



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

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A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

December 2008

Message from Chairperson John P. Winston



I grow to appreciate the contribution of all past Chairs more and more every day. The diversity of CRCPD activities is ever changing and expanding. Fortunately, I have an excellent knowledgebase to fall back on with the current Board of Directors and our Office of the Executive Director.

The Board met December 9-11, in New Orleans. Here I thought I'd be leaving the snow behind only to experience New Orleans' first snowfall in four years and only the second snowfall in almost 20 years! Our meeting was informative and productive. Our Council Chairs had many good things to say about the work of our active committees and task forces.

Our surveyor training for the 2008-2009 Cardiac Catheterization NEXT (Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends) Survey is complete and many are saying it was one of the best, if not the best, courses we've provided since the inception of NEXT. I thank Warren Freier, Dave Spelic, Steve Balter, and the entire NEXT team for their great work putting it all together. Now we are counting on the surveyors to complete and submit their allotment in a timely manner. We are pursuing new ways to expedite the availability of the survey results, and hope the completion of the survey portion is surveyor priority.

Inside

Greetings from Your Executive Director.....	3
CRCPD Recognized at IRPA Congress.....	6
National Radiation Protection Professionals Week Celebrated	8
Contact Information on Board Members.....	10

“What was once at 205 Capital Avenue?” may very well be a good trivia question a few years from now! The Office of Executive Director (OED) has been at this address for 19 years, and it has served us well. For those who don't know, the OED is located in a house converted to office space, with staff spread over three floors. We have now found office space in

**Message from
Chairperson
Winston**

[Continued]

Frankfort with personal offices for all of our OED staff, and with all of the office space on one level. This should provide efficiency in work interaction, storage, and utility costs, and the elimination of having people and hardware on three separate floors will be a welcome change. We are still working out the details; more information should be available soon.

A near-final draft of the HS/ER-2 Report on the CDC-CRCPD Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Response was distributed at the Board meeting. The document highlights the efforts to improve communication and collaboration of the nation's public health community and the radiation control programs, and is another great example of the work CRCPD is able to provide. Watch for the publication announcement in early 2009.

The Suggested State Regulations Council continues to roll out new suggested standards. Part R – Radon is final and several others are not far behind.

The results of the G-55 Training Committee's survey of need for x-ray field staff training alternatives are in. Most recognize the lack of available x-ray inspector training, especially for some of the newer technology like CR/DR, CT, and e-brachytherapy. The ideal is a modality-specific course with classroom and field instruction that can be hosted by a state or region to minimize cost and maximize opportunity. Participants may be expected to have completed some the available online introductory courses as a prerequisite so course-time can be used more effectively.

We are proposing a pilot training on CR/DR in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Not surprisingly, AAPM just proposed having their one-day training on CR/DR this year – the need is apparent. Our timeline is very very tight with only a couple of months to pull it together, but we hope to dovetail AAPM's full day of class instruction with some hands-on training at a nearby medical facility. We'll need a sufficient commitment from the state programs willing to cover the travel expenses of the trainees and a nominal registration fee to proceed. Jennifer Elee has volunteered to oversee the pilot and will be requesting a quick response from the Program Directors able to support an attendee (or three).

The current economic downturn is not making this training initiative any easier, but the G-55 survey results certainly show support. If the pilot does not come together for Columbus due to the short time frame, we hope to work toward a pilot elsewhere in mid to late 2009.

Message from Chairperson Winston

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Here is where I wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season. Hmm...do I wish for snow for those of you who have not seen it in 4+ years?? ...New Orleans folks appeared to enjoy it... but I better not. I do hope that you enjoy cherished time with family and friends and reflect on the gift you have and why it is so.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. - Mother Teresa



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

OED Changes: A Quick Glance Back at 2008 and Forward to 2009

To me, the year 2008 has sped by with lots of new activities, challenges, and opportunities at CRCPD, and specifically at the Office of Executive Director (OED). As we look forward to 2009, more significant changes are in store.

First, the year at a glance from the OED perspective:

- Software for both membership management and financial management has been purchased. Eventually, this will make the membership database, committee information, registration for meetings and meeting statistics much more automated than it is now. Staff members have received training and are working feverishly with the software company to make sure all the hiccups in the system are overcome. Although this has been a great challenge, we see it as an opportunity as well.

