

NCRP Council Members Represent the USA at the Annual UNSCEAR Meeting

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) held their 66th session at the Vienna International Center from June 10–14, 2019. The Committee discussed and approved two scientific reports on the evaluation of selected health effects and the inference of risk due to radiation exposure; and on lung cancer from exposure to radon. Publication of both documents is expected in early 2020. Other documents discussed during the session include work on evaluation of medical (patient) exposure and occupational exposure, biological mechanisms relevant for the inference of cancer risks from low-dose radiation, and update of the UNSCEAR 2013 report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident following the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami. Two new projects were initiated: a review of epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer (proposed by the United States) and a review of second primary cancer induction after radiotherapy.

The mandate of UNSCEAR is to undertake broad reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and the effects on human health and the environment. Its assessments provide a scientific foundation for United Nations agencies and governments to formulate standards and programs for protection against ionizing radiation. It does not deal with or assess nuclear safety or emergency planning issues.

Picture: 2019 USA delegation



Pictured from left to right: Armin Ansari, David Pawel, Vincent Holahan, Helen Grogan, Bruce Napier, Naomi Harley, Wesley Bolch, Gayle Woloschak (absent)