



ICRP Announces Changes to its Committee Structure and Mandates

At its recent meeting in Shenzhen, China, the Main Commission discussed the future programme of work and the optimal Committee structure required to support it. This is timely as the current term of ICRP ends on 30 June 2017 and the Commission will soon invite nominations for membership for the next four-year term, starting 1 July 2017.

Since 2005, five Committees have driven the operational activities of ICRP, with mandates broadly covering radiation effects (Committee 1), dosimetry (Committee 2), radiation in medicine (Committee 3), application of the Commission's recommendations (Committee 4) and environment (Committee 5). The work of Committee 5 has significantly elevated recognition of the environment within the ICRP system, and in user and regulatory communities. ICRP *Publications 91, 103, 108, and 114* trace the development from an initial framework to more detailed information for implementation. ICRP *Publication 124* provides a description of how the system works in planned, emergency and existing exposure situations. Additional reports will be published in the near future.

ICRP believes that a holistic and integrated view of all the benefits and impacts that may result from the introduction of a new source in planned exposure situations, or consideration of actions in existing and emergency exposure situations, should include appropriate consideration of protection of both people and the environment. There remains work to be done to bring to fruition a consistent and coherent approach to the justification and optimisation in any particular exposure situation that effectively takes into account the implications of various options for protection of humans and the environment.

The Commission has decided to take a further step in consistently incorporating protection of the environment into its activities by restructuring the standing Committees at the commencement of the next term, to include the relevant aspects of protection of humans and the environment into the mandates of each of the Committees. This step will bring together the resources of the Commission to examine effects for humans and the environment in Committee 1, modelling of doses for humans and the environment in Committee 2, and application of the Commission's recommendations for protection of humans and the environment in Committee 4. Such an organisation emphasises that the environment is to be an integral consideration in the system of protection.



The Commission has also decided to broaden the mandate of Committee 3, which currently focusses on radiological protection in medicine. The Commission recognises that similar yet different challenges are encountered in veterinary practices, which to date ICRP has not considered. Therefore, a change has been made to the mandate of Committee 3 to accommodate the inclusion of radiological protection in veterinary medicine.

Revised Committee Mandates (effective 1 July 2017)

Committee 1: Radiation Effects

Committee 1 considers the effects of radiation action from the subcellular to population and ecosystem levels, including the induction of cancer, heritable and other diseases, impairment of tissue/organ function and developmental defects, and assesses implications for protection of people and the environment.

Committee 2: Doses from Radiation Exposure

Committee 2 develops dosimetric methodology for the assessment of internal and external radiation exposures, including reference biokinetic and dosimetric models and reference data and dose coefficients, for use in the protection of people and the environment.

Committee 3: Radiological Protection in Medicine

Committee 3 addresses protection of persons and unborn children when ionising radiation is used in medical diagnosis, therapy, and biomedical research, as well as protection in veterinary medicine.

Committee 4: Application of the Commission's Recommendations

Committee 4 provides advice on the application of the Commission's recommendations for the protection of people and the environment in an integrated manner for all exposure situations.