

INFORMATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ICRP COMMITTEE 3

The meeting was held in Beijing, China, from 10 to 14 October 2004 under the chairmanship of Prof. Mettler, and was attended by 14 full members plus 3 observers (the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements, ICRU, the International Labour Organization, ILO, and the International Standardization Organization, ISO). The International Electrotechnical Commission, IEC, presented its apologies.

Some aspects on the annual medical examination for workers with ionising radiation were discussed and the criteria of the ILO were presented by observer of this Organization, Mr. Niu. There was indication that ILO would be open to recommendations on scientific justification on medical surveillance of persons exposed to ionizing radiation. ILO also would be happy to participate in efforts.

The draft on “Radiation safety aspects of Brachytherapy for prostate cancer using permanently implanted sources” was presented by Dr. JM Cosset and accepted for final approval of the Main Commission of the ICRP.

The last draft of the 2005 Recommendations of the ICRP was discussed. No major objections to the draft exist by the part of Committee 3 (C3). The following suggestions were made:

- To reinforce the aspects of training for medical exposures, quoting all the documents produced by C3 during the last years.
- To clarify the changes in some risk factors, especially breast and gonads, and in general, with reference to Annex A (Nominal risk coefficients, transport of risk, radiation detriment and tissue weighting factors), to clarify for non experts in radiobiology.
- To clarify the quoted age for workers: 20 to 64 years.
- To verify whether to include the statement that effective doses should not be recalculated retrospectively with the new weighting factors.
- To update the risk for cataracts induced by radiation.
- Clarification of constraints as they often appear as limits with maximum values.
- Recommendation to include the requirement for those making justification decisions to have the competencies to evaluate risk as well as benefit
- Clarification of definition of medical exposure re patient vs occupational.

The Chairman informed on the future changes in the members of Committee 3. The Committee will be limited to 15 members. Claire Cousins will act as Vice-Chairman and Eliseo Vano as new Secretary. New members from China and Japan will be incorporated. The Chairman encouraged other members of C3 to look for a suitable replacement during the coming years.

The following Task Groups (TG) and Working Parties (WP) were agreed by Committee 3. The Chairmen of the different WP and TG are indicated together with the estimated time to finish the documents.

- TG: Radiation protection for cardiologists performing fluoroscopically guided procedures.
 - Claire Cousins (1 year)

- TG: Radiation protection issues of modern radiotherapy techniques
 - JM. Cosset (Joint project with ICRU) (3 years)
- TG: Dose to patients from radiopharmaceuticals
 - Sören Mattsson (on going)
- WP: Protecting children: Diagnostic techniques involving ionizing radiation
 - H. Ringertz (2 – 3 years)
- WP: Exposure of hands to ionizing radiation while preparing and handling radiopharmaceuticals.
 - Julian Linecki (1 – 1.5 years)
- WP: Radiation protection training for clinical personnel that use ionizing radiation in medicine.
 - Eliseo Vano (2-3 years)
- WP: Medical-Legal exposures using ionizing radiation without direct benefit to the exposed individual.
 - C. Sharp (2-3 years)
- WP: .Medical examinations and follow-up of persons accidentally or occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation
 - Fred Mettler (1.5 years)
- WP: Medical screening of asymptomatic persons using ionizing radiation.
 - Fred Mettler (1.5 – 2 years)
- WP: Dose management in multi-detector computed tomography (CT).
 - Madan Rehani (2 years)

The ISO activities in the field of Radiation Protection were presented by Marie Line Perrin, observer of the ISO. It was informed that the Subcommittee ISO/TC85/SC2 (radiation protection). C3 asks Mrs. Perrin to send information on the composition of the WG's developing the documents related with RP in medicine and the drafts that could be produced in order to have the opportunity to send comments to the ISO.

Fred Mettler informed on the proposal of World Health Organization (WHO) to reproduce and disseminate part of the publication prepared by ICRP: "Supporting Guidance 2: Radiation and Your Patient: A Guide for Medical Practitioners". The Committee agreed to verify the consistency with the original text.

André Wambersie presented the most recent activities of the ICRU in the field of interest of C3, especially the content of the document "Dosimetry and reporting of therapeutic applications of beta rays and low energy photons" (ICRU report 72).

The draft of the document "Radiation dose to patients from Radiopharmaceuticals" was presented by Sören Mattsson and approved by the Committee. As the document contains relevant changes with practical implications in comparison with some of the previous ICRP publications 52 and 80 (especially in relation with the periods of breast feeding interruption), a paragraph highlighting this aspect will be prepared for consideration of the Main Commission.

The next combined meeting with other committees and Main Commission will be held in Geneva, September 11-15, 2005.