



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

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A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

February 2007

Message from Chairperson Pearce O'Kelley



Getting Back to Normal

After spending the last several months evaluating the future direction of CRCPD and searching for a new Executive Director, things are beginning to return to a little more normal state. Ruth McBurney assumed the Executive Director's position in early January and has already been very busy. She met with our Federal partners in Washington in mid-January and represented CRCPD at the mid-year Health Physics Society meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. CRCPD also had an exhibit at this meeting that was instrumental in getting some new affiliate members and some potential new vendors for our annual meeting.

Ruth spent her first week on the job at the Office of Executive Director in Frankfort becoming familiar with the operations. As you know by now, Ruth will reside in Austin, Texas, and visit the office monthly. Because of this arrangement, the Board felt that there needed to be an office manager on-site in Frankfort. Ruth, with the Board's concurrence, has given Sue Smith that assignment. Most of you know Sue and can relax knowing the office is in very capable and dedicated hands. We are very appreciative that Sue accepted this challenge.

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The Board held its fall meeting in December 2006. The meeting went well and much was accomplished. The Board approved the operating budget for this fiscal year; reviewed committee accomplishments, tasks, and membership; met with our Federal and association partners; approved the Board priorities for this year; and completed the draft agenda for the annual meeting. My thanks go to all that participated.

**Chairperson's
message**
(continued)

The Board used the CRCPD Strategic Plan to help develop our priorities for the coming year. Of particular interests were the need to improve communications with the membership; increase membership, including reaching out to new employees; improve our products; expand our outreach; and improve our funding base. Director Members can expect a call and/or visit from Board members to discuss these issues. Please be thinking of ways CRCPD can better serve you and your program. The specifics of the Board priorities are:

- Increase the Board's interaction with the States through direct contact.
 - Annually review methods/procedures that sustain and improve Board/membership interaction.
 - Increase membership and participation on working groups/ task forces, etc.
 - Determine what CRCPD can provide members to help them better perform their radiation control responsibilities to include any issues not currently being addressed.
 - Develop and request through member surveys the needs of the membership.
 - Expand the number and types of useful products such as:
 - Working group/task force white papers;
 - Handbooks;
 - Inspection Procedures;
 - Suggested State Regulations;
 - Outreach material that can be used for professional presentations by liaisons and members to other organizations and for developing opportunities for increased participation.
 - Complete and publish State radiation control programs profile.
 - Provide oversight, support and guidance to the Executive Director to ensure an effective and dynamic management structure.
 - Provide fiscally responsible management oversight to assure CRCPD is proactive on existing and emerging issues.
 - Explore and obtain new funding sources as well as opportunities to market our products.
 - Seek recommendations for creating new working group products.
 - Develop dual modality regulatory products and include minimum qualifications of operators.
 - Monitor and provide technical expertise on Homeland Security issues.
 - Be proactive and timely in developing position statements.
 - Continue and expand leadership in national and international radiation issues.
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Chairperson's message

(continued)

- Develop digital radiography regulatory products.
- Work with Federal/State/local/international agencies to enhance the visibility of radiation control programs and their role in protecting the public during routine and emergency situations involving nuclear/radiological materials.
- Develop partnership with the Department of Homeland Security and Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO).
- Explore opportunities to interface with other organizations and agencies interested in radiation protection issues.

Again I would like to thank everyone who contributes their time and effort in support of CRCPD and its mission. This includes all who serve on CRCPD committees, Federal working groups, and presenters at various meetings, along with the dedicated staff of the Executive Director's Office. I encourage all members to consider joining these selfless individuals and increase or begin your involvement with CRCPD. The professional rewards are numerous and your efforts will improve the protection of all from the harmful effects of radiation.

Don't forget to plan on attending the annual meeting May 21-24, in Spokane, Washington. Try to also bring a new member to introduce them to all CRCPD has to offer.



I have compared the last few weeks as the newest Executive Director to jumping onto a moving train and trying to learn how to steer it at the same time—it's a lot to take in. However, I am excited about all the things that CRCPD is involved in and the opportunities that are on the horizon to do more.

I hope to be able to communicate through various media with the Board and the membership about the projects the OED is involved in, including the use of the *Newsbrief*, e-mails and information on the web-site. One thing I haven't done is to choose a mascot for my articles, such as the famous Frankfort 'Fil or Thom's bear—maybe I don't need one since most of you have already heard a lot of my renditions and ramblings in other capacities I have held.

