



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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The IRPA Executive Council at their in-person meeting in 2023. Not present: Chris Clement and Joseph Amoako

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PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

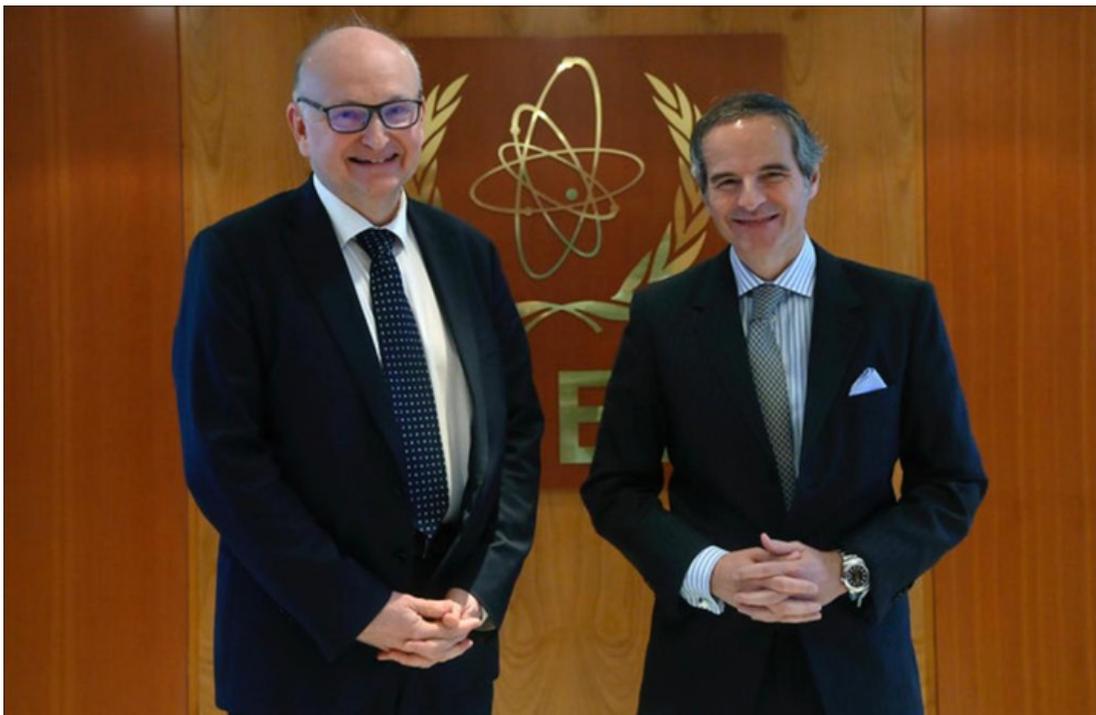
This past April I had the opportunity to meet with IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi. During this meeting, I discussed the work carried out by IRPA and shared information on topics of interest to the IAEA such as our initiative on Radiation Safety Culture in Healthcare.

IRPA and the IAEA have a long tradition of working together; a relationship which is about to become even stronger as the two organizations have agreed to sign onto a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This document will describe how IRPA and the IAEA can cooperate in the area of radiation protection and safety. One such example is how IRPA can assist with activities undertaken under the IAEA's new "Rays of Hope" initiative (RoH).



Cancer kills far too many people — particularly in Africa. Rays of Hope seeks to change that by supporting the establishment and expansion of radiotherapy services, with a particular focus on the Member States that completely lack facilities for radiation treatment.

However, the Rays of Hope initiative can only be a success if the training and support of personnel, and local organization go hand in hand with the procurement of necessary equipment. Developing a safety culture in healthcare requires an organization to consider not just pure radiation protection and safety, but also best practices and human factors. Furthermore, a safety culture cannot thrive without a local environment that encourages collaboration, quality and safety.