New and continuing grant opportunities:

- The federal umbrella cooperative agreement, which must be reapplied for every five years, was once again granted to CRCPD this year for another five years. Through the great volunteer work of the Board and committees, we are able to accomplish much for national radiation protection with the resources that this cooperative agreement provides.
- We completed the first year of the SCATR (Source Collection and Threat Reduction) project, funding the roundup of disused sources in Florida and broker collections in other states. Even with the closing of Barnwell, we continue to seek outlets for some of the sources registered. In a recent conference call with Department of Energy staff, we learned that Los Alamos is willing to recover any large sources (such

Greetings from Your Executive Director

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as disused teletherapy units), so states are asked to encourage radiation safety officers to register these at the OSRP web site <<http://osrp.lanl.gov/>>.

- EPA funding for radon activities has been renewed and extended.
- Through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OED staff assisted the HS/ER-2 committee and CDC in providing a roundtable to bring together several public health organizations for collaboration in responding to radiological emergencies. We have also entered into a new contract for conducting a follow-up workshop with these organizations to develop emergency response guidelines or other tools needed to assure adequate and coordinated radiological emergency preparedness.
- FRMAC (Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center) has renewed its contract for CRCPD maintenance of state emergency response resources and the funding of travel for other emergency response activities and meetings.
- NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) continues to fund collection of orphan sources. Along with the SCATR program, we have been able to fund or partially fund the disposition of many orphan and disused sources.

More collaboration

CRCPD has enhanced its outreach and has joined forces with several new organizations in 2008. A few of the ones with which I have personally been involved include:

- International: Two representatives from the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety asked specifically to meet with CRCPD in order to learn more about how radiation is regulated in this country. They visited with me and Ed Bailey, Chair of the G-61 Committee on International Outreach, in Austin, Texas.
- We have established a working relationship and liaison with the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) and have visited and shared information with the Steel Manufacturers Association. The issue of radioactive material in scrap metal remains a common issue for us and for these organizations.
- Image Gently™ Alliance: The Alliance for Pediatric Imaging has been an exciting new collaborative effort for using appropriate doses in pediatric procedures. At a recent meeting

Greetings from Your Executive Director

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of the Alliance in Chicago, CRCPD was acknowledged for developing a model letter, based on a letter from New York's State Health Commissioner to many physician and health care groups in that state, to be sent by states to the medical community for raising awareness of this issue. Although the Alliance started with a focus on computed tomography (CT), it also plans a similar rollout of initiatives in CR/DR, interventional radiology, fluoroscopy, and nuclear medicine.

So what's new and changing in 2009?

There are many other activities in the works that we hope to have completed in 2009. The most significant right now and for the next couple of months at the OED are:

We're moving! This fall, the Board of Directors asked the OED to look into options for the location of the executive offices. The Board voted to move the OED to a new location in Frankfort. We have selected a location and hope to be moved in by some time in February. You will definitely be hearing more about this in the next *Newsbrief*, complete with pictures. Also, we will be sending out a broadcast e-mail to the membership and other contacts with our new address.

Website: In conjunction with implementing the new software, we will also be changing the look and feel of the web site. The new web site design is anticipated to increase web site aesthetics, navigability, interaction, and volume. The redesign project began in February 2008 and is expected to be completed and available in the near future.

It's really hard to believe another year has passed, but in looking back, a lot has occurred and continues. I may be echoing Chairperson Winston's remarks, but the work of CRCPD really is diverse and growing by the day. I look forward to more positive change and outreach in the coming year.

Wishing all of you a joyous holiday season and successful 2009.

Ruth



CRCPD Recognized at IRPA Congress

By Debbie Gilley, Past-Chairperson

Six CRCPD members attended the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) 12 Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 19-24, 2008. CRCPD members were supported through a scholarship from the Health Physics Society or supported their own travel to the meeting. CRCPD partially funded the travel for the Past Chair of CRCPD, who submitted the paper for a poster about CRCPD.



L. to R. Ruth McBurney, Debbie Gilley, Barbara Hamrick, Edgar Bailey. Back row:: Dave Allard and Rob Greger



Over 1000 individuals attended the meeting representing 61 countries. There were 1500 abstracts submitted. CRCPD provided a poster presentation on “The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), A Model for Networking, Cooperation, Information Exchange and Regulation Harmonization.”

Edgar Bailey, Chair of the International Outreach Committee, and I provided author dialogue regarding the poster during the Monday afternoon presentations. Dave Allard provided a poster presentation on “Regulations and Guidelines for Dealing with Radioactivity in Solid Waste in Pennsylvania.” Dave also co-chaired one of the Special Technical Sessions on Radioactive Waste Management. Our own Ruth McBurney, Executive Director, gave the Keynote Lecture on the subject “NORM in Oil and Gas Industries.” Her presentation was entitled “Radiation Protection from NORM and TENORM in the Oil and Gas Industry: Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Approaches.”



