

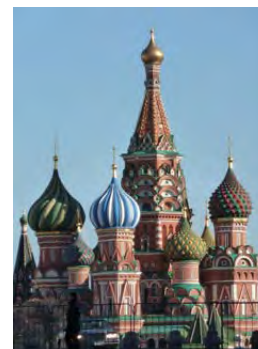
The Boice Report #25



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ICRP Main Commission in Moscow

The “Boice Report” is entering its third year of continuous monthly columns, and I find myself in Moscow near the Kremlin and the Basilica (photo to the right). Looking back, my columns often appear like a travelogue: Abu Dhabi, Cambridge, Versailles, Vienna, Fukushima City, and of course Oak Ridge. Join the radiation protection community and see the world! It had been many decades since I traveled to Russia, and I was surprised at how much like a European city Moscow has become. Despite the political turmoil, we experienced no difficulties.



The Moscow Basilica
Photo courtesy of
John Boice

So what did we learn about the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) at the meeting in Moscow?

- **Ethics:** The founder of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), Lauriston Taylor, wrote in [1957](#): “Radiation protection is not only a matter for science. It is a problem of philosophy, and morality, and the utmost wisdom.” ICRP has now adopted a carefully written “[Code of Ethics](#).” It emphasizes commitment to the public, independence, impartiality, transparency, accountability—shouldn’t we all be so focused in life? At the 2014 Health Physics Society (HPS) Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the International Radiation Protection Association is cosponsoring the [Workshop on the Ethical Dimensions of Radiological Protection](#) on 17–18 July.
- **Ion Therapy:** The report “[Radiological Protection in Ion Beam Radiotherapy](#)” is now posted for consultation. It addresses the patient and staff issues surrounding the clinical uses of carbon ions and protons in treating patients with cancer. Among the many unique complexities of such therapies, secondary neutrons are produced and structures become radioactive.
- **Radionuclide Doses, Stem Cells, and Cone Beams:** Coming soon is the first in a long-awaited series on specific absorbed fractions for internal emitters in the adult. Also approved for public consultation were draft reports “Stem Cell Biology in Relation to Carcinogenic Radiation Risk” and “Radiological Protection in Cone Beam Computed Tomography.”
- **Radiation Protection in Russia:** An informative day was spent with Russian colleagues at the Burnasyan Federal Medical Biophysical Center. The breadth and challenges of radiation protection in Russia were presented in a morning symposium. The issues faced are similar to those in the United States: aging nuclear installations, inadequate storage facilities for radioactive waste, requirements for environmental cleanup, and continued need for studying the potential long-term health effects in radiation workers and the public. We also visited “Clinic 6,” where bone marrow transplants were performed for the Chernobyl emergency responders who suffered from [acute radiation sickness](#) in 1986.
- **Plutonium Workers:** Russian plutonium workers at the [Mayak](#) facility inhaled and ingested large amounts of plutonium, so much so that lung fibrosis developed in addition to lung cancer. Combined analyses are being performed with the [British Sellafield](#) plutonium workers who experienced much lower intakes. It might be informative to someday include the [U.S. Los Alamos and other plutonium](#) worker studies and complete the triad of the world’s experience in occupational exposures to plutonium!

- Resource Raising: Paraphrasing Dickens: \$20.00 (income) minus \$19.99 (expenses) = happiness; \$20.00 (income) minus \$20.01 (expenses) = misery. Funding for radiation protection organizations such as ICRP and NCRP has dropped off considerably, and financial affairs are closing in on the misery scenario articulated in *David Copperfield*. ICRP has embarked upon a fund-raising campaign to meet basic needs and an expanded [vision for the future](#). NCRP has reactivated its Resource Development Committee and donations, considered as charitable contributions for tax purposes, can now be made easily on the [NCRP website](#). So if contacted or if the spirit moves, consider opening your wallets, purses, and piggy banks for radiation protection!

ICRP Main Commision in Moscow April 2014



Left to right, Ohtsura Niwa (Japan), Jai-Ki Lee (South Korea), John Boice, NCRP (United States), Chris Clement, ICRP scientific secretary (Canada), John Harrison, Committee 2 chairman (United Kingdom), Claire Cousins, ICRP chairman (United Kingdom), Carl-Magnus Larsson, Committee 5 chairman (Australia), Jacques Lochard, ICRP vice chairman (France), Sergey Romanov (Russia), Eliseo Vañó, Committee 3 chairman (Spain), Hans Menzel (Switzerland), and Don Cool, Committee 4 chairman (United States)

Missing: William Morgan, Committee 1 chairman (United States), and Hua Liu (China)

Photo courtesy of David Dutka

Health Physics Society Membership Advantages

- Subscription to the monthly journal *Health Physics*, the premier journal in the field of radiation protection.
- Subscription to the quarterly journal *Operational Radiation Safety*, emphasizing applied radiation protection.
- Access to the monthly online newsletter *Health Physics News*.
- Access to the [Members Only](#) section of the [Health Physics Society \(HPS\) website](#).
- Member discounts for registration fees and hotel reservations for the HPS annual meeting and midyear topical meeting.
- Discounts for registration fees at meetings of the Radiation Research Society.
- Discounts on the online purchase of publications of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.
- Free copies of American National Standards Institute standards developed by the HPS.
- Automatic membership in the [International Radiation Protection Association](#) and access to the newsletters of several affiliate societies.

HPS membership is a prerequisite for:

- Reduced fees to join one of the HPS specialized sections.
- Serving as an officer or director of the Society.