Bernard LE Guen, IRPA President, and Lydie Evrard, IAEA Deputy Director General, signing the MoU between IRPA and the IAEA

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There is some exciting news to start out my blog - I am extremely happy to announce that IRPA and the IAEA have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding!

IRPA is an incredible association of professionals with a network that spans the globe. Our cooperation with the IAEA can be achieved through the work of the IAEA Safety Standards Committees and the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety (IACRS), and we will support the IAEA with its activities undertaken under the Rays of Hope initiative. I also hope that IRPA experts will participate in IAEA expert missions or in the development of guidance and education tools on safety culture, such as e-learning modules and training courses.

Training, staff support and involvement by local organizations must go hand in hand with the purchase of medical equipment. A culture of safety cannot flourish without a local environment that fosters collaboration, quality and safety.

The IAEA plays an important role in participating in and supporting IRPA’s international and regional congresses. Their support is especially critical in encouraging the participation of young professionals at our congresses and in promoting women in the fields of radiation protection and safety.
While the highlight of that week was the signing of the MoU with the IAEA and further discussions with Miroslav Pinak and Hildegarde Vandenhove about its deployment, it was also an occasion for me to participate in meetings in parallel with other conference sessions. I met with many of my IRPA family friends, had breakfast with representatives of the Argentinian radiation protection society, participated in several side events, renewed the links between FORO (the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies) and IRPA, and discussed training and assisted visits with the IAEA team.

I also had the chance to exchange ideas with Latifa Ben Omrane, president of the Tunisian Association for radiation protection. We discussed issues such as how best to assess radiation protection work in the field, and how to develop an assistance strategy between countries. From this perspective, establishing anchor centers for the Rays of Hope initiative in countries such as Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan and Türkiye will very important to facilitate medical development and exchanges in regional areas within Africa and the Middle East.

A great deal of work is required before activities utilizing ionizing radiation become part of a risk management culture. I believe that the collaboration between IRPA and the IAEA is a real opportunity to improve radiation protection and safety in our everyday activities.
The IRPA Young Generation Network (YGN) was officially formed in May 2018 during the IRPA congress at The Hague. Sylvain Andresz was the first elected Chair of the YGN, and after 5 years and a number of accomplishments, he has decided to step down.

Before we introduce the new Chair, we asked Sylvain to look back and give us some highlights from his time as an integral member and founder of the IRPA YGN.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your professional background.

I have a background in nuclear engineering. For my entire (albeit short), career to date, I’ve worked at the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre (CEPN, France) where I handle a portfolio of radiation protection and related activities. Broadly, I had no specific training in networking (which I think could be an entire job/training course on its own) and, admittedly, limited social skills.

What led you at first to become part of the IRPA YGN?

At the very beginning, prior to 2018, there was no IRPA YGN at all! There had been a desire within IRPA to set up a young generation network as early as 2014, but nothing concrete had emerged.

That started to change in 2016, when the French radiation protection society (SFRP) rebooted its Young Club, of which I was a part. That was a very useful experience because it demonstrated to me that it was possible to set up a YGN in the first place. In 2017, working together with young colleagues from SFRP and the UK SRP, we ran an international survey addressed to the “young generation in radiation protection.” The goal of the survey was to find out what the young generation needs, wants and what an IRPA YGN could do. The response to the survey was great, with about 250 responses, and the analysis provided strong justification for the creation of an IRPA YGN.

Did you have an idea what the IRPA YGN would become when you first joined?

Absolutely not - there were too many unknown parameters. The beginnings were small: we were only 4 people (Austria, France, Japan and UK) and we met by telephone, as videoconferences were not as ubiquitous as they are now. But things really ramped up through 2018 as we presented the results of the international survey and the activities of the fledgling YGN at IRPA Regional congresses. A website and a blog were set up (with thanks, respectively, to IRPA and EUTERP), Terms & Conditions and a Strategic Agenda were produced and several activities were initiated with the support of IRPA EC. Despite all that, it still took several more years before all of these activities really began to bear fruit, awareness of the IRPA YGN spread, and the membership grew into what we are today.
Why did you decide to take on the role of Chair?