Since I started in the position on January 8, 2007, I haven't been in one location more than a week. As most of you know, the Board is allowing me to work from my home in Austin, Texas, and travel to the Frankfort office and to the Washington, D.C. area and other places as needed. Otherwise, I am connected by computer, PDA, a DSL phone that is a local call from Frankfort and

Greetings from your Executive Director

By Ruth E. McBurney, CHP
(OED)



**Executive Director's
message**
(continued)

the capability to conference call with the staff or the Board when needed. All this modern technology is making it possible for me to work in this manner.

I spent the first week in Frankfort getting to know the staff, meeting with them as a group and individually, and developing an organizational chart for the Office of Executive Director (OED), with consideration of a telecommuting ED. This involved the establishment of an Executive Office Manager for the Frankfort office to oversee day-to-day activities and provide administrative supervision to the staff there. Sue Smith has graciously agreed to serve in that capacity and I have great confidence in her ability to oversee the general office functions. The staff members are experienced and knowledgeable and have provided me good information on an overview of activities at the OED. Having Chuck Hardin, the interim ED, there to work with me the first week and show me the ropes was a great benefit in the transition.

I spent a couple of days in Washington, D.C., the following week, where I had the privilege of participating in the Radon Awards Ceremony at EPA, meeting with officials from the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, and also sitting in on some of the Radon Committee's deliberations. I also was able to visit with four NRC Commissioners and several senior staff members at NRC and to participate in a meeting with FDA senior staff from CDRH. At each of the Federal agencies, we discussed issues that are of interest to State radiation control programs, and how CRCPD and the agencies can better work together to bring about efficiencies in radiation protection in this country, considering the economic realities that face both Federal and State programs. I came away from the meetings with several challenges and action items that I will be working with the Board and Committees to accomplish. For example, NRC management would like to see more CRCPD members become involved in international missions and consultancies with IAEA, and to let the Commission know what our top priorities are that NRC can provide to State programs. For CDRH, we need to define the mammography training needs for presentation in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Conference.

While several of the CRCPD officers and I were at the Health Physics Society Midyear Meeting in Knoxville the following week, we received an offer from the Decommissioning Section to provide a training course at the CRCPD National Conference on Radiation Control annual meeting. This was exciting news, since this is the first time that HPS will present training in conjunction with our annual meeting. The course is entitled "Decommissioning and En-

**Executive Director's
message**
(continued)

vironmental Restoration Training.” They will be able to provide a lot of health physics expertise for our benefit.

Last week, I participated in a meeting of the Federal radiological emergency response Advisory Team. This team is made up of representatives from several of the Federal agencies that are involved in protection of food, health and the environment. The Advisory Team has expertise they can bring in the event of a natural, accidental or terrorist emergency involving radioactive material. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention invited two of the State members of the CRCPD Emergency Response Committee and me to participate and provide input on issues such as communication needs for exercises (face to face or through teleconferences), and also getting the word out to the States on the Advisory Team’s capabilities.

All in all, it has been a whirlwind first month on the job. I am hearing from our Federal partners what a valuable and unique organization we have that can provide a source for State views, issues and solutions all in one spot. I also want to hear from you, the membership, on how I and the staff at the OED can make your membership in CRCPD more valuable.



Election of CRCPD Board of Directors Officers

Ballots were mailed the last week of February to all Director and Associate members. They must be received at OED by COB March 15, 2007.

Ballots will be counted March 16, 2007. Stay tuned for the results.

Per the CRCPD Bylaws, the current Director and Associate Members are eligible to vote for the election of Board Officers. The candidates elected will be YOUR elected representatives to carry out the business of YOUR professional association.

The ballots will be counted at the OED on March 16th. Once the results are calculated, the Board will verify the results and the candidates will be notified. The OED will post the names of the new incoming officers on the CRCPD Website and inform the membership via e-mail.

Election of Board Officers

(continued)

What you must do for your vote to count

For a vote to be valid, in addition to the ballot being received by the OED by March 15, 2007, on the outside of the envelope the Director or Associate member's name must be printed (legibly), the State affiliation designated, and the envelope must be signed by the Director or Associate member. Every year the OED receives ballot envelopes that do not contain the above-mentioned **required** information. Those ballots are not counted. Completion of the upper left hand corner of the brightly colored envelope is essential for your vote to count.

