

## The Boice Report #21



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### NCRP Board of Directors—A Team of Visionaries

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) Board of Directors met 13 December 2013 and reviewed current and future activities. Some highlights are listed below.



**NCRP Board of Directors:** standing, left to right, Paul Locke (Johns Hopkins), Ruth McBurney (Council of Radiation Control Program Directors), Jerry Bushberg (chairman of the board, University of California, Davis), John Boice (NCRP), Ray Guilmette (Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute), Don Frush (Duke University), and Jim Brink (Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital); sitting, left to right, Kathy Held (Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital), Bill Morgan (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory [PNNL]), and Kathy Pryor (PNNL); not in photo, Bruce Napier (PNNL), Dick Toohy (Chew Associates), and Paul DeLuca (University of Wisconsin)

- **2013 NCRP Annual Meeting on Dose and Impact:** The proceedings were published in the February 2014 issue of *Health Physics*—and we were close to meeting our goal of publishing in the same calendar year as the annual meeting. The title was “Radiation Dose and the Impacts on Exposed Populations.” The papers are timely, of high quality, and worth reading. They are to be available free of charge due to a generous gift from the National Cancer Institute, Radiation Epidemiology Branch. Two new innovations are the inclusion of questions and answers after the articles and introductory short video clips (by yours truly) explaining why you should read a particular manuscript. Check out the [introductory video](#) and the [finale video](#) online (these are wmv files so they take a little while to open).
- **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for 2014 (10–11 March):** The program is set, reservations can still be made, and you can celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [NCRP being chartered by Congress](#) as your national (and nonprofit) council. [“NCRP: Achievements of the Past 50 Years and Addressing the Needs of the Future”](#) is the title of the meeting.

- **NCRP Annual Meeting 2015:** The title for the 2015 NCRP Annual Meeting will be “Changing Regulations and Radiation Guidance—What Does the Future Hold?” Don Cool (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC]), Kathy Pryor (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory [PNNL]), and Ruth McBurney (Council of Radiation Control Program Directors) have agreed to be chair and cochairs, respectively. Also on the committee are Armin Ansari (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Renate Czarwinski (International Radiation Protection Association), Jon Edwards (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]), Don Miller (Food and Drug Administration [FDA]), and Mike Noska (FDA). We will cover byproducts, waste, medicine, emergency preparedness, basic standards, and safety levels. Stay tuned.
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—Legacy Report on Short-Term Missions and Protection Guidance in Space:** Scientific Committee (SC) 1-22 ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/SC\\_1-22.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/SC_1-22.html)) is chaired by Dudley Goodhead (United Kingdom Medical Research Council) and Julian Preston (EPA), and the commentary will be out within the year addressing the challenging issues of radiation in space and the unusual environment of galactic cosmic rays of high-charge and high-energy particles (see Cucinotta et al. 2013, [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3797711](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3797711)).
- **NASA—Central Nervous System:** A new scientific committee will begin this month to evaluate the issues of potential central nervous system effects following exposures to space radiations. There is a concern for dementia and cognitive dysfunction that might be associated with the peculiar radiation environments in space (see Cherry et al. 2012, [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3534034](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3534034)).
- **WARP (Where Are the Radiation Professionals?)—A National Crisis?:** NCRP held a workshop in July 2013 that included 23 agencies, 6 universities, 9 societies, 4 private sector companies, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. We plan to have a statement out within the next several months summarizing the meeting recommendations (see [ncrponline.org/PDFs/2013/WARP\\_HealthPhysicsNews.pdf](http://ncrponline.org/PDFs/2013/WARP_HealthPhysicsNews.pdf) and [this newsletter, page 1](#)).
- **One Million U.S. Radiation Workers and Veterans Study:** This nationwide epidemiologic study continues. It is coordinated by NCRP and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), NRC, NASA, EPA, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt University, the National Cancer Institute, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ([ncrponline.org/PDFs/BOICE-HPnews/Nov-2012\\_MillionWorker.pdf](http://ncrponline.org/PDFs/BOICE-HPnews/Nov-2012_MillionWorker.pdf)).
- **Cataracts:** There remain important issues to address with regard to the dose limits to the lens of the eye. A new scientific committee has been approved with Ellie Blakely (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) the chair and Larry Dauer (Memorial Sloan-Kettering) the cochair. Not only will new data on lens opacities be evaluated, but issues of severity and implementation will be addressed (see recent review of cataracts by Dynlacht 2013, [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24261552](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24261552)).
- **Emergency Response and Emergency Workers:** Discussions were held in New York City on the need for dosimetry guidance for a radiological incident in an urban or rural area. Discussions were then initiated with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), EPA, DOE, and other agencies. See NCRP Commentary No. 19 (*Key Elements of Preparing Emergency Responders for Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism*, [ncrppublications.org/Commentaries/19](http://ncrppublications.org/Commentaries/19)) and NCRP Report No. 165 (*Responding to a Radiological or Nuclear Terrorist Incident: A Guide for Decision Makers*, [ncrppublications.org/Reports/165](http://ncrppublications.org/Reports/165)).
- **Updating Radiation Guidance:** NCRP last published comprehensive radiation protection guidance in the 1993 NCRP Report No. 116 (*Limitation of Exposure to Ionizing Radiation*, [ncrppublications.org/Reports/116](http://ncrppublications.org/Reports/116)). An interagency meeting was held in December 2013 with NRC, EPA, DOE, DHS, DOD, and FDA to discuss the need for an update, and we will be moving forward with Ken Kase (NCRP) and John Boice (NCRP) as the chairs.

