Steven M. Becker Appointed Co-Chair of Program Area Committee 7 on Radiation Education, Risk Communication, Outreach, and Policy

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is pleased to announce that Dr. Steven M. Becker, Professor of Community and Environmental Health in the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, has been appointed Co-Chair of Program Area Committee (PAC) 7 on Radiation Education, Risk Communication, Outreach, and Policy.

Dr. Becker is a leading expert on public health preparedness, emergency management, and crisis and emergency risk communication. He also has extensive on-the-ground experience at the sites of major disasters and emergencies around the world. In 2011, he was a member of a three-person assistance team invited to Japan in response to the earthquake-tsunami and accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant.

Dr. Becker joins Dr. Paul A. Locke, who has served as Chair and NCRP Scientific Vice President since the PAC was created in 2013. Dr. Locke, a noted public health scientist and attorney, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. His areas of study include radiation risk communication, and designing and evaluating radiation protection initiatives and policies. Dr. Locke also directs the school’s Doctor of Public Health program in Environmental Health Sciences.

Dr. Becker has served on the Council since his first election in 2005. He is currently a member of PAC 3 on Nuclear and Radiological Security and Safety. Dr. Becker served on Scientific Committee (SC) 2-1 and SC 4-2 and was a co-author of NCRP Commentary No. 19, Key Elements of Preparing Emergency Responders for Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism; Report No. 138, Management of Terrorist Events Involving Radioactive Material; and Report No. 166, Population Monitoring and Radionuclide Decoration Following a Radiological or Nuclear Incident. Dr. Becker also was a member of the NCRP Advisory Panel on Public Policy.

Dr. Becker’s work on emergency preparedness and risk communication has been recognized with awards from such scientific organizations as the Health Physics Society and Oak Ridge Associated Universities. He has also been named to the National Thought Leader advisory council by the National Public Health Information Coalition.

Dr. Becker, who holds a PhD from Bryn Mawr College, was a Kreitman Scholar and postdoctoral fellow at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel and a Visiting Fellow at the Japan Emergency Medicine Foundation and National Hospital Tokyo Disaster Medical Center. For the last 11 y, he also has been an invited faculty member for the Harvard School of Public Health training course on radiological emergency planning.

In September 2012, Dr. Becker was appointed by President Barack Obama to the U.S. Nuclear WasteTechnical Review Board.