Slate of officers

Chairperson-Elect: John P. Winston & Bernard Bevill

Treasurer: Jennifer Elee & Alice Rogers

Member-at-Large: Kimberly Steves & Mary Ann Spohrer

About the candidates for CRCPD Board of Directors

John P. Winston (Pennsylvania) for Chair-Elect



John is a Radiation Health Physicist for the Bureau of Radiation Protection in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He performs inspections of facilities that use radiation producing equipment and radioactive materials, is part of the emergency preparedness team, responds to incidents involving ionizing radiation, and drafts regulations and policy for the Bureau.

John received his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Pennsylvania State University in 1983. After two years working for a hazardous waste recycling company in Oakland, California, working his way up to Operations Manager, he answered the calls of Penn's Woods and returned to Pennsylvania, taking the position with the Bureau in 1986. He began his career in radiation protection in the Reading office near Philadelphia and transferred to the Pittsburgh office in 1990 before eventually moving to Meadville in 1997.

John has coauthored several studies, including the 1995 Pennsylvania Computed Tomography Study and the 1998 Dental Panoramic X-ray Study. John's participation in CRCPD began when he was at the Albuquerque Annual Meeting for the presentation the CT Study results. He became a Member of the Committee on Quality Assur-

**About the candidates
for CRCPD Board of
Directors**
(continued)

John Winston for Chair-Elect *(continued)*

ance in Diagnostic X-ray (H-7) and chaired the Committee through the publication of the Quality Control Recommendations for Diagnostic Radiology, Patient Exposure and Dose Guide, and several Q.A. Collectibles, as well as the review of all previous Q.A. Collectibles for relevancy and accuracy. For their efforts, H-7 Committee members were honored with the Board of Directors Award for Meritorious Service and the Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection, and John was awarded the James W. Miller Award.

John also was Chairperson of the Task Force to Minimize the Risk from Fluoroscopy (H-22). The Task Force assembled a packet of information for distribution to State radiation control programs.

In July 2004, John began his term as the Treasurer of CRCPD. As part of a very active Board of Directors, he assisted in the search and hiring of two Executive Directors. His term as Treasurer includes a period of difficult decisions regarding CRCPD activities when CRCPD was faced with a budget substantially less than recent years.

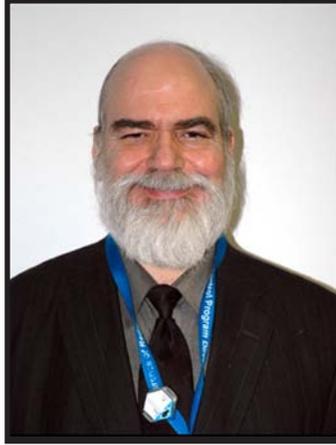
The efforts and achievements of the Office of the Executive Director and Board provide a bright and challenging future for CRCPD and John wishes to be part of it. John is dedicated to the continued growth of the CRCPD as a recognized source of collaborated information and expertise in the field of radiation protection. Regulatory agencies, professional societies, etc., have come to rely on the CRCPD's positions and recommendations. Therefore, it is essential that the Conference remain proactive with regard to the impact of innovative technologies and world events and have the resources available to accomplish the mission of the CRCPD.

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About the candidates for CRCPD Board of Directors

(continued)

Bernard (Bernie) Bevill (Arkansas) for Chair-Elect



Bernie Bevill is the Radiation Control Section Chief within the Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services' Division of Health. He has been involved in the department's radiological health activities since December 15, 1974. During his 32+ year career with the department, he has responded to numerous events ranging from trips to the garbage dumps on the hot July days looking for lost radioactive sources, to responding to a Titan II missile incident in 1980 involving a real nuclear warhead

propelled into the environment, to participating in a wide variety of emergency exercises, to conducting "Come to Moses" meetings with radioactive material licensee management.

Bernie majored in physics at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. He graduated in with a B.A. in Physics in 1972.

Over the years, he has been active in the following CRCPD Committees and Task Forces:

- E-6 Emergency Response Committee (1989 – 1996)
(Chairperson from 1992 thru 1996)
- G-53 Committee on Public Information on Radiation Protection (2001-2002)
- H-31 Task Force for Monitoring Patient Dose During Fluoroscopy (2005 – to present)

One of the CRCPD's most valuable contributions to its membership and to its regulated community is the work provided by its committees and task forces. These committees and task forces provide excellent interface between the Federal and State agencies, allowing each organization to keep abreast of the myriad of emerging issues and to listen to each other during intelligent discourse.

