



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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ISSUE #50



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

OUR 50TH ISSUE OF THE IRPA BULLETIN!

Slightly more than a dozen years ago we finalized the first issue of the Bulletin of the International Radiation Protection Association. In four pages we discussed our aims in starting the new Bulletin, gave some information about the upcoming IRPA 14 Congress in Cape Town, and shared some News from the IRPA EC. We also welcomed the Cameroon Radiological Protection Society to the IRPA family, described the Japanese Health Physics Society's discussion on RP issues in the aftermath of the accident at Fukushima, and provided preliminary information on four upcoming Regional Congresses.

IRPA Bulletin

March, 2014

No. 01



This Issue...

1. Welcome to the IRPA Bulletin
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3. The 14th IRPA Congress
4. News from IRPA AS: CRPS and JHPS
5. IRPA Regional Congresses

Your IRPA CoP

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Welcome to the IRPA Bulletin



It is a great pleasure to introduce this first issue of the IRPA Bulletin to all 18,000 or so members of the International Radiation Protection Association. IRPA strives to be the international voice of the radiation protection profession. This new quarterly bulletin, although aimed primarily at IRPA members, is an important part of fulfilling this objective.

The renewal of the IRPA Commission on Publications (CoP) has focused on ways to help our members in all 49 Associate Societies learn more about what is going on outside their own countries and regions. Over the last year you may have noticed an overhaul of our website, irpa.net, making it easier and more intuitive to access the information you want. This includes the irpa.net news feed, featured on the front page of the website, and which is more active than ever before. We are also now visible in the social media landscape. You can like IRPA on Facebook, follow IRPA on Twitter, subscribe to the IRPA RSS feed, or register for email updates through irpa.net.

These new media channels are fantastic for rapid and frequent communication, but focus on relatively short messages. This Bulletin complements our other media tools. It is certainly less frequent, being produced quarterly, but this has the advantage of shining light on a few carefully chosen top stories, and in a bit more depth than a 140 character tweet allows. Another advantage is the potential reach, as the intention is that it be translated into many languages. Although English is the working language of IRPA, it is not the first language for many of our members. Our hope is that this Bulletin will help cross language barriers, even if only in a small way.

How is all of this possible? The answer is simple: we draw on the strength of our volunteer members. Members of the CoP come from Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, UK, and the US. We have a crack team of media reviewers watching Associate Society publications and websites in English, French, German, Japanese, and Korean, and passing on items of broad interest to those who manage irpa.net, our social media, and of course this Bulletin.

Would you like to join the team? We need more media reviewers to cover other languages, and volunteers willing to translate this quarterly bulletin. If you are interested contact me at pub.dir@irpa.net.

Christopher Clement
IRPA Publications Director

International Radiation Protection Association

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

OUR 50TH ISSUE OF THE IRPA BULLETIN!



IRPA BULLETIN

For RP professionals, by RP professionals

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President's Blog

(Roger Coates, IRPA President)

What an interesting year! We have now had our four Regional Congresses – Latin America (Havana, Cuba), Asia/Oceania (Melbourne, Australia), Europe (The Hague, Netherlands) and finally the African Regional Congress in Tunis. These have all been incredibly successful, with a combined attendance of around 1500 delegates, which is heading towards 10% of the total IRPA community. In addition, I have been fortunate to visit the annual conferences of our RP societies in India, Israel, the UK and the US, which adds about another 2000 delegates to the list.

So, what comes out of all this? Well, it is clear that our profession has a lot of common challenges and common interests, some of which I will outline below.

There are concerns about the future of our profession – where are the next generation of RP professionals coming from? How do we attract enough people and make sure that they are competent? But whilst there are challenges, there is also hope. The number of young persons engaged in these congresses has been enormous, and their enthusiasm and willingness to engage is stunning. We have had regional launches of our Young Generation Network (YGN) at each Congress, and it seems to me that this is a very timely and successful development within IRPA.

You might have noticed that, over these years, the Bulletin has changed and grown a bit!