Bernard Le Guen, IRPA VP, and Rafael Grossi, IAEA Director General

PRESIDENT'S BLOG

DR. BERNARD LE GUEN

It is also important to support the implementation of new technologies so that errors or inappropriate use of new equipment is avoided. Such errors may increase risks and result in harm for patients and/or staff. One example of such an incident that I will never forget is the Epinal incident that occurred in France in 2006, where 430 patients being treated with a new device for prostate cancer were overexposed due to incorrect dose calculations arising from human error.

My career path has allowed me to develop a dual culture that merges medical and nuclear operator backgrounds, which I have put to work since 2008 in my role at IRPA. It was during the 2008 IRPA Congress in Buenos Aires that I launched and developed the radiation safety culture initiative. My idea was straightforward; namely, to ensure that the medical profession would benefit from the experience gained in the nuclear industry, going beyond good practices. This would feed into the behaviours of professionals in their daily interactions with patients, with a view to embedding a culture that will underpin this approach in the long-term.

Developing and maintaining a safety culture in healthcare is exactly the kind of assistance that IRPA can offer to the Rays of Hope initiative. While discussions during IRPA-IAEA joint sessions at the recent African and Latin American Congresses indicated that significant work is still needed, IRPA is uniquely situated to provide support in these areas. We are an association with an incredible network of professionals and I fully believe that we can provide local assistance, training on Radiation Safety Culture and participate in peer reviews.

We are currently in the final stages of drafting the Memorandum of Understanding and I hope to be able to share the good news of a final, signed document after this summer!



**Bernard and Analia Cordoba,
ICRP Committee 4 and
Argentinian Society for
Radiation Protection**



**Bernard speaking at the
Syracusa NORM conference**



IRPA YOUNG GENERATION NETWORK MOVIE CONTEST

In 2021 and 2022, the [IRPA Young Generation Network](#) (IRPA YGN) ran a contest where the national YGNs were invited to produce a short movie about the benefits of young professionals participating in their national radiation protection societies. The submissions have been evaluated by a jury of 5 individuals, mostly from the IRPA Executive Council.

Austria (Young Scientists & Professionals section) took first place, followed closely by the contribution from Spain (J-SEPR). The French (Young Club) and the Chinese submissions ranked third and fourth, respectively.

The winning YGN will receive a prize covering the registration fee for 2 young professionals to attend the [IRPA16 International congress](#) in 2024 - but all participating YGNs will also receive a prize.

You can see all four of the submissions [here on the YouTube IRPA Channel](#) or by clicking on the images below.



MONTREAL FUND

The Montreal Fund was created in 1995 by the Canadian Radiation Protection Association with the proceeds of the IRPA-8 International Congress held in Montreal, Canada, in 1992. It is an essential program that IRPA uses to enhance radiation protection worldwide by supporting attendance of students and young professionals at IRPA Congresses, preferably from developing countries and countries that do not have IRPA Associate Societies. Individuals are selected in accordance with the [Terms of Reference for the Montreal Fund Committee](#).

The Montreal Fund is supported by contributions from Associate Societies and other stakeholders. In 2022, contributions to the Montreal Fund were made by the Associations listed below. IRPA greatly appreciates your support!

- The Society for Radiological Protection (UK)
- The Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS)
- The Italian Association of Radiological Protection (Associazione Italiana di Radioprotezione, AIRP)

The Montreal fund provided support for 19 individuals to attend IRPA Regional Congresses in 2022. Unfortunately, the support provided exceeded contributions for 2022 by almost \$9000 USD.

We strongly encourage those Associate Societies who are able to contribute to the Montreal Fund this year. Your support will help increase participation at future IRPA Congresses by those who may not otherwise be able to attend, such as [IRPA16](#) in 2024.