At the very beginning, there was very little structure, and certainly no Chair position (it was like a small utopic!). The driving force then was Peter Bryant from UK SRP. He provided the initial momentum and core principles of the IRPA YGN. Peter was also great at gaining support from people and knew how to liaise with the IRPA Executive Committee (EC). At the time I felt I was far behind, and so Peter was an unofficial mentor for me. When Peter stepped down from the IRPA YGN to focus on other activities, he supported my decision to apply as Chair in the first election.

How did you get the idea of the movie contest, one of the more recent activities put on by the network?

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we were all probably forced at some point to record a presentation for an “on-line event”. I hated that for 2 reasons: (1) I was not good at it and (2) it replaces the in-person meetings and social interactions (which by that time I had started to appreciate very much!). I thought that this idea could be totally reversed by asking members of the YGN to make something funny with the objective of connecting people, both amongst themselves and to the national societies. I realize now that this was actually quite demanding, and I am astonished by the quality of the contributions (Editors note: the submissions are all available on the IRPA YouTube channel).

What are you most proud of out of the work the IRPA YGN has done over the years?

I’m most proud that the Leadership Committee members are all very comfortable in presenting the IRPA YGN to their own Associate Societies, at IRPA EC meetings, or at other international events and that they gain inspiration from the IRPA YGN for their own national activities. The young generation network has become their network.

Is there anything you wish you would have done differently during your time with the IRPA YGN?

Pass... :)

What advice do you have for the new IRPA YGN chair?

My best advice is for the new chair to be prepared to send a lot of emails and to be very reactive. I saw the chair as the intermediary of the network, but everyone has their own ‘style’ and the new chair will probably bring his own. He knows very well how the IRPA YGN operates and has demonstrated his management and planning skills recently at AOCRP-6. I am very confident for the future of the IRPA YGN.
My major areas of interest are radiation protection, environmental radioactivity and low-level liquid effluent monitoring around the Tokai Reprocessing Plant. I am particularly focused on the following 3 research themes:

1. Environmental effect assessment and environmental monitoring around nuclear power facilities;
2. Development of environmental monitoring techniques; and
3. Assessment of internal exposure for radiation workers and the general public around nuclear power facilities.

In addition, I studied development of marine environmental radioactivity monitoring techniques (especially analytical methods for monitoring of radioactive strontium in seawater) in the Radiometrics laboratory of the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories in 2016.

I was a president of the Young Researchers Association in the Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS) for half a year in 2015. After the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident, I spent most of the next two years participating on the Steering Committee of the JHPS Q&A site, engaging the public online and sharing information on radiation protection.

My aspiration as an IRPA YGN Chair

The IRPA Young Generation Network includes young professionals from across the field of radiation protection. Its primary function is to promote communication, collaboration and professional development of students and young professionals in radiation protection and related fields. I have worked hard to help expand this network by participating in various conferences as a member of IRPA YGN Leadership Committee.

Whether local or global, the future of radiological protection relies on the contribution of young professionals. Sharing ideas, experiences, achievements and developing good relationships are vital to this network. Therefore, I strongly hope to continue both regional and international events in the future, with the support of IRPA and its Associate Societies. These activities will help expand the YGN and strengthen the relationships between YGN countries.

In addition, I hope to challenge how we should release factual and timely information to the public with cooperation from passionate IRPA YGN Leadership Committee members.
Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background/experience in radiation protection

I'm 34 years old, married for almost 7 years and we have one dog, named Spirit. I obtained my diploma as a Radiation Protection Expert in the Netherlands during my training as a medical physicist. In 2016, I was invited by the Surinamese Ministry of Health to attend an IAEA meeting. After the meeting, I was appointed as the Radiation Focal Point for Suriname at the Ministry of Health in Suriname. In 2020, I was elected as chair of the chapter Suriname and the Dutch speaking Caribbean which is part of the Dutch Society for Radiation Protection (an IRPA Associate Society). The chapter allows radiation protection professionals from Caribbean countries without a professional society to still be part of the international radiation protection community. I have been involved in many activities that promote a radiation safety culture in medical facilities in Caribbean countries.

What were your goals for attending the IRPA North American Congress?

- To share the success of our collaboration with the Dutch Society of Radiation Protection with the attendees and hopefully inspire other IRPA associate societies to consider a similar approach to create opportunities for RP professionals from countries without professional societies.
- To expand the network of our chapter
- To establish collaboration with other organizations working in radiation protection
How did the IRPA Montreal Fund help you achieve these goals?