Since that inaugural issue we've covered the gamut of IRPA's business – International Congresses in Seoul (IRPA 15), Orlando (IRPA 16), and (in 2028), Valencia Spain; regional Congresses around the globe; we've reported on IRPA's budget and financial management; introduced you to members of the EC, the recipients of IRPA awards, and some of our up-and-coming younger colleagues; the workings of our Task Groups, introduced you to a number of our Associate Societies, and much, much more. We'd like to think that the Bulletin has matured and, as happens so often with maturity, it's also expanded a bit, hopefully becoming more informative and more useful. And in conjunction with the IRPA website, IRPA videos, IRPA reports and other publications, the News, the Bulletin rounds out IRPA's communications with the Associate Societies and with you, the members.

Here's to the 50 Issues of the Bulletin, and to however many more lie in our future!



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2028 ROLF M. SIEVERT AWARD

The Rolf M. Sievert Award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to radiation protection, which honours the memory of a leader and pioneer in radiation physics and radiation protection, Professor Rolf M. Sievert. The recipient must be pre-eminent in the discipline.

Commencing with the 1973 IRPA Congress, each International Congress has been opened by the Sievert Lecture which is presented by the winner of the Rolf M. Sievert Award. The list of recipients of the Sievert Award is as follows, and their Sievert Lectures can be found [here on the IRPA website](#).

1973 Prof. Bo Lindell (Sweden)	2000 Prof. Dr. Itsuzo Shigematsu (Japan)
1977 Prof. W.V. Mayneord (United Kingdom)	2004 Engr. Abel J. Gonzalez (Argentina)
1980 Dr. Lauriston. S. Taylor (USA)	2008 Prof. Christian Streffer (Germany)
1984 Sir Edward Pochin (United Kingdom)	2012 Dr. Richard Osborne (Canada)
1988 Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Jacobi (Germany)	2016 Dr. John Boice (USA)
1992 Dr. Giovanni Silini (Italy)	2021 Prof. Eliseo Vañó (Spain)
1996 Dr. Dan J. Beninson (Argentina)	2024 Dr. María del Rosario Pérez (Argentina)

The 2028 Sievert Award will be presented during the Opening Ceremony of the next IRPA International Congress (IRPA 17) to be held in Valencia, Spain, from May 29 to June 2, 2028.

Approximatively three years before an International IRPA Congress, the IRPA Vice-President, who is the Chair of the Sievert Award Committee, invites Presidents of all IRPA Associate Societies to submit nominations for the Sievert Award. The Sievert Award Committee is responsible for evaluating nominations for the Rolf Sievert Award submitted by IRPA Associate Societies. Details of the selection process can be found in [Annex D to the IRPA Rules](#).

Invitations to submit nominations for the Sievert Award 2028 have already been sent to all IRPA Associate Society presidents. **The nomination deadline is September 29, 2026.**



ASSOCIATE SOCIETY UPDATE: CANADIAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Authors:

Michèle Légaré: IRPA Associate Societies Liaison and Chair, International Liaison Committee of the Canadian Radiation Protection Association, CRPA Past-President.

Outgoing Director and Corporate Radiation and Laser Safety Officer, The Ottawa Hospital, Canada

Ali Shoushtarian: Director, Canadian Radiation Protection Association
Manager, Nuclear Substances and Regional Partners RSO



As active members of the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) it is our pleasure to share some news from our home country Canada.

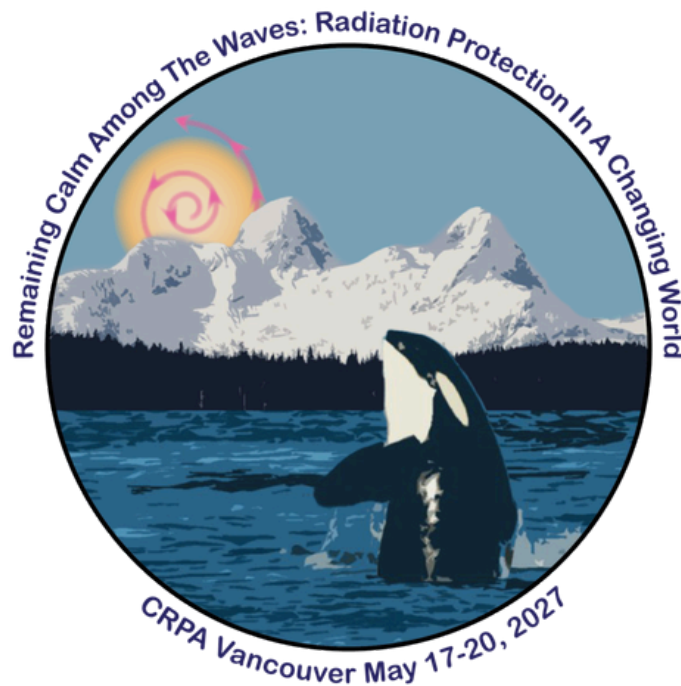
Since 1979, the [Canadian Radiation Protection Association \(CRPA\)](#) has been advancing the development and communication of scientific knowledge and practical means for protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation. CRPA has over 300 members from all areas of industry including hospitals and health care, universities, nuclear power and mining industries, regulatory bodies and all levels of government. 95% of our members are from within Canada and 5% are international, including members from Australia, Europe, and the U.S.