Bernie is married to Deborah Marlowe Springer Bevill-Bethuel. Together, they have two birds, and one dog. One of the birds is a Malaccan Cockatoo that Bernie affectionately refers to as his 'Talking Chicken.' Bernie is a member of the Congregation B'nai Israel in Little Rock. There, he is active in the Temple Men's Club.

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About the candidates for CRCPD Board of Directors

(continued)

Jennifer Elee (Louisiana) for Treasurer



Jennifer is an Environmental Scientist with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Jennifer was one of the first inspectors certified under MQSA to conduct mammography inspections. In addition to mammography, Jennifer conducts State inspections of radioactive material licensees and x-ray registrants. She also works closely with the enforcement and permitting sections. Jennifer has participated in the FDA compliance program and the NEXT program, and she participates in nuclear power plant exercises and provides support for all radiological emergency response, including WHIP issues. Jennifer also provides training for State inspectors and radiologic technologists as needed.

Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management Systems with an emphasis on Environmental Health from Louisiana State University. Jennifer has been with LDEQ for 13 years. In addition to completing the MQSA courses, Jennifer has completed additional training courses sponsored by NRC and FEMA.

Jennifer has been an active member of CRCPD for many years. She has served on the Mammography Committee (H-11) since 1997 as an advisor, a member, and as chairperson. Jennifer also was chair of the MQSA Working Group and a member of the MQSA Inspection Frequency Task Force. Under Jennifer's leadership, the H-11 Mammography Committee sponsored MQSA continuing education programs in 2000, 2002 and 2003. The committee also presented Training for Mammography Supervisors in 2001. Jennifer serves as an advisor to the NEXT Committee and the Emerging Issues Committee. Jennifer is currently serving as ACR Liaison (H-23) and as chairperson of the Committee on Quality Assurance in Diagnostic X-ray (H-7). She has received CRCPD's Award for Meritorious Service in 2000, 2002 and 2004.

Jennifer is committed to strengthening CRCPD through increased awareness and increased membership. Jennifer realizes that we must reach out to all of those in our field. CRCPD offers wonderful opportunities for training, outreach and leadership. With restrictions on funding, we must work to make sure that we make the most of all opportunities. It is important that we find ways to creatively use the funding and resources available to us.

**About the candidates
for CRCPD Board of
Directors**
(continued)

Jennifer Elee for Treasurer (continued)

CRCPD must continue to provide support to States and State radiation employees; it is also important that we make the public aware of our organization and all it has to offer. We have to continue to work with all States, other professional organizations, and Federal agencies to promote our field and our organization. We should reach out to tap new sources both for funding and for membership. An organization is only as strong as its membership, and it is imperative that CRCPD continue to grow. Jennifer is committed to finding new and innovative ways to promote CRCPD, thus increasing both membership and funding.

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Alice Rogers (Texas) for Treasurer



Alice Rogers is Manager of the Texas Department of State Health Services Inspections Unit. She is responsible for the statewide management of radiation control inspections, investigations, and nuclear emergency response. Her responsibilities include strategic planning, budget development and tracking, personnel management (including succession planning), developing legislation and regulations, preparing impact statements, testifying before governing boards of other

agencies and national committees. Further responsibilities include development and administration of statewide policies, coordination of regulatory activities with the Food and Drug Administration, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure efficient, effective, and uniform regulatory programs, and continuous quality improvement activities to address ongoing program improvements.

Alice has 25 years experience in State government, 17 of which have been in radiation control. Alice has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and is a Licensed Professional Engineer.

Alice served as Secretary of the Organization of Agreement States in 2000, 2005, 2006 and 2007. She has served on numerous OAS-CRCPD-NRC working groups including the low-level radioactive waste disposal clearance rule, hurricanes lessons learned, Energy Policy Act Sub-task force on sealed source disposal, and Energy

**About the candidates
for CRCPD Board of
Directors**
(continued)

Alice Rogers for Treasurer (continued)

Policy Act Section 652 and 656. As Secretary of OAS she began the tradition of taking notes during critical meetings and conference calls and emailing them soon thereafter to the membership. She has been a member of CRCPD since 1995. She has served CRCPD as a member of the E-5 Committee on Low-Level Radioactive Waste and has presented papers at the annual meetings.

