

The Boice Report #13



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ICRP Main Commission Meeting in Cambridge, U.K., in April 2013

The Boice Report marks its one-year anniversary with Column #13. The first column appeared in [Health Physics News in April 2012](#) with the intent to provide informative brief reports on recent activities in radiation protection, radiation measurements, radiation science, and radiation health. The first column covered the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Main Commission meeting that was held 15–18 April 2012 in Versailles, France.

This 13th report covers the ICRP Main Commission meeting held 15–18 April 2013 in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The Main Commission is renewed (revived?) every four years, and this was the last meeting of the 2009–2013 commission ([see photo on page 25](#)). ICRP is an English organization and has formal relations with the International Society of Radiology. The constitution requires that at least three members change at each new term, that a radiologist be a member, and that at least one member be from the United Kingdom.

- Returning members of the Main Commission are Claire Cousins (chair, United Kingdom), Jacques Lochard (vice chair, France), John Boice (United States), Abel González (Argentina), Jai-Ki Lee (Korea), Hans Menzel (Switzerland), William Morgan (chair, Committee 1 [C1], USA), Ohtsura Niwa (Japan), and Eliseo Vañó (chair, Committee 3 [C3], Spain).
- Retiring members of the Main Commission are John Cooper (United Kingdom), Zi Qiang Pan (China), Jan Pentreath (United Kingdom), and Nataliya Shandala (Russia).
- New members of the Main Commission are John Harrison (chair, Committee 2 [C2], United Kingdom), Carl-Magnus Larsson (chair, Committee 5 [C5], Australia), Hua Liu (China), and Sergey Romanov (Russia).
- Nearly 200 nominations were received for membership on one of the five ICRP committees. Nearly half of the 76 committee members will be new for the 2013–2017 term (<http://new.icrp.org/page.asp?id=3>).
- Two HPS members are on the Main Commission (John Boice and William Morgan) and other HPS members serve on each of the five ICRP committees.
- For the first time as far as I can recall, emeritus status was conferred upon committee (and not Main Commission) members: Keith Eckerman, Sören Mattson, and Marvin Rosenstein. Keith and Marvin are longtime HPS members.
- The First ICRP Symposium on the International System of Radiological Protection was held in Bethesda, Maryland, in October 2011 and proceedings were published in the Annals of ICRP (<http://new.icrp.org/publication.asp?id=ICRP%202011%20Proceedings>). The second ICRP symposium will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 22–24 October 2013 (<http://new.icrp.org/page.asp?id=141>).
- ICRP Publication 123, *Assessment of Radiation Exposure of Astronauts in Space* (authors G Dietze, DT Bartlett, FA Cucinotta, M Pelliccioni, T Sato, V Petrov, G Reitz, IR McAulay, X Jia, and DA Cool) will be published this year (and will be the last ICRP publication by Elsevier).

- The publication of the Annals of the ICRP is transitioning from Elsevier to Sage Publishing. Don't forget to renew your subscription!
- Upcoming ICRP reports approved for publication include *Radiological Protection in Security Screening and Protection of the Environment Under Different Exposure Situations*.
- ICRP efforts in relation to Fukushima include participation in the International Academic Conference on Radiation Health Risk Management in Fukushima on 25 February 2013 (all presentations are now available at www.fmu.ac.jp/radiationhealth/conference/index.html) and the Fukushima Dialogue Initiative. Task Group 84 (TG 84) is about to submit for publication an in-depth overview of the lessons being learned with regard to radiological protection (ICRP 2012; Boice 2013a, 2013b).
- Reports soon to be available for public consultation include *Radiation Dose to Patients From Radiopharmaceuticals: A Fourth Addendum to ICRP Publication 53* (TG 36) and *Stem Cell Biology in Relation to Carcinogenic Radiation Risk* (TG 75).
- Recent ICRP publications include *Radiological Protection in Cardiology* (ICRP Publication 120) and *Radiological Protection in Paediatric Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology* (ICRP Publication 121) (<http://new.icrp.org/publications.asp>).
- Extensive discussions were held on fundraising possibilities to support essential radiation protection activities.
- Remember the U.K. National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), which in 2003 morphed into the Health Protection Agency? It has now undergone another reorganization into Public Health England (PHE) and will be incorporated into the Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE). Dr. Paul Cosford, director of health protection at PHE, arrived on a bicycle and discussed the continuing support and needs for radiological protection expertise.
- Stimulating exchanges with the U.K. Society for Radiological Protection (SRP is second in size only to the HPS) included SRP President-elect Peter Marsden and SRP Immediate Past President Chris Englefield. The recommended dose limit for the lens of the eye and implementation challenges were discussed. The success of the *Journal of Radiological Protection* was noted. SRP doesn't have a problem with name cognizance.
- [The photograph on page 25](#) is of the 2009–2013 ICRP Main Commission, which consists of 13 members and the scientific secretary. The meeting was hosted by the master (Professor Adrian Dixon) of Peterhouse College, the oldest college in Cambridge. One half expected a Harry Potter character to pop up now and then in this Hogwarts-like setting. Cambridge was named after the “bridge over the river Cam” and is the home of the The Eagle pub, where Watson and Crick divined the double helix (twisted ladder) structure for DNA.