The IRPA Montreal Fund allowed me to attend the IRPA North American Congress in person, thereby allowing me to connect and share ideas with different organizations. As a result of my attendance at the IRPA NA Congress, I was able to execute a project focused on promoting a radiation safety culture in English speaking Caribbean countries in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) and the Health Physics Society (HPS). We organized webinars with speakers that were identified by the president of the medical section of the HPS and had around 100 attendees on average. This project was very successful and, due to the demand from HPS members, the webinars were added to the member page of the HPS website. So I was not only able to share the story of the Dutch-Surinamese collaboration but also establish a collaboration with other RP societies.

How did you find out about the Montreal Fund?

I came in contact with the congress president through a contact from the Netherlands who was helping to identify RP professionals in the Caribbean, as the congress committee was aiming for representation from different regional societies. I became a member of the executive committee of the IRPA NA congress. The congress president at that time told me about the Montreal Fund after which I applied for the travel grant.

What were some of your favorite moments from the North American Congress?

The social activities and the breaks allowed me to interact with the other attendees. The talks weren’t always about radiation protection of course but they were definitely fun conversations. The assistance from the organizing committee was also amazing. They were very helpful in assisting speakers and had thought of everything to make the congress run smoothly.

How would you explain the importance of the Montreal Fund to others in the radiation protection community?

I wouldn’t have been able to execute many projects if it wasn’t for the Montreal Fund. The project that was executed in collaboration with the HPS was eventually presented at the IRPA European Regional Congress where I was nominated for the Young Scientist/Professional Award. It was such an enlightening experience to present this work that was also a result of my attendance at the IRPA NA Congress. The cherry on the cake was to be given the Audience Award for my presentation about the PAHO/WHO – HPS project to promote a radiation safety culture in medical facilities from English speaking Caribbean countries.
The Third IRPA International Webinar was held on July 13, 2023. Hosted in coordination with the Health Physics Society (HPS), the webinar focused on the Women in Radiation (WiR) and Tissue Reactions Task Groups, as well as the Young Generation Network (YGN).

Over 200 people attended the session live, but if you weren’t able to make it, the webinar was recorded and is available online. [Click here to view the recording](#).

If you missed the first two webinars, or just want to refresh on the topics that were discussed, you can also find them online:

- [First IRPA Webinar](#) (July 2022)
- [Second IRPA Webinar](#) (January 2023)

Welcome to the 3rd IRPA webinar

Bernard le Guen
IRPA president

1. IRPA16. Kevin Nelson and Renate Czarwinski
2. Task Group on Women in Radiation-WiR. Marina Di Giorgio (pre-recorded presentation)
3. Task Group on Tissue Reactions. Marie Claire Cantone
4. Young Generation Network-YGN. Sylvain Andresz-
6. Survey from the IRPA Task Group on Public Understanding of Radiation and Risk. Hiroko Yoshida

• Conclusion
The latest issue of the Society for Radiological Protections (SRP) free magazine “Radiation Protection Today” is now available. To mark their Diamond Jubilee, it contains features which look back at changes in the radiation protection landscape over the last 60 years, and the way that SRP has evolved. It also includes features on:

- Changes in occupational exposures
- Nuclear power in a green future
- Changes in regulations and standards
- Future technology

Congratulations to SRP for reaching this milestone! We hope our IRPA Bulletin readers enjoy this issue of Radiation Protection Today, and also that someone enjoyed eating that fancy cake!
NSFS, which is an IRPA Associate Society for all Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), held its 19th Conference in June 5-9, 2023 in Malmö, Sweden. The theme was "Sharing and caring" which can be interpreted as sharing knowledge and caring about both the potential negative effects of radiation as well as its benefits for individuals and society. In total, 115 participants from 11 countries were a part of this conference.

The first day was dedicated to excursions where participants could visit the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund, the Lund University Bioimaging Centre (LBIC), several historical sites in Lund, and the emergency preparedness laboratory in Malmö.

In total, the conference consisted of 58 oral presentations spread out over 21 sessions and covering most aspects of radiation protection. Invited presentations were given by IRPA President Bernard Le Guen and ICRP Chair Werner Rühm. Vadim Chumak of Ukraine presented the R/N situation in Ukraine and Jan Johansson of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) spoke about the possible consequences in Sweden of an R/N event in Ukraine. Per Seltborg (SSM) reported on future competence supply of radiation professionals.