Alice is interested in ensuring that the CRCPD remains a leading force in radiation control regulation.

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Kimberly Steves (Kansas) for Member-at-Large



Kim Steves is an Environmental Scientist for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Radiation and Asbestos Control Program. Kim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from Kansas State University. She has over 16 years experience working in the

Kansas Radiation Control Program.

At KDHE, Kim currently holds the position of Supervisor of Environmental Radiation, Emergency Preparedness, and Right-To-Know programs. Kim has responsibility for all agency radiological emergency planning and preparedness activities. She also oversees a radiological environmental monitoring and surveillance program for contaminated sites in Kansas and for Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, and all NORM related issues. Kim also manages the Kansas Radon Program and the Community Right-To-Know programs.

In addition to her regular work duties, Kim is also a REP Exercise Evaluator for the Department of Homeland Security - FEMA. She is currently the past-chair of the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference Steering Committee and has served on that committee since 2001. She is a member of the Health Physics Society.

Within the CRCPD, Kim has served as a member of the S-7 Outreach Task Force, which was created with the purpose of increasing membership participation in CRCPD. She was also the chairperson for the HS-4 Task Force for Review of the DHS

**About the candidates
for CRCPD Board of
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(continued)

Kimberly Steves for Member-at-Large (continued)

document "Application of Protective Action Guides for Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) and Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Incidents." Currently Kim is a member of the E-25 Committee on Radon, and the chair of the HS-6 Task Force for RDD/IND Scenarios as Examples for State Preparations.

Kim believes strongly in the value and importance of the CRCPD as the professional organization representing and providing leadership to the State radiation control programs. She would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors as Member-At-Large to help ensure that the messages and issues of the State radiation control programs are heard, and that State/Federal communication and cooperation continues.

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Mary Ann Spohrer (Illinois) for Member-at-Large



Mary Ann Spohrer is the Electronic Products Section Supervisor for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Bureau of Radiation Safety. In this capacity she supervises and oversees the x-ray inspection/survey programs including mammography, medical and industrial x-ray, NEXT, and most recently laser facility inspections. Additionally, Mary Ann is an MQSA inspector and has been performing mammography inspections since the inception of the MQSA program. She also has performed the surveys for the NEXT program for the last several years.

Prior to coming to Illinois in 1991, Mary Ann worked for the Radiation Control Programs in both Wisconsin and Indiana. In 1987 she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and in 1994, a Master's degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Mary Ann has been involved with CRCPD for a number of years as an Associate Member and she has served on various committees as a member and advisor. Mary Ann has served on the NEXT Committee as a member since 1999, including Chairperson from 2000-2005. She currently is a member of the NEXT Committee as well as the Task Force for Suggested State Regulations Part B (Registration of Radiation Machine Facilities and Services) and Part F (Diagnostic X-rays and Imaging Systems in the Healing

About the candidates for CRCPD Board of Directors (continued)

Mary Ann Spohrer for Member-at-Large (continued)

Arts). She is also a member of the Task Force for Monitoring Patient Dose during Fluoroscopy. In 2003 Mary Ann chaired the Task Force that put together the 2003 National Symposium on Fusion Imaging and Multimodalities: Technical and Regulatory Considerations. For her various efforts Mary Ann has been awarded two Board of Directors Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection in 2004 and in 2005 she was the recipient of the James W. Miller Award.

Mary Ann recognizes that CRCPD is an organization dedicated to providing a leadership role in helping to maintain and encourage high standards of quality in radiation protection programs throughout the United States as well as abroad. She would like to assist and further this mission by becoming a Member-at-Large on the CRCPD Board.



CRCPD Working Group Activities



NCRP update

By Dave Allard (PA), G-50 Liaison to NCRP

Mark your calendar for the upcoming NCRP Annual Meeting at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, on April 16–17, 2007. The topic of this year's meeting is "Advances in Radiation Protection in Medicine," and this should be of great interest to the CRCPD membership.