References

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Boice JD Jr. ICRP Meets in Fukushima City in November 2012 (The Boice Report #10). Health Physics News XLI (3):15–17; 2013b. Available at: www.ncrponline.org/PDFs/BOICE-HPnews/10-ICRP-Fukushima-Mar2013.pdf. Accessed 29 April 2013.

International Commission on Radiological Protection. Report of ICRP task group 84 on initial lessons learned from the nuclear power plant accident in Japan vis-à-vis the ICRP system of radiological protection. 2012. Available at: <http://new.icrp.org/docs/ICRP%20TG84%20Summary%20Report.pdf>. Accessed 28 April 2013.

2009–2013 ICRP Main Commission at Peterhouse, Cambridge University Cambridge, U.K. – April 2013



Sitting, left to right: John Boice (U.S.), Nataliya Shandala (Russia), William Morgan (U.S.), Claire Cousins (U.K., Chair), Abel González (Argentina, Vice Chair), Eliseo Vañó (Spain). Standing, left to right: Hans Menzel (Switzerland), Zi Qiang Pan (China), John Cooper (U.K.), Christopher Clement (Canada, Scientific Secretary), Jacques Lochard (France), Jai-Ki Lee (South Korea), Jan Pentreath (U.K.), Ohtsura Niwa (Japan), Michiya Sasaki (Japan, Assistant Secretary).

NCRP News

James R. Cassata, PhD, CHP (Executive Director, NCRP) and K.L. "Ken" Groves, HPS Fellow (Joint CDC/NCRP IND Detonation Workshop/TTX, Planning Chair)

NCRP Conducts Improvised Nuclear Device Detonation Workshop and Tabletop Exercise Under Grant From CDC

Under a grant to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NCRP planned and conducted a workshop/tabletop exercise (TTX) that addressed the medical and public health aspects of a response to an improvised nuclear device (IND) terrorism scenario. This activity took place in Bethesda, Maryland, on 12–13 March, immediately following the 2013 NCRP Annual Meeting. By design, the TTX addressed only the medical and public health aspects of the response.

NCRP published NCRP Report No. 165, "Responding to a Radiological or Nuclear Terrorism Incident: A Guide for Decision Makers" (www.ncrppublications.org/Reports/165) in January 2010. This report, supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), provides concise and readily understandable guidance for key emergency-response decision makers, including on-site commanders, managers responsible for providing assets to facilitate an effective response, and public officials at the local, regional, state, tribal, and national levels who are responsible for decisions affecting public health, safety, and security.

The workshop/TTX was designed to review the recommendations in the report and identify and address additional guidance that would be useful to the medical and public health community in the event of an IND detonation. This workshop/TTX included participants representing stakeholder groups (local, state, and federal government organizations) involved in preparing for and respond-



Ken Groves, emergency response expert and exercise planning chairman, provides one of the workshop orientation lectures to the participants.

Security Administration, Office of Emergency Response, www.nnsa.energy.gov/about/ourprograms/emergencyoperationscounterterrorism), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Medical Emergency Radiological Response Team-Medical Emergency Radiological Response Team www.va.gov/VHAEMERGENCYMANAGEMENT/CEMP/CEMP_MERRT.asp), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, www.phe.gov/emergency/radiation/Pages/default.aspx). Also included were presentations on an overview of NCRP Report No. 165 and a more detailed presentation on Section 7 of the report that describes the medical and public health aspects of responding to radiological and nuclear terrorism incidents. In addition, the workshop introduced the participants to the scenario for the TTX that was held the following day.

The TTX divided the participants into two groups composed of both medical and public health experts who addressed two “time slices” of the early and intermediate phase of the response. Those time slices were the “First Few Hours” and “First Few Days,” which are the time frames addressed in NCRP Report No. 165. Both groups then compared actions/issues they addressed or identified in each time slice and discussed where either a gap exists or additional or expanded information would be valuable to the community.

NCRP is finalizing the results of the “Joint CDC/NCRP IND Detonation Workshop/TTX” and preparing a report to CDC as a deliverable under the CDC grant. A presentation of the results of the final report to CDC will be provided in the “Homeland Security Special Session” at the 2013 Health Physics Society Annual Meeting in Madison later this summer. The report and its recommendations will also be available on both the NCRP and CDC websites when complete.

ing to the medical and public health aspects of nuclear terrorism incidents. The TTX scenario presented challenges that would result from the detonation of a 10 kT IND at ground level in a large metropolitan area (National Planning Scenario No. 1 from the National Response Framework).

The workshop included presentations describing the resources and assets that would be available to local and state responders from the federal government. These presentations included current information from the U.S. Department of Defense (United States Northern Command, www.northcom.mil), the U.S. Department of Energy (National Nuclear