the Health Physics Society, and from 1990-1994 she served on the American Board of Physics, including serving as Chairman.

New Executive Director

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Previous Work Experience

- Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, TX
 - ◇ 2004-2006 – Manager, Radiation Safety Licensing Branch, Division of Regulatory Services, Texas Department of State Health Services – responsible for management of statewide program for licensing uses of radioactive material, x-ray machines and services, and laser devices, technical assessments, fee collection, and records maintenance. Represented DSHS at national meetings and legislative and administrative hearings involving use of source radiation.
- Texas Department of Health, Austin, TX
 - ◇ 1989-2004 – Director, Division of Licensing, Registration and Standards, Bureau of Radiation Control – responsible for statewide program and budget management for permitting uses of radioactive material, x-ray machines and services, and laser devices, technical assessments and standards development. Represented TDH at national meetings and legislative and administrative hearings involving use of source radiation.
 - ◇ 1981-1989 – Administrator, Standards Branch, Division of Licensing, Registration and Standards, Bureau of Radiation Control – supervised development of regulations and regulatory guides and implementation of industrial radiography certification program.

Please join us in welcoming Ruth to the CRCPD/Office of Executive Director family. We look forward to the fruits of Ruth's knowledge, experience, and leadership, as well as her service to the CRCPD membership, as she seeks to support state radiation control programs and our partners dedicated to radiation protection. Ruth will be located in Austin, Texas. Her contact information will be provided at a later date.



Greetings from your Interim Executive Director

By Chuck Hardin (OED)

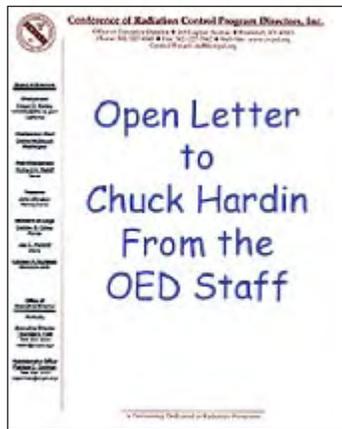


Goodbye
Aloha
Auf Wiedersehen
Au Revoir

The Board of Directors made an excellent choice in hiring Ruth McBurney as the new full time Executive Director. She brings many positives to CRCPD, and I know the organization will move forward under her leadership.

I want to thank the members of CRCPD, the Board of Directors, and the staff of the Office of Executive Director for their cooperation and assistance during my short tenure as Interim Executive Director. My tasks during this period have been challenging to say the least, and most of these challenges have been met with success.

I ask that our members now give their total support to our new Executive Director. Ruth’s job will be challenging, and she will need your cooperation and participation in the many programs of CRCPD. With your support, CRCPD will be an important force in providing radiation protection in our country, and particularly, in assisting the states in their effort of providing an important public service to their citizens



Chuck, twice you have come out of retirement at CRCPD times of need. There is only one reason—your dedication to this organization and to the staff. You really faced some significant challenges when you returned this time, and we are very thankful to you for stepping in and turning things around. You brought with you a warmth and respect that made such a difference. We treasure you, Chuck, and thank you so much for your leadership and your guidance during this time of transition.

We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices you made for us and for the organization. We thank you.

Lin *Bruce*
Sue *Terry*
Sharon *Curt*
Twila



CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities



ANS Winter Meeting

Phil Egidi (CO), Chairperson, Committee on Decontamination and Decommissioning (E-24)
Colorado Radiation Control Program

I attended the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Winter Meeting, November 12–16, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 1,500 people attended the conference, with a large international contingent. The theme of the conference was “Ensuring The Future In Times Of Change, Nonproliferation And Security.” Among the plenary speakers were Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) by video hookup from Washington DC. They were not able to predict how the recent changes in Congress would affect the nuclear renaissance that appears to be just over the horizon. With respect to waste, Sen. Domenici is concerned about the fate of Yucca Mountain now that Sen. Reid is in the majority. “We will see where the axe falls,” he said.