- **Fluoroscopically Guided Interventions:** A new committee is soon to be initiated on policies for managing substantial dose procedures and deterministic injuries associated with fluoroscopically guided interventions. Steve Balter (Columbia University) is the chair. It will build upon the guidance found in NCRP Report No. 168 (*Radiation Dose Management for Fluoroscopically-Guided Interventional Medical Procedures*, [ncrppublications.org/Reports/168](http://ncrppublications.org/Reports/168)).
- **Dentistry:** SC 4-5 is working on “Radiation Protection in Dentistry Supplement: Cone Beam Computed Tomography, Digital Imaging and Handheld Dental Imaging.” The chairs are Alan Lurie (University of Connecticut) and Mel Kantor (University of Kentucky) ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/SC\\_4-5.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/SC_4-5.html)).
- **Communicating Radiation Risks:** A new committee, “Evaluating and Communicating Radiation Risks for Studies Involving Human Subjects: Guidance for Researchers and Reviewing Bodies,” is in the works. Julie Timins (New Jersey Commission on Radiation Protection) is the chair.
- **Improving Patient Dose Utility and Computerized Tomography:** Mannu Karla (Massachusetts General Hospital) is the chair of this timely and important commentary that should be approved shortly.
- **Sealed Sources:** What are the radiation protection operational issues involved with sealed sources used in medicine, industrial radiography, and other environments? Kathy Pryor (PNNL) and our Program Area Committee 2 take the lead in SC 2-7 ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/SC\\_2-7.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/SC_2-7.html)).
- **Radiation Safety and Nanotechnology:** This commentary should also be completed within the year with Mark Hoover (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) as the chair ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/SC\\_2-6.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/SC_2-6.html)).
- **Integration of Biology and Epidemiology:** This commentary is also nearing completion with Sally Amundson (Columbia University) and Jonine Bernstein (Memorial Sloan-Kettering) as the cochairs ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/SC\\_1-21.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/SC_1-21.html)).
- **Risk Communication and Outreach:** We have a new Program Area Committee (PAC 7), with Paul Locke as the chair, and the PAC will meet at our 2014 annual meeting ([ncrponline.org/Current\\_Prog/PAC\\_7.html](http://ncrponline.org/Current_Prog/PAC_7.html)). There are many important issues to address, including a balanced discussion on the implications of detecting Fukushima radioactive releases on the west coast of the United States ([foxnews.com/science/2013/11/29/is-it-safe-radioactive-japanese-wave-nears-us](http://foxnews.com/science/2013/11/29/is-it-safe-radioactive-japanese-wave-nears-us)).

So your council continues to be productive with visions for the future, addressing the needs for the nation. Don't forget our 10–11 March 2014 annual meeting and learn more about the special importance of radiation protection in the United States (<http://registration.ncrponline.org>).