The Bo Lindell Lecture was given by Dr. Ritva Bly from the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority in Finland, with the title "Trends in collective effective doses from radiological procedures." Jack Valentin and Sören Mattsson presented the history of NSFS, a topic valuable both for present, new and potential NSFS members. Other themes were "ICRP plans for revision of radiological protection system" and "AI in radiation protection".

Dr. Ritva Bly gave the Bo Lindell lecture
24 scientific posters were on display in the conference room and were also presented during a rapid poster presentation session in order to specifically highlight the posters. Furthermore, there were presentations by several sponsors and other related societies in Sweden, including the National Committee for Radiation Protection Research (NKSSF), the Swedish Academic Initiative on Nuclear Technology Research (SAINT), and the Swedish Associations for Radiation Physics, Radiation Biology, Radiocology, and Medical Physics, and the Swedish Radiation Research Association for Young Scientists (SWERAYS). The program and abstracts are available at [www.nsfs.org](http://www.nsfs.org) and some presentations will be published as papers in a special issue of the Radiation Protection and Dosimetry journal in 2024.

The NSFS board noticed that the mean age of NSFS members has been increasing over the last several years. Therefore, we were very happy that many young scientists attended the conference and also gave presentations. On Thursday there was a "Young Radiation Professionals Evening" with a program arranged by SWERAYS together with Victoria Grill from the IRPA YGN.

The NSFS General Assembly was held on Wednesday afternoon and included reports on recent activities, financial statements, updating of the NSFS statutes, adoption of a strategic plan for 2023-2027 and election of a new board and hosting country, which is now Norway. New honorary members were elected in recognition of their contribution to radiation protection and to NSFS: Mette Oehlenschläger (DE), Rune Hafslund (NO), Sigurdur Magnusson (IS), Sören Mattsson (SE) and Jack Valentin (SE) (see photos below).

We now look forward to the upcoming NSFS activities and the next congress that is planned to be held in Norway in 2025.

Eva Forssell-Aronsson, NSFS President 2019-2023
Christian Bernhardsson, NSFS Vice president 2019-2023
For over a decade the stories that have dominated the media space about Northeast Nigeria where the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) is located have been that of terror occasioned by armed conflict in the region. However, recently there has been a new narrative of peace returning to the region, especially the capital city, Maiduguri. There have been many positive achievements at the UMTH, some of which we will highlight in this article.

The UMTH is currently under the leadership of Prof. Ahmed Ahidjo, a consultant interventional radiologist. Established on July 23, 1983, the UMTH currently has 1,200 beds with a full complement of radiology and interventional services. More recently, radiotherapy and oncology services were added with two state-of-the-art linear accelerators and brachytherapy units, bringing hope to cancer patients in the region and beyond. With such expansive services utilizing radiation at UMTH, there is obviously a need for an overarching radiation safety culture.

In compliance with a directive from the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria, UMTH celebrated the 2023 World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) with the theme “Engaging Patients for Patient Safety.” As part of our efforts to promote radiation safety culture in Nigeria, hospital management approved a proposal to deliver a presentation on radiation safety during the WPSD celebration. Two presenters were selected as speakers for this event: Dr. Michael Mwandri, International Committee on Red Cross (ICRC) Surgeon (Maiduguri), and Dr. Flavious Bobuin Nkubli, a Senior Lecturer with the University of Maiduguri and also an Honorary Clinical Radiographer and Radiation Protection Expert with UMTH. Dr. Mwandri gave a presentation on “Patient Safety in Trauma Surgery: ICRC Approach” while Dr. Nkubli spoke about “Engaging Patients for Patient Safety: A Radiation Safety Perspective.”
As a member of the IRPA Task Group on Radiation Safety Culture in Health Settings (RSCHC) representing the Nigerian Society for Radiation Protection (NSRP), Dr. Flavious Bobuin Nkubli's presentation highlighted the connection between the Global Patient Safety Action Plans of the WHO and Radiation Safety with a focus on the need to strengthen radiation safety culture in Nigerian health care settings. The presentation also explained how patients can be engaged and empowered, and their voices elevated in the context of radiation safety through the use of currently available IRPA tools, guiding principles for radiation safety culture and public engagement in radiation protection. Other tools introduced to the audience were the Radiation Safety Culture Trait talks of the IAEA and the tool for Communicating Radiation Risk in Paediatric Imaging of the WHO.

