

The Boice Report #60



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ICRP: A Word of Farewell

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, [goodbye](#). After serving on five International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) main commissions (MCs), with three different chairs and nearly 50 main commissioners, I packed it in at the May 2017 MC meeting in Lima, Peru! [All good things come to an end](#), and it was my time. An [epidemiologist](#) has



Left to right: Sergey Romanov (Russia) is wished a productive future with ICRP by John Boice (United States) and Jai-ki Lee (South Korea).
Photo courtesy of Jacque Lochard

been defined as a man broken down by age and sex. I'm in the age category and, coupled with back surgery (and aging neurons), it's now tough to travel: Abu Dhabi, Rabat, Cape Town, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Moscow, Seoul, Sydney, Lima, Fukushima City, Porto, Buenos Aires, and more. But I'm going away with a word of [farewell](#), and the trace left behind might be my contribution to [ICRP Publication 103](#) (the 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection). The new 2017–2021 commission starts 1 July 2017.

Who's leaving? John Boice (United States), Jai-Ki Lee (South Korea), Hua Liu (China), Hans-Georg Menzel (Germany), Ohtsura Niwa (Japan), and Eliseo Vañó (Spain).

Who's new? Donald Miller, chair of Committee 3 Protection in Medicine (United States), Simon Bouffler (United Kingdom), Kunwoo Cho (South Korea), Michiaki Kai (Japan), Dominique Laurier (France), and Senlin Liu (China).

Who remains?

Claire Cousins, elected for her third term as chair (United Kingdom)
Jacques Lochard, elected for his second term as vice-chair (France)
Werner Rühm, chair of Committee 1 Radiation Effects (Germany)
John Harrison, chair of Committee 2 Doses From Radiation Exposure (United Kingdom)
Donald Cool, chair of Committee 4 Application of the Commission's Recommendations (United States)
Carl-Magnus Larsson (Australia)
Sergey Romanov (Russia)

Activities in Peru. Lots going on, and expectations and hopes for the future (the [best is yet to come](#))!

- [Julian Preston](#) was elected emeritus member of the MC. Julian is also a distinguished emeritus of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). Other ICRP emeritus members on NCRP include: Keith Eckerman, Charlie Meinhold, Fred Mettler, and Marvin Rosenstein.
- [Dose Coefficients for Non-Human Biota Environmentally Exposed to Radiation](#) was approved for publication.
- [Diagnostic Reference Levels in Medical Imaging](#) was approved for publication.
- [Occupational Radiological Protection in Interventional Procedures](#) is out for public consultation.
- [Ethical Foundations of the System of Radiological Protection](#) is out for public consultation.
- [Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides: Part 4](#) should be ready for approval for publication within a few months. Also, there are still issues with the treatment of radon/progeny in Part 3 and whether the large [Wismut](#) underground miner data might tilt the scales to reconsidering our reliance on the human data (since it exists).

- Committee 5 Protection of the Environment comes to a successful end this term. ICRP has begun to integrate the committee's work and members into all other committees. [Task Group 104](#) is an MC task group titled Integration of Protection of People and of the Environment in the System of Radiological Protection.
- A draft joint International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements/ICRP report [Operational Quantities](#) for External Radiation Exposure should undergo public consultation soon ([ICRU Report Committee 26](#)).
- [Task Group 100](#) is reviewing (reflecting upon) the NCRP draft by [Council Committee 1](#) on "[Radiation Protection Guidance for the United States.](#)" NCRP is grateful for this special effort.
- [The Use of Effective Dose as a Risk-Related Radiological Protection Quantity](#) is under [review](#). As mentioned in Boice Report No. 59 on [medical exposures to patients](#): effective dose is a unit for radiation protection and compliance. It is also used for comparison of different exposure circumstances. It is not a specific measure of harm or risk. It is an age- and sex-weighted dose for a reference person and not an individual. Effective dose is a nominal unit of detriment for radiation protection and not radiation risk. Nominal means "in name only" and "not real."
- [Radiation Weighting Factors for Reference Animals and Plants](#) is under [review](#).
- Sergey Romanov presented several informative [Mayak](#) worker overviews.
- Members of the four committees were elected. Overall, half of the committee chairs are NCRP members, and about 10% of the committee members are NCRP members.
- Other discussions I found interesting included a broader use of interns to support ICRP activities, plans for fundraising, translation of publications into other languages, and providing publications free or at low cost.

Future

Please come to Paris in the autumn time (10–12 October 2017)♪. The [4th International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection](#) is being held in conjunction with the [2nd European Radiological Protection Research Week](#). The host is Institut de Radioprotection et Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN), and the symposium is being organized in collaboration with [ALLIANCE](#) (radioecology), [EURADOS](#) (radiation dosimetry), [EURAMED](#) (medical radiation protection), [MELODI](#) (low dose health risk research), and [NERIS](#) (emergency preparedness). Check out [CONCERT](#), the umbrella organization that coordinates the research and priorities. I attended the [1st European Radiological Protection Research Week](#) in Oxford last September and it was one of the most informative and stimulating meetings I've ever attended.

Finale

♪ Well, I'm goin' away with a word of farewell, and only a trace left behind. I made a lot of friends and everyone was very kind. You know they were the last thing on my mind ♪ (apologies to [Tom Paxton](#)).

ICRP 2013–2017 Main Commission in Lima, Peru, 8–12 May 2017



Front row, left to right: Werner Rühm (Germany), Donald Cool (United States), John Harrison (United Kingdom), Carl-Magnus Larsson (Australia), Claire Cousins (chair, United Kingdom), Jacques Lochard (vice chair, France), Eliseo Vañó (Spain), Hans-Georg Menzel (Germany), Haruyuki Ogino (assistant scientific secretary, Japan); back row, left to right: John Boice (United States), Kelsey Cloutier (ICRP development and communications manager, Canada), Ohtsura Niwa (Japan), Christopher Clement (scientific secretary, Canada), Kathy Higley (invited, United States), Sergey Romanov (Russia), and Jai-Ki Lee (Korea). Not shown: Hua Liu (China).

Photo courtesy of David Dutka