**THE SOCIETY FOR
RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION**



IRPA TG ON MENTORING

SYLVAIN ANDRESZ

At the IRPA Executive Council (EC) meeting held during the IRPA Conference in Budapest in June 2022, Kevin Nelson (HPS, IRPA VP for Executive Affairs), raised the idea of creating a task group (TG) on mentorship. He felt particularly concerned on how to transfer knowledge and experience from experienced and senior radiation protection professionals to the younger generation and whether a gap (whether technological and ideological) may exist between the generations.

Dr. Nelson proposed that the IRPA Young Generation Network (YGN) take the lead in managing this TG. The EC was supportive and the TG was officially struck at the IRPA YGN Leadership Committee meeting in July 2022. A brainstorming meeting took place shortly afterwards, in September 2022, to help specify the goals and framework for the group.

The objectives of the TG are described in a Terms of Reference document currently under review by the IRPA EC. The proposed objectives will include:

- **Investigate the topic of mentoring and describe the mentoring practices in place within IRPA Associate Societies (AS).** A survey form was sent to all the Associate Societies in November 2022 to determine whether they had a mentoring program in place. Those that did were asked to provide details on their practices and to request feedback on their mentoring experience. Approximately half of AS members responded (N=26 answers); 5 AS have a mentoring program in place, 3 have a mentoring program but which is just starting or is dormant, 9 AS would like a mentoring program while 6 do not want one (see Figure 1).
- **Develop strategies that could be used to create or enhance existing mentorship programs and publish the results as an IRPA guidance document.** This guidance document will be based on the results of the survey, the experiences of IRPA AS, experiences from the TG members, and literature on mentoring. Organisational insights and a discussion on indicators (i.e implementation, success, etc.) will also be included.

The results of the survey and next steps will be presented at the [IRPA Webinar on 13 July](#) and the TG will be planning a meeting this summer to continue work on this initiative.

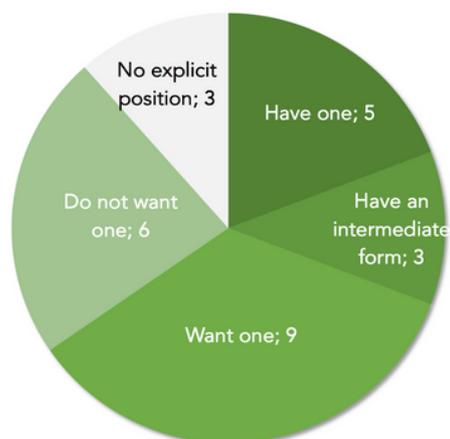


Figure 1: Breakdown of the status of mentoring programs within IRPA Associate Societies who responded to the YGN survey



13TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE CROATIAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION & ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBER DR. MARIA RANOGAJEC-KOMOR

Luka Pavelić, Branko Petrinec and Ivana Coha

The Croatian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) successfully organized the 13th Symposium with international participation in Poreč, Croatia from April 18th to 21st, 2023. The symposium, co-organized by the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health (IMI), the Ruđer Bošković Institute (IRB), and the Croatian Society of Medical Physics (HDMF), aimed to exchange new information and present current knowledge in radiation protection. The event was sponsored by the Krško Nuclear Power Plant, IMI, IRB, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Science and Education. Notable contributors included LKB Vertriebs GmbH as the main sponsor, Radosys Dosimetric Microscopy and the Krško Nuclear Power Plant as silver sponsors, and Dositracker Ltd., Mjerne tehnologije d.o.o., Jasika d.o.o., and the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health as bronze sponsors.



The symposium brought together 80 participants, including 71 from domestic scientific, research, governmental, academic, healthcare, and business institutions, and 9 participants from Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, and Austria. The scientific program covered ten topics, such as radiation science, nuclear threats, radiation dosimetry, biological effects of radiation, radiation exposure of the population, radiation protection in medicine, radioecology, radon, non-ionizing radiation, and instrumentation and measurement techniques. Dr. Saša Medaković delivered an invited lecture on "The First 40 Years of the Krško Nuclear Power Plant."