The public lecture was attended by members of the hospital community and members of the public, some of whom joined virtually. The sessions were insightful and engaging, especially the question and answer session on radiation safety. The meeting ended with closing remarks from the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Ibrahim Sanusi, who was representing the Chief Medical Director. He thanked all the speakers for their rich contributions to the subject of patient safety and all the participants at the event.

**Presenters: Dr Michael Mwandri (Left) and Dr. Flavius Bobuin Nkubli (Right)**
In 2023, The Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority (EAEA) has organized 44 scientific days to date, to inform both junior and senior EAEA staff about current scientific work.

To provide some background, the EAEA is composed of 4 scientific centers. Two of these centers are located in Inshass, 35 km east of Cairo, with the other two located in Cairo itself. The Nuclear Research center in Inshass is composed of 12 scientific departments, while the Hot Laboratory center consists of 9. In Cairo, the National Center of Radiation Research and Technology and the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Research Center consist of 14 and 9 scientific departments, respectively. Each site also includes two radiation protection departments.

As part of EAEA training activities, 1900 Undergraduate students from Egyptian Universities and Institutes are trained for 1-2 weeks in each department. These training courses focus on peaceful uses of atomic energy and include lectures and practical exercises.

The latest Scientific Day, hosted by the Radiation Protection and Civil Defense department (RP & CD) was held on July 9, 2023 at Inshass. The opening was chaired by Professor Heyda Kamel, EAEA Vice-Chair and acting head of the Nuclear Research center. In his speech he welcomed participants from various departments. Professor Sameh Othman, the current department head, also welcomed all staff members and other participants.
The first presentation of the day was given by Professor Wasfi Abdulmalik, during which he described some of the historical achievements of the department from 1957 to 2023. (Note that this contribution was previously published in IRPA Bulletin no 33). My own presentation followed, in which I reviewed the history of radiation protection legislation in Egypt from 1960 until 2023.

The third presentation was given by my colleague Professor Mourad Aziz who discussed the role of International organizations in preparing radiation protection standards. This was followed by a presentation by Associate Professor Talaat Ghazy, in which he outlined the elements of the Radiation Protection Consultation and Services project. This project was initiated by myself back in 1988 and it is still ongoing. Its activities include both EAEA facilities and medical and non-medical facilities for costumers requesting services and/or consultations.

Another 4 presentations were given in the second session, following a short break. Dr Taha spoke about the activities of the whole body counter unit, followed by Dr. Hanaa who presented on calibration activities and Professor Hoda who spoke about biological monitoring. The last presentation was given by Professor Soliman and was entitled “Cesium Miro-Particles (CsMPs): Radioactive Emissions with Special Characteristics.”

As part of the conference, the organizing committee of the RP & CD distributed a booklet to all participants, which contained photos as well as the following information:

- The department vision and strategic plans
- Short notes on the history of the department
- A list of department heads from 1960 till 2023
- Short notes on the activities of the department units - radiation control, external and internal dosimetry unit, radio analytical assay unit, calibration unit, waste disposal decontamination and transport unit and environmental monitoring unit
- Information on the activities of the radiation protection consultation and services project
The IRPA 16 Program Committee has decided to extend the abstract submission deadline to December 1, 2023. It is unlikely the abstract deadline will be extended again as the Core Group of the IRPA 16 Program Committee will be meeting in early February 2024 to make their final decisions regarding the program. IRPA 16 will take place 7-12 July, 2024, in Orlando, Florida, with the theme “Radiation Harmonization: Standing United for Protection”. I hope you all will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to attend IRPA 16 and discuss common issues and solutions with our international colleagues.

Visit the IRPA16 website for more details and to submit your abstract.

Kevin Nelson, Ph.D., CHP
IRPA VP for Congress Affairs
Chair, IRPA 16 Organizing Committee
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

Venue & Time
Akatsuki (29F)
Please come here by 13:55

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!

Registration deadline: October 20
(Application will be closed when the capacity is reached.)

Contact: jhpsygn2023@gmail.com

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SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to cop@irpa.net, and we’ll 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!

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Bernard Le Guen with Marina di Giorsio, Chair for IRPA TG on Women in Radiation Protection, and Marcela Ermacora, Argentinian Associate Society