ASSOCIATE SOCIETY UPDATE: CANADIAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Our most recent event was the joint 2026 Symposium on Radon and Radiation Protection in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (Canada), a collaborative conference between the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) and the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA). This partnership brought together the expertise and extensive networks of two leading organizations dedicated to advancing radiation safety and promoting best practices in the field. The collaboration enabled a broader range of topics to be explored while fostering stronger connections between our memberships, enhancing knowledge sharing and advancing awareness.

If you'd like to experience our conferences for yourself, join us in lovely Vancouver, British Columbia next year!



CRPA is committed to increasing its collaboration internationally and has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the China Society of Radioprotection (CSRFP), and most recently with the Société française de radioprotection (SFRP). This will facilitate mutual participation at annual conferences and the deepening of collaboration and learning via webinars or other exchanges. This past year as well, an MOU was signed between the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection for Cooperation and Exchange of Information in Nuclear Regulatory Matters.

Other recent achievements include:

- The establishment of the Delmar McCormack Smyth scholarship in partnership with the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada (RSIC) for eligible students attending Canadian universities or colleges: the 2026 scholarship was granted to three students.
- Signing of an MOU with the American Association of Health Physicists (AAHP) to collaborate on the training, education and accreditation of Radiation Protection Professionals, specifically Health Physicists, in Canada.



ASSOCIATE SOCIETY UPDATE: CANADIAN RADIATION PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



Our most recent Board of Directors have just started their new term for 2026-2027. From left to right: Josip Zic (President), Rhonda Buchy (Director of Professional Development), Sheila MacMahon (President Elect), Ali Shoushtarian (Director of Communications), Celia Figel (Director of Internal Affairs), Tara Hargreaves (Past President), Jill Robertson (Director of External Affairs), Sue Singer (Secretariat), Tanya Vlaskalin, (Secretary). Absent: Mojgan Soleimani (Treasurer).

About Canada: Canada is a huge country, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the American border to the Arctic Ocean, within less than 1000 km from the North Pole – second only to Russia in area and second to none in the length of our coastline. Yet, with a population of only about 42 million, most of whom live close to the American border, virtually all Canada is wilderness. That being said, Canada is rich in natural resources, exporting timber, petroleum, gold, diamonds, and much more to the world, in addition to an impressive array of manufactured goods; with the Canadian Rockies, the Canadian Shield, the central plains, and two gorgeous coasts, Canada is one of the most beautiful nations on our planet.

Politically, Canada is a Parliamentary democracy and Constitutional monarchy; our Prime Minister is Mark Carney and King Charles III is our head of state. Canada has ten provinces and three territories and is officially bilingual with French most widely spoken in the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick (French is the primary language of about 18% of Canadians) and English by 54%; as one of the globe's most diverse nations Canadians speak many other languages, including a variety of First Nations tongues, Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Spanish, and Arabic.

If you are lucky enough to pay us a visit, plan on visiting Quebec and Montreal for the history and a taste of our French culture; Toronto and Ottawa as our financial, political, and cultural capitals; Vancouver for its stunning natural setting; and far too many places to name in the Rockies, the Maritime Provinces, and British Columbia.

IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

The UK Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) were fantastic hosts for the 7th European IRPA Congress in Liverpool, held from 1-5 June 2026. With over 1100 people from 45 countries participating, it was by all metrics a resounding success. Here are a few highlights from our IRPA members who were in attendance.

NORM Task Group

There was some big news from our Task Group on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) with the official presentation of the final draft of the NORM handbook. This is the culmination of over eight years of collaborative work, and so is definitely cause for celebration! Rainer Gellermann (Germany) and Jim Hondros (Australia), co-chairs of the Task Group, and all the members have a great deal to be proud of.

The handbook aims to increase awareness of radiation protection issues related to NORM in industry, develop common understanding of requirements and challenges, and serve multiple educational purposes. It addresses daily life challenges in radiation protection, educates new practitioners, promotes practical solutions while maintaining proper risk perspective, and supports practitioners in specialized tasks.

A copy of the final draft is available [here on the IRPA website](#), along with a comment table that can be used to submit feedback or other suggestions on the draft. The final version will be published under a Creative Commons license, available as a free PDF. Hard copies will also be available through bookseller platforms with ISBN pricing, with a portion of proceeds going to the Montreal fund.



Showing off a freshly printed copy of the draft NORM Handbook outside the congress venue



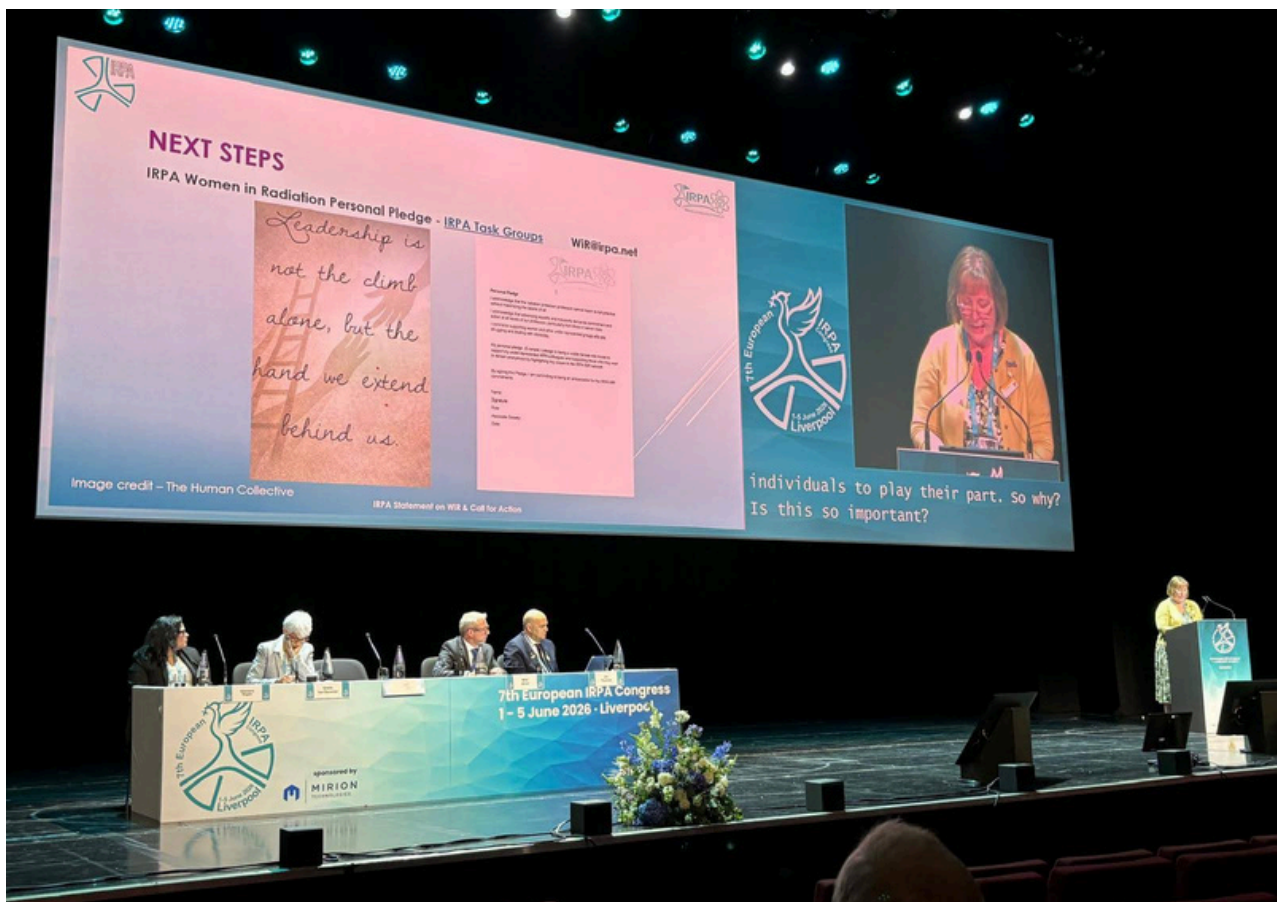
IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