Prior to the symposium, 65 abstracts were submitted and published in the Abstract Proceedings in PDF format, edited by Branko Petrinc, Luka Pavelić, Jelena Popić, and Nevenka Kopjar, with Silvija Kobeščak and Petra Tagliaretti as technical editors. The ISSN number will be assigned by the ISSN Office of the National and University Library in Zagreb, recognizing CRPA's regular publication of such editions.

During the symposium, the best oral presentation and poster were selected. Luka Pasariček won the first prize for his oral presentation on the impact of the "idelt" parameter in the phits software package and calculation methods on the linear energy transfer of primary protons in radiotherapy. In the poster category, the first prize went to Nora Miljanić for the poster on the concentration of Cs-137 activity in dried and frozen mushrooms.

At the CRPA general assembly, reports on the society's activities and financial statements for the previous year were accepted, along with the work plan and financial plan for 2023 and 2024. Changes to the CRPA Statute were approved, and Dr. Mária Ranogajec-Komor was honored as the society's honorary member in recognition of her significant contributions to radiation protection and promoting the society's reputation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The purpose of this Young Generation Network (YGN) Workshop is to encourage the active engagement of young professionals with Radiation Protection and promote their personal and social interaction.

INTERNATIONAL YGN WORKSHOP ON CHALLENGES OF RADIATION PROTECTION 2023

Organized by:

Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS)
Young Researcher's Association of JHPS (JHPS YRA)

Co-organized by:

International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)
IRPA Young Generation Network (IRPA YGN)

Supported by:

International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)
Japanese Radiation Research Society (JRRS)

November 8, 2023
Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba
TOKYO, JAPAN

Free of charge

if you join ICRP2023, JHPS annual meeting,
or JRRS annual meeting.

You can join the workshop if you are:

40 years old or younger;
OR
defined as a "young" researcher
in your national association / society.

Registration here!



Pre-registration is preferable

Program

14:00-15:30	✓ Introduction of YGN activity in each country
	✓ Group work (1)
16:00-17:30	✓ Group work (2)

Further details will be announced later.

Contact: jhpsygn2023@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

A promotional banner for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. The background is dark blue with white molecular structures and a glowing sphere. On the right, an illustration of a woman in a white lab coat and blue graduation cap points upwards with her right hand while holding a tablet in her left. The text on the left reads: 'The IAEA' followed by 'Marie Skłodowska-Curie FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME' in large letters, and 'Scholarships with internships for more women in nuclear' below it. The IAEA logo is in the bottom left, and '#WomenInScience' is in a blue box in the bottom right.

The IAEA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Scholarships with internships
for more women in nuclear

IAEA

#WomenInScience

The IAEA is launching a new round of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme to enable more women to build extraordinary careers in nuclear science.

Scholarships are awarded annually, to 100+ female students, subject to availability of funds. In the selection of students, consideration is given to geographic and field of study diversity, in addition to eligibility requirements and other criteria. The selected students are awarded up to €20,000 for tuition costs and up to €20,000 for living costs for their Master's programme. Upon completion of their studies, students are also given an opportunity to pursue an internship for up to 12 months at the IAEA, its partner organizations or industry. Additionally, students are provided with opportunities to attend and participate in various educational, professional and networking events.

Since its launch in 2020, MSCFP has received 1563 applications, selecting 360 students from 110 nationalities studying in 65 countries worldwide. By end of 2022, 100 students have already completed their Master's programme with support of MSCFP, embarking on internships facilitated by the IAEA or pursuing PhD or employment in the nuclear field. The programme is envisaged to grow each year to ensure more women have an opportunity to pursue advanced education in nuclear related fields.