To begin, a keynote address titled "Use and Misuse of Radiation in Medicine" will be given by James A. Brink of Yale University. The presentations to follow on day one of the meeting cover the following topics:

- Magnitude of Radiation Uses and Doses in the United States: NCRP Scientific Committee 6-2 Analysis of Medical Exposures;
- Dose in Computed Tomography: How to Quantitate, How to Reduce;
- Pediatric Dose Reduction in Computed Tomography;
- Diagnostic Reference Levels for Medical Imaging with Ionizing Radiation: ICRP Guidance;
- Capturing Patient Doses from Fluoroscopically-Based Diagnostic and Interventional Systems;
- Update on Linear Nonthreshold Dose-Response Model and Implications for Diagnostic Radiology Procedures;
- Research Involving Human Subjects;
- Radiation and Pregnancy;

Working Group activities

(continued)

NCRP update (continued)

- Operational Radiation Safety for PET, PET-CT and Cyclotron Facilities; and
- Combined Imaging Modalities - PET/CT and SPECT/CT.

At the end of the first day the 31st Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture will be given by Patricia Durbin on “The Quest for Therapeutic Actinide Chelators.”

The second day’s topics are:

- Exposure Reduction Through Quality Assurance for Diagnostic X-Ray Procedures;
- State of Art: Computed Radiography and Digital Radiography;
- Developments in Mammography;
- Trends in Utilization and Collective Doses from Medical Procedures;
- Cone-Beam Imaging in Dentistry;
- Overview of Interventional Procedures;
- Patient and Personnel Safety in Interventional Fluoroscopy Procedures;
- Technical Advances of Interventional Fluoroscopy and Flat-Panel Image Receptor;
- New Technologies in Radiation Therapy: Ensuring Patient Safety, Radiation Safety, and Regulatory Issues in Radiation Oncology;
- Dose to Normal Tissues Outside the Radiation Therapy Patient’s Treated Volume: A Review of Different Radiation Therapy Techniques
- Patient Susceptibility to Radiation-Induced Cancer and Second Cancers Following Radiotherapy Procedures;
- Panel Discussion

For online registration information and a complete program with speaker names and other details, see <<http://www.ncrponline.org>>. There is no registration fee for the meeting. If you are staying at the Crystal City Marriott, be sure to mention the NCRP meeting, as the hotel meeting rate is better than the government rate. Unless you plan to drive or take the train into D.C., the easiest travel logistics are flying into National Airport and taking the Metro to Crystal City. If you book late and find the meeting hotel full, there are other hotels in the general area.

I expect the usual high quality program for this year’s NCRP meeting. The 2006 annual meeting was on Chernobyl, 20 years after the accident. That meeting was quite good, but understandably, a

Working Group activities

(continued)

NCRP update (continued)

bit more narrow in focus than normal. NCRP had a number of good international speakers that reviewed the impact of the Chernobyl accident, environmental contamination and distribution, radionuclide migration, biological effects on plants and animals, cleanup, dosimetry, health effects, entombment of the reactor, thyroid cancer, psychological effects, lessons-learned, and ongoing research. As usual, the proceedings of all NCRP annual meetings are published in the Health Physics Journal. Thus, if you'd like to learn more about this tragic accident and ongoing efforts in the region, watch for the full papers in an upcoming issue of the journal.

I have only a minor negative comment to add on last year's meeting. They should have had someone review the early phase of the accident itself. That is, it would have been useful to step through the first minutes, hours and days to hear what was done to the reactor to cause such destruction and on the actual early phase emergency response.

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H-4 Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends update

By Warren Freier (ND), H-4 Chairperson

The H-4 Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends (NEXT) committee met to review, discuss and propose past, current and future activities associated with the committee operation. The meeting was held January 9 & 10, 2007 in Rockville, Maryland.

Attendees included; Warren Freier (ND) chair; Mary Ann Spohrer (IL); Aaron Gantt (SC); Bruce Matkovich (MI); John Neal (NE) by phone; Jan Martensen (ACA); Jerry Adams (MD); Dave Spelic (CDRH); Stan Stern (CDRH); Tom Ohlhaber (CDRH); Stephanie Belella (CDRH); Petro Shandruk (CDRH); Rick Kaczmarek (CDRH); Mike Hilohi (CDRH contractor); Michael Leal (ORA); Mahadevappa Mahesh (AAPM); and Penny Butler (ACR).

In addition to the future 2008 survey, the Committee is currently dealing with three works in progress surveys. The 2000 CT tabulation and graphical summary and trifold are complete. The trifold is available on CRCPD's website; the tabulation and summary document has just been forwarded to CRCPD for review and publication. Stanley Stern has prepared a very organized, thorough, and comprehensive compilation of these data, which are presented in a color enhanced format.