Women in Radiation Task Group

There has also been significant developments from our Women in Nuclear (WiN) Task Group. Late last year, the group published the IRPA Statement on Women in Radiation and the Call for Action. The statement aims to increase the visibility and recognition of women's contributions to radiation protection and to inspire the next generation of female professionals.

This was discussed in more detail in a webinar in March 2026, where the Associate Society and Individual pledges were also presented. All of these documents are available on the [Task Group page of the IRPA website](#). You can also email the group directly at WiR@irpa.net.

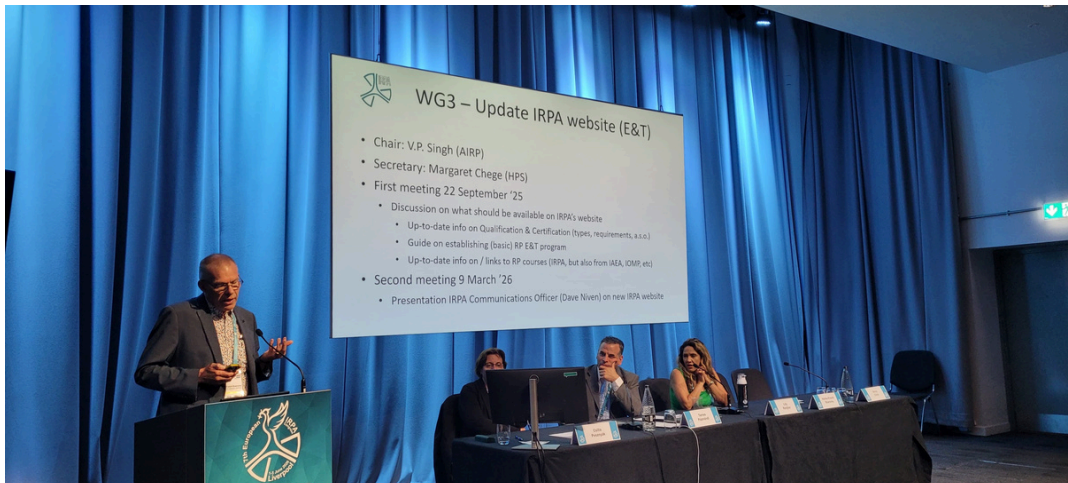
There was also a presentation of the eight key initiatives of the Task Group, covering training opportunities, webinars and workshops, networking events, funding equity, childcare support, international collaboration, workplace policies, and outreach activities. Finally, the new initiatives currently under development were introduced, including the IRPA WiR Charter, the IRPA WiR Personal Pledge, and the IRPA WiR badge



IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

Education and Training Task Group

This Task Group was re-established in 2025 and is chaired by IRPA EC member Hielke Freerk Boersma. IRPA recognizes Education & Training as the foundation of effective Radiation Protection and a strong RP culture, particularly in the context of the nuclear renaissance, workforce ageing, increasing medical applications, and uneven RP awareness worldwide.



Hielke Freerk reported on the newly established Task Group on Radiation Protection Education & Training during both the Associate Societies Forum and the Scientific Program. In particular the status of the work of the three Working Groups operating under the umbrella of the TG was addressed. Highlights were the upcoming series of IRPA refresher webinars and the cooperation with the EUTERP foundation in the organization of the 10th EUTERP workshop (to be held from 7 - 9 July 2026 at PSI in Switzerland, topic Competence-based approaches in radiation protection). There was an informal get-together for the European members of the Task Group attending the regional European congress. During and following the congress, the TG received three more nominations for new members.