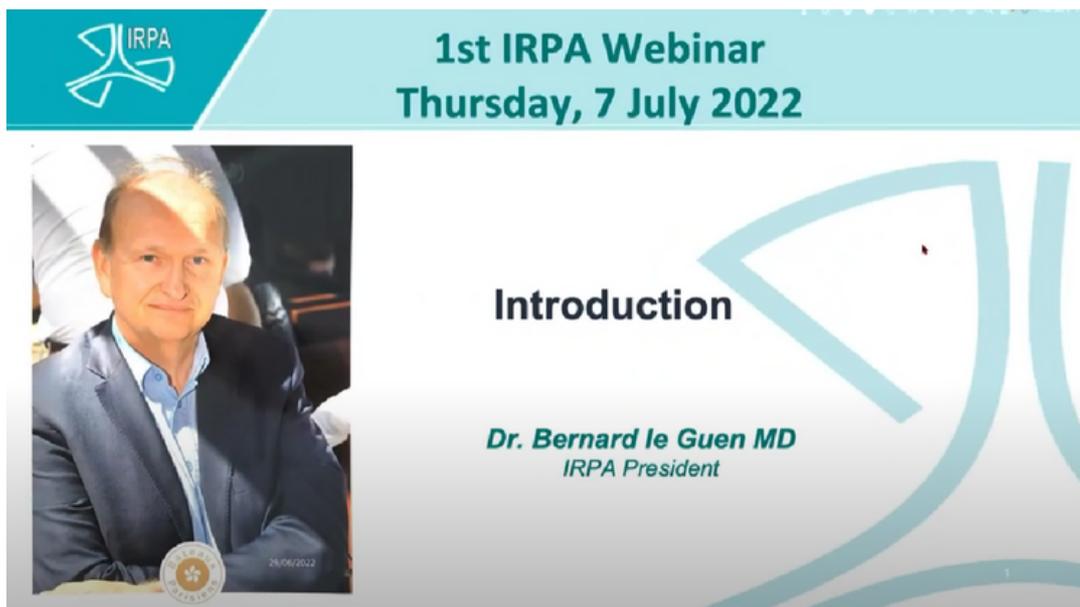
The next application call is scheduled to open in mid-July 2023 and will close by end of September 2023. To read more about the programme and eligibility requirements, please visit the link: [IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme | IAEA](#) and [Information for applicants | IAEA](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our first IRPA webinar back in February 2022 was a resounding success, and they've been going strong ever since. Now, we're pleased to let you know that our Third IRPA International Webinar will take place on Thursday July 13, 2023, from 01:00 p.m. to 03:00 p.m. CEST (CEDT).

(And if you missed the first webinar, it's not too late - [check it out here!](#))



The webinar will continue on from our previous events by focusing on News on IRPA Task Groups. The July session will have presentations from three groups:

- Women in Radiation (WiR) Task Group
- Tissue Reactions Task Group
- Young Generation Network (YGN).

The webinar will be hosted in coordination with the Health Physics Society (HPS), and we thank them for their assistance.

To participate, [just click here](#), or register at the following link:

https://burkinc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8ZPDAYmbTeObUJbsPHI6KQ

SEND US YOUR NEWS!



Do you have news to share? Send it to cop@irpa.net, and we will share it via the IRPA News and the IRPA Bulletin. Stories for the Bulletin are normally 200-300 words plus images.

We're always looking for updates from our Associate Societies for our Society Spotlight. Let us know what your society has been up to. Meetings, conferences, general events or any good news is always welcome!

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Managers: Dave Niven & Chris Malcolmson;

Social Media Managers: Sven Nagels & Chris Malcolmson;

Media Reviewers: Sven Nagels, Young-Khi Lim & Hiroki Fujita;

Proceedings Advisor: Haruyuki Ogino

In Memorium

It is with great regret that we pass along the news of the passing of Adelene Gaw. Adelene served as the Associate Societies Liaison for the IRPA Bulletin up until late last year. She was a valued member of both IRPA and the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) for many years, serving on multiple committees and working groups, and promoting radiation safety both in Canada and internationally.

Adelene will be fondly remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with her. We extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.



Adelene (far right) in May 2019 with fellow members of the CRPA Conference Local Organizing Committee.

