

The Boice Report #17



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2014 NCRP Annual Meeting—Bethesda, Maryland Celebrating 50 Years Since Congressional Charter in 1964

The year of the great stock market crash—1929—was also the year that the U.S. Advisory Committee on X-Ray and Radium Protection, the predecessor organization to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), was founded. In 1946 it morphed into the U.S. National Committee on Radiation Protection and then in 1964 NCRP was chartered by the U.S. Congress as a nonprofit organization to address the radiation protection needs of the nation. NCRP is in good company in that organizations with similar congressional charters include the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, and the National Academy of Sciences. Next year NCRP will celebrate the 50th year since its congressional charter (Sinclair 1988; Taylor 2002; Meinhold 2004; Tenforde 2004; Boice 2014). So save the date for a celebration that will recall past achievements with a view to addressing the needs for the future!

- 9–10 March 2014 in beautiful downtown Bethesda, Maryland: The one-and-a-half day annual meeting will feature radiation experts, scientists, and professionals from around the country. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.
- Taylor Speaker: The 38th Lauriston S. Taylor Lecturer will be Fred Mettler (New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System), one of the most productive and influential radiation scientists in the world today. The lecture honors Lauriston S. Taylor, the first president and founder of the NCRP in 1929, who passed the leadership baton (actually a handmade gavel) to the second president, Warren K. Sinclair, in 1977 (the year of the first L.S. Taylor Lecture) and then lived to be 102! Fred is a most engaging and provocative speaker and you won't want to miss his presentation (glance at his 2012 Warren K. Sinclair Keynote Address on childhood sensitivity for a preview: www.ncrponline.org/Annual_Mtg/2012_Ann_Mtg/Mettler.pdf). His career brought him into contact with the greats in radiation, including Lauriston Taylor, Louis Hempelmann, Robert Moseley, Gene Saenger, George Voelz, Alexander Hollander, Harold Wyckoff, Leonid Ilyin, Arthur Upton, Jack Schull, and Warren Sinclair, to name just a few.
- Sinclair Keynote Speaker: The annual meeting will be jump-started by Jerry Bushberg (University of California, Davis; senior vice president of NCRP and chairman of the board). Jerry will deliver the Warren K. Sinclair Keynote Address. Anticipate a tapestry of past NCRP achievements, present initiatives, and future challenges, including perhaps the WARP (Where Are the Radiation Professionals?) initiative to address the nation's dwindling pool of human capital ([Pryor 2013](#)).
- Biology and Epidemiology: Headliners for Program Area Committee (PAC) 1 will include Julian Preston (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]), who will discuss the challenges and opportunities to integrate radiation biology with radiation epidemiology to enhance understanding of carcinogenic mechanisms at low doses and to improve estimates of risks from low doses and low dose rates (sound familiar?) (Hall et al. 2009; Morgan and Bair 2013). Francis Cucinotta (National Aeronautics and Space Administration and University of Nevada, Las Vegas) will present radiation protection in the final frontier, including provocative topics such as possible

dementia following galactic cosmic radiation (Cherry et al. 2012). The cleanup hitter will be Steve Simon (National Cancer Institute [NCI]), who will discuss the latest on whether low linear-energy transfer (LET) radiations have different biological effectiveness related to their energy. If so, how might such differences be incorporated into radiation protection and risk assessment?

- Nuclear and Radiological Security and Safety: Nuclear terrorism is a real threat and nuclear accidents have occurred. I suspect I'm not the only one who wondered what would have happened if the pressure cooker that exploded during the Boston Marathon tragedy had also included a radioactive source. The nation must be prepared. Representing PACs 3 and 5 will be Norm Coleman (NCI), who will cover medical responses to improvised nuclear devices and radiological dispersal devices (Murrain-Hill et al. 2011), and S.Y. Chen (Illinois Institute of Technology), who will summarize the recent Scientific Committee 5-1 report on decision making for late-phase recovery from nuclear or radiological incidents (what's next after the first responders have left?).
- Occupational and Environmental Radiation Protection: What's new with safety and security of sealed radiation sources, technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM), and nanotechnology? The chosen speakers for PACs 2, 3, and 6 include Kathy Pryor (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), who will also touch on the cowboys (today's industrial radiographers) and their use of sealed sources. Dave Allard (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) will discuss current issues surrounding fracking (hydraulic fracturing) in the oil and gas industry that can result in TENORM. And then Mark Hoover (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) will round out the session with "Does Size Matter?" (i.e., do tiny radioactive particles deserve special attention in radiation protection?).
- Radiation Measurement and Dosimetry: It should not be forgotten that NCRP's full name ends with "and Measurements." Thus it is appropriate that Ray Guilmette (Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute and chair of PAC 6) will provide a framework for the continuing need for dosimetry and measurements in radiation protection. Andre Bouville (NCI) will then cover the complex dosimetry needs and approaches for conceivably the most comprehensive large-scale study of diverse radiation populations yet conducted (i.e., the Million Worker Study) (Boice 2012, 2013).
- Medicine: Saving what might be the best for last (to make sure you come back the second day) will be PAC 4 and protection of the patient. Kimberly Applegate (Emory University) begins with coverage on possibly the most important issue in radiation protection in medicine today: protection of patients in diagnostic and interventional medical imaging (Applegate and Cost 2013). She'll be followed by Steve Sutlief (University of Washington) covering protection of patients in radiation therapy (Travis et al. 2012). And the maestro, my long-time friend Bob Brent, will conclude the session summarizing the latest on protecting the fetus and prenatal exposure carcinogenesis (NCRP 2013).
- Risk Communication, Outreach, and Policy: What conference is complete without a session on communications? Paul Locke (Johns Hopkins University and PAC 7 chair) will cover historical trends from 1964 to the present (Locke 2011), and Mike Boyd (EPA) has the challenge of addressing the role played by national and international organizations in guiding and influencing U.S. radiation protection standards and regulations (Jones 2005).
- Finale: The synthesis of these comprehensive and diverse topics is left to Program Chair Ken Kase (honorary vice president of NCRP and past president of the International Radiation Protection Association). Kase will summarize and expand on the opportunities and challenges in science, operations, and communications as we strive to address the needs of the nation in this twenty-first century (Kase 2004).

Mark your calendars, make reservations, and don't miss out. Check out the NCRP website (www.ncrponline.org) and your future issues of *Health Physics News* for continual updates as we approach the March 2014 meeting.

Presidents of the NCRP – 1929 to Present



Left to right: Lauriston S. Taylor (1929–1977), Warren K. Sinclair (1977–1991), Charles B. Meinhold (1991–2002), Thomas S. Tenforde (2002–2012), and John D. Boice, Jr. (2012–present)

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