Discussion regarding the 2003 Upper GI fluoroscopy survey included formatting and timeliness. Rick Kaczmarek's compilation of this

Working Group activities*(continued)***NEXT update** *(continued)*

survey will present data subsets for digital imaging, overhead tubes, and non-hospital facilities. Preliminary data have been reviewed and are included in the recently published “Thirty Years of NEXT” trifold (available on the CRCPD website). Dave Spelic provided attendees with color copies of this trifold.

Dave Spelic presented information regarding the 2005 CT survey. Mid-November was the cut-off date for data collection and Dave reported a completion rate of 70.5%. A total of 251 surveys have been received and many states completed 100% of their assigned surveys. Thank you to the States and their respective surveyors for their dedication and timely participation.

A large portion of the committees’ time was spent in discussion regarding planning for the future of the NEXT survey program. FDA has announced they will be moving and downsizing their calibration laboratory and services offered. The calibration laboratory has agreed to continue to support NEXT instrument calibration. The DMQRP Office of Communication, Education and Radiation (OCER) is in the process of conducting a permanent transfer of MDH instruments currently used in the NEXT program to those States that participate in the program. Radcal Corporation will continue to repair the 1015/1515 on a parts available basis. Once parts no longer are available, service will be discontinued.

The working title for the upcoming survey will be “NEXT 2008 Cardiac and Interventional Fluoroscopy Survey.” Utilization of these procedures has increased significantly and therefore these procedures have become a larger contributor to dose. The committee is looking at conducting this survey much like the recent CT surveys.

In that respect, it is being proposed as a “two phase” survey process. The first phase would consist of a facility questionnaire survey attempting to capture utilization and frequencies for various procedures performed within this fluoroscopy subset. It would include such information as operator and assistant qualifications, institutional radiation safety actions and documentation, equipment characteristics, a copy of the latest medical physics test, etc. The second phase would be obtaining, by measurement, some equipment operating characteristics. The very complex nature of these exams (procedures) will require a longer planning and development period; as such it is being proposed to begin training State participants for the protocol by the spring of 2008 with data collection to begin immediately thereafter.

A letter to Dr. Carol Marcus that may be of interest

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

TSA HQ East Tower
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 22202-4220

JAN 22 2007



**Transportation
Security
Administration**

Thank you for your December 17, 2006, letter requesting a policy statement on the carriage of radiation detection devices and check sources on commercial aircraft. We understand that you have previously inquired about this policy through conversations with employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Contact Center, who suggested that leaders of Federal medical emergency response teams make prior arrangements with airport personnel on a trip-by-trip basis.

Based on your letter and conversations with my staff, we understand these check source devices to be small (coin-sized) objects that contain tiny amounts of radioactive material in a sealed enclosure. Further, we understand that these check sources are used to help determine the operability of radiation survey meters and that the amount of radioactive materials contained therein places the devices into the exempt category of Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines.

TSA does not prohibit carriage of the devices described in your letter either as part of an individual's accessible property (items brought into the cabin of an aircraft) or in an individual's checked baggage. These devices will be screened by applying standard screening protocols to include x-ray examination. Once a Transportation Security Officer determines that the device is not itself, and does not contain, a prohibited item, the device will be cleared for travel. For further information on prohibited items, please visit the TSA website at www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel.

In coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT), TSA screening procedures also address the processing of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) discovered during the screening process. Although DOT regulates the transportation of radioactive materials from a safety perspective, the quantity and types of radioactive materials in the check sources as described in your letter are not subject to DOT restrictions and therefore do not trigger TSA HAZMAT-related screening procedures.

Given the information above, your assistance and response teams need not coordinate with airport or TSA officials prior to boarding flights in order to transport these devices aboard commercial aircraft. If you experience any difficulty during the screening of these devices, please ask to speak to the Assistant Federal Security Director for Screening at that airport.

We appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns with us and hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Morris McGowan
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Security Operations



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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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CRCPD membership dues are due!

The deadline for paying your 2007 CRCPD membership dues has been extended to March 15, 2007. For those who haven't already paid their 2007 dues, dues second notices will be sent on or about March 1.

Anyone whose dues payment has not been received by March 15th will be stricken from the CRCPD membership list.

Director and Associate members must pay their dues by March 15th or their ballots will not be counted for the election of Board of Directors officers.

If you have not received your dues notice please contact Twila Barnett at 502/227-4543, Ext. 2224 or e-mail <tbarnett@crcpd.org>.