The full report can be viewed at www.crcpd.org/Reports.asp



The Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS)

Don Parry, CHP (MI), Member, G-2 Committee on Ionizing Measurements
Michigan Department of Public Health

The Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS) is an independent, non-profit council that draws together experts involved in all aspects of ionizing radiation to discuss, review and assess developments and needs in this field. They meet annually at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) facility in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I attended this meeting as part of CRCPD’s G-2 Committee on Ionizing Measurements. These annual meetings serve as forums for discussion of radiation measurement and standards issues. This year’s focus was on the implications of uncertainty in radiation measurements. The meeting entailed both a Plenary Agenda and separate workshop sessions for Medical Applications, Radiation Protection and Industrial Applications.

One of the main issues discussed during the meeting was the lack of a unified method to evaluate measurement uncertainty. While most laboratories involved in measurements follow the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Guide to Uncertainty Measurements (generally referred to as the GUM), this system does not work for all situations and little common ground exists on the use of modeling techniques to evaluate measurement systems.

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

(continued)

CIRMS Report continued

A good information resource for the evaluation of measurement uncertainty can be found on the NIST website at:

<http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Uncertainty/bibliography.html>

A copy of Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results, which is based on the comprehensive ISO publication, is also available on the NIST website at:

<http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/guidelines/TN1297/tn1297s.pdf>

Whatever method is used, the various workshops did clearly demonstrate the need for all individuals involved in measurements to perform some type of uncertainty analysis of their measurement system. This involves examining all factors that go into a measurement and evaluating how changes in each individual component affect the final result. Even a simple analysis can help point out those items that are more critical to the measurement (like good measurement geometry or detector energy response) and some that may be less important, such as atmospheric humidity or temperature.

The meeting was useful to the accredited calibration labs since the CRCPD accreditation criteria requires each lab to perform a detailed uncertainty analysis, but it is also useful to all individuals that perform radiation measurements since it points out that the accuracy of the instrument calibration is only one component in the overall accuracy of any measurement.



Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends (NEXT) Roundtable

John P. Winston (PA), Healing Arts Council Chair
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

On October 18-19, 2006, representatives from CRCPD, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), and the Society of Nuclear Medicine held a roundtable discussion in Rockville, Maryland, on current and future issues facing the NEXT program. Participants agreed that NEXT continues to provide valuable information and efforts to strengthen or expand the program are justified. Challenges include the availability of survey equipment because the FDA will not be able to provide equipment in the future. Due to financial constraints all organizations are looking to accomplish more with less funding. The participation of the state RCPs provides

CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities

(continued)

NEXT Roundtable continued

a unique value to the survey, and the physical presence of the surveyors should continue even if future surveys do not include radiation measurements.

Participants voiced concerns regarding the time between data collection and publication. The FDA continues to face attrition and individuals tasked with compiling the data are often juggling multiple assignments.

The roundtable recommends that the 2007 survey be on CT again, without any radiation measurements. Instead, extensive radiation measurements could be collected on the CT at selected facilities by the facility physicist. Once the measurements are collected, identical models nationwide can be targeted for a detailed paper survey of technique.

Interventional fluoroscopy was not selected for a future study because doses from interventional fluoroscopy procedures would be extremely difficult to determine due to all of the facets beyond technique factors impacting the dose. Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) data will be more readily available in the next few years, and the roundtable believes it would be more advantageous to postpone the survey of interventional fluoroscopy.

The possibility of conducting NEXT-like surveys on non-traditional modalities (e.g., nuclear cardiology, PET/CT) was discussed as well. The roundtable believes such surveys would provide valuable information. It is unlikely that the CDRH would be able to anchor such a survey since they are more x-ray machine specific. The private partners could possibly provide the CRCPD with the necessary technical support.

The roundtable concluded that the NEXT committee should meet soon to discuss the recommendations and findings of the meeting, and adjust their 5-year plan if necessary.



CRCPD NEWSBRIEF

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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: 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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Polonium-210 Information from CDC

Information From CDC About Polonium-210 in Recent Events in the United Kingdom

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/polonium/qa.asp>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/pdf/qa.pdf>
(updated 12/5/06)

Guidance for Public Health Departments and Clinicians Caring for Individuals Who May Have Been Recently Exposed to Polonium-210 (Po-210)

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/polonium/clinicians.asp>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/isotopes/pdf/clinicians.pdf>
(new or updated as of 12/7/06)