Education and Training Task Group Core Members

IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

Montreal Fund

Of course, a topic for every IRPA Congress is the Montreal Fund. This is one of the most important IRPA initiatives, and is used to support the attendance of students and young professionals from developing countries at IRPA Congresses.

There was a good discussion on the Montreal Fund at the Associate Societies Forum. One of the many ideas brought up to enhance donations was to include a small donation to the Montreal Fund in the registration fee for IRPA 17. This has been discussed with the organizers of IRPA 17, and they have generously agreed to implement the plan with an amount of 10 EUR (about 11.6 USD) per full-fee registered participant. Assuming there are at least 1000 registrants for IRPA 17, this will provide over USD 10 000 to the Montreal Fund!

There are plenty of other opportunities to donate to the Montreal Fund. Ultimately, the fund can only be maintained with the generous support of our donors. You can donate to the fund yourself via PayPal [through the IRPA website!](#)



Other Updates from the Associate Society Forum

- We discussed the feasibility of introducing corporate and organizational affiliate members as many Associate Societies have done (will require General Assembly approval at next International Congress)
- Proposed updates and minor modifications to IRPA's Code of Ethics were presented
- The Task Group on Non-Ionizing Radiation is developing Recommendations for non-ionizing radiation professionals on managing public perception and scientific misinformation

IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

Finally, if you missed the welcoming address by IRPA President Chris Clement, here it is!

Dear colleagues,

As President of IRPA, it is a great honour and pleasure to address you at the opening of the 7th European IRPA Regional Congress.

Let me begin by thanking the Society for Radiological Protection, and all the committees, volunteers, sponsors, speakers, and participants who made this Congress possible. A meeting like this does not happen by accident. It reflects years of commitment, planning, and professional service. On behalf of IRPA, I offer sincere thanks to everyone involved.



The theme of this Congress 'Encouraging collaboration in radiation protection' goes directly to the heart of IRPA's purpose: to promote international collaboration and cooperation among those involved in radiation protection, ultimately to contribute to the protection of people and the environment and to facilitate the safe use of ionising and non-ionising radiation for the benefit of humankind.

Radiation protection is built on science, experience, judgement, and trust. None of these develops in isolation. Our profession depends on collaboration: among countries, disciplines, sectors, generations, and people working in very different practical circumstances.

Europe has long been one of the strongest contributors to radiation protection science, practice, regulation, education, and international dialogue. But the value of a European Congress is not only European. The discussions that take place have an impact well beyond this region. They contribute to the global conversation about how radiation protection should continue to develop, and how it can remain scientifically sound, practically useful, ethically grounded, and trusted by those we serve.

That is where IRPA has such an important role. IRPA is not only a structure of Associate Societies. It is a way for the radiation protection profession to speak, listen, challenge itself, and learn.

However, the radiation protection profession is larger than IRPA's formal membership. Many people who are not members of an Associate Society contribute every day to radiation protection. We need their experience too. One of IRPA's responsibilities is to make the circle wider, and to ensure that professional experience from all parts of our field can be heard.



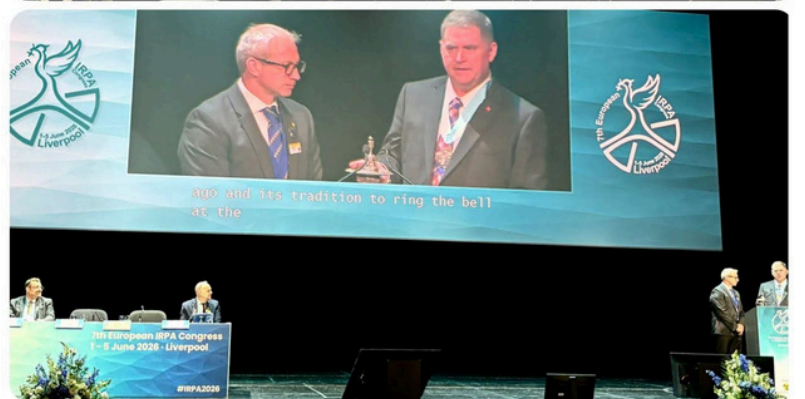
IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

This is especially important for young professionals. They are not simply the future of radiation protection; they are already part of its present. They bring new skills, new expectations, and a willingness to ask direct questions. A healthy profession welcomes continuity, but it also welcomes challenge. I hope this Congress gives young professionals opportunities to speak, question, connect, and see themselves as full participants in the international radiation protection community.