CRCPD Recognized

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The meeting planners did a good job of sharing the best of Argentina with us during the social program. We were entertained by professional Tango dancers, visited historic sites, and savoured the taste of a real South American BBQ and “Opera Pampa,” the story of the early history of the country.

Ruth, Ed and I also used this opportunity to meet with representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to share information on the benefits CRCPD can provide to other countries. We feel that many of our products would be helpful for those in the early stages of developing a comprehensive radiation protection program and have encouraged future dialogue with IAEA. We hope to have a representative from IAEA at the 2009 annual meeting.



The opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and discuss international radiation protection issues was beneficial. I was



particularly interested in how other countries approach meeting the occupational standards based on International Commission on Radiation Protection Occupational Standards. It appears that other countries comply with these standards and we can learn from their experiences.

There is also more emphasis in other countries on medical dose considerations. It may be prudent for us to look at some of their scientific data when developing new regulations. The papers will be available on the IRPA web site <www.irpa12.org>. Though we think our issues are isolated, it is very refreshing to see that other countries are also working on improving radiation protection and that we have mutual concerns.

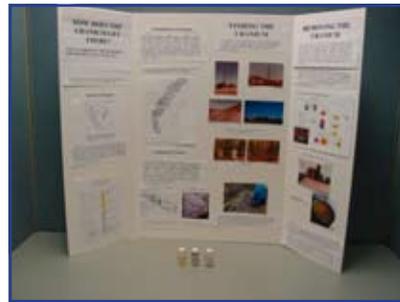


National Radiation Protection Professionals Week Celebrated

By Debbie Gilley (FL) and Susan Jablonski (TX)

Debbie Gilley and the Florida Department of Health and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, along with the CRCPD and the Health Physics Society, celebrated National Radiation Protection Professionals Week, November 2 -7, 2008.

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control activities included a display of this year's theme "Radiation Safety in 21st Century Medicine" in the common areas of one of the Department of Health buildings. The display identified many new "state of the art" medical applications that use radiation

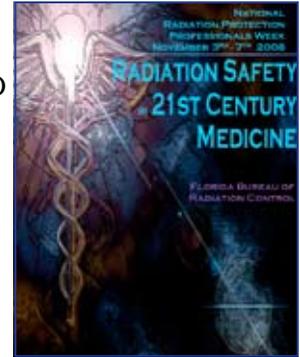


for detecting and treating human disease. These technological changes have advanced medicine and required Bureau radiation protection professionals to assess the radiation safety protection requirements of the technology so that Floridians can benefit from these medical marvels.

The Surgeon General for the state of Florida sent a letter of appreciation to each Bureau employee with a token of appreciation for a job well done. Each year the Bureau chooses to highlight a topic of interest within their regulatory responsibilities; past celebrations have included Quality Assurance in Mammography, Emergency Response, and History of Radiation Detection Equipment.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Radioactive Materials Division also celebrated with an open house. The purpose of the Radioactive Open House was to demonstrate how the duties and responsibilities of the Radioactive Materials Division contribute to the mission of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

They chose November 7, 2008, to celebrate the birthday of Madame Marie Curie, National Radiation Protection Professionals Week, and the anniversary of the discovery of the x-ray. Division staff members were available to answer questions and address misconceptions people have about radioactive materials and radioactivity, as well as demonstrate the benefits of radioactive materials in everyday lives.



National Radiation Protection Professionals Week

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This event also marked the one-year anniversary of the creation of a dedicated division for the regulation of radioactive materials at Texas' environmental agency. The party atmosphere, complete with games and snacks, gave visitors a chance to learn more about radioactive materials and the division's work. Both "Madame Curie" and "Albert Einstein" were on hand, as well as many educational displays—including a radiation museum.



Above: Devane Clark explains popular uranium history.

Left: Albert Einstein and Madame Curie greet attendees.

The open house was intended to be enjoyable, yet informative. Those of us of a certain age remember "duck and cover," and the constant concern over radiation fears. It was a part of our lives, and even a part of pop culture. The radiation museum that staff had set up showed the various ways our culture has related to radiation, from movies and comic books to an array of other items featuring the subject of radiation. In the 1950s, there were entire lines of "atomic toys" and household items with "atomic designs" on them, including fabric, furniture, and dishes. Today, there is a retro-revival of these items.



Another display that was popular was "Radioactivity Around Your House." Susan Jablonski, Division Director, said "I think it surprised a lot of people to know that every house has sources of radiation in it. For instance, one item that should be in everyone's home, that is radioactive, is a smoke detector. Since we've all see the news stories, we provided information on granite countertops and offered a handout on the topic. Another item that I think surprised everyone was the fact that we have natural radiation all around us—from uranium deposits in South Texas to the radioactive granite of the Texas Capitol!"



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