The Montreal Fund is one practical way IRPA supports this. By helping young professionals from developing countries attend IRPA Congresses, it turns inclusion from an aspiration into an opportunity: the opportunity to participate, build networks, and bring experience back to their own communities. I strongly encourage Associate Societies, other organisations, and individuals who are able to do so to consider supporting the Fund, so that more young colleagues can share in this opportunity.

One of the most important areas where IRPA can contribute is in helping the profession reflect on the System of Radiological Protection. However, it is not IRPA's role to duplicate the work of ICRP or to speak for it. Our role is to help the radiation protection profession discuss the System and its application in a structured, practical, and constructive way.

The System is used every day by professionals in many different settings. They know where application is straightforward, and where it becomes complicated. They know which ideas are robust and valuable, and which areas may need clarification, development, or better communication. Radiation protection rests on sophisticated scientific and ethical foundations because it must balance evidence, judgement, uncertainty, benefit, risk, and fairness. But it succeeds only when it can be applied in practice. The experience of professionals is therefore crucial.



IRPA IN LIVERPOOL: 7TH EUROPEAN IRPA CONGRESS

I therefore strongly encourage IRPA Associate Societies to organise discussion groups within your own communities, and where possible among societies. Ask what works well, what is difficult to apply or communicate, what should be preserved, and what questions are emerging from new technologies, expectations, social conditions, and practical challenges.

The goal is not that every society should reach the same conclusions. The goal is that IRPA helps consolidate the most important questions, concerns, insights, and encouragement from the profession. The IRPA Task Group on the Review of the System of Radiological Protection, chaired by Claire-Louise Chapple, provides an important mechanism for bringing these reflections together.

I am also proud of IRPA's Task Group work, including, for example, recent and continuing work on non-ionising radiation, important statements from Women in Radiation, and the NORM handbook, which will be officially launched during this Congress. These are strong examples of IRPA turning professional collaboration into something tangible and useful.

This Congress is also part of a wider IRPA journey. Later this year, regional congresses will take place in Beijing, China, and Medellín, Colombia. We are also looking forward to an African Regional Congress being developed for 2027. All this builds momentum towards IRPA17, the next IRPA International Congress, in Valencia, Spain, in 2028. These are not isolated events. They are connected parts of a continuing international conversation about the future of radiation protection.

In closing, I encourage you to use this Congress fully. Attend the sessions, of course, but also speak with people you do not already know. Seek out colleagues from other countries and sectors. Bring young professionals into the discussion. Ask difficult questions. Share practical experience. Think about what should be carried forward through your own societies, through IRPA, and through the wider international community.

If we leave Liverpool with stronger connections, clearer questions, renewed professional confidence, and a deeper commitment to the practical and ethical purpose of radiation protection, then this Congress will have served not only Europe, but the international radiation protection community as a whole.

On behalf of IRPA, I wish you a successful, stimulating, and enjoyable Congress.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next IRPA Regional Congresses for 2026!



AOCRP7
7th ASIAN AND OCEANIC CONGRESS ON
RADIATION PROTECTION

Towards a Better Home:
Unlocking the Potential of Nuclear Safety and
Radiation Protection in the Asia-Oceania

Sep 8-12, 2026 Beijing, China

Hosted By China Society of Radiation Protection (CSRP)



XIII Congreso Regional de
Seguridad Radiológica y Nuclear

XI Congreso Regional IRPA

18 al 22 de Octubre de 2026
Centro de Eventos Fórum UPB
Medellín-Colombia



SEND US YOUR NEWS & EVENTS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to:

cop@irpa.net



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!

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Andrew Karam, Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Manager: Dave Niven

Social Media Managers: Sara Dumit & Dave Niven

