

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RADIOLOGICAL
PROTECTION OF PATIENTS
SPAIN, 26-30 March 2001**

From 26 to 30 March 2001, in Torremolinos (Spain), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has organized the "International Conference on the Radiological Protection of Patients in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy" which was co-sponsored by the European Commission (EC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO), hosted by the Government of Spain and in co-operation with the International Commission of Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

The objective of the Conference was to foster the exchange of information on issues related to the radiological protection of patients during medical usage of ionizing radiation and to formulate recommendations regarding further international co-operation. More than 950 specialists in the medical applications of radiation from more than 80 countries have participated at this prestigious scientific meeting.

After an **opening session** with welcoming addresses by the representatives of the host Government, IAEA and co-sponsoring organizations, a **background session** at which the global view position on the radiological protection of patients of the most important organizations in this area has been presented.

Five **briefing sessions** summarized in keynote presentations subjects such as:

- Current uses of radiation in medicine (keynote speaker: P. Shrimpton, UK, member of the scientific staff for the UNSCEAR 2000 Report)
- Current levels of radiation dose to patients (keynote speaker: A. Servomaa, Finland)
- The history of use of radiation in medicine and lessons learned from past experience (keynote speaker: D. Goodenough, USA)
- Benefits and radiological risks from medical exposure (keynote speaker: F. Mettler)
- International regulatory climate (keynote speaker: J-F Lacronique, France)

A series of 13 **topical sessions** covering selected topics relating to radiological protection of patients included the relevant contributed papers summarized by the Rapporteurs, whose presentation was followed by a general discussion. The topical session summaries were prepared and presented by the Chairpersons.

The subjects covered in these topical sessions were as following:

1. Radiological protection of patients in general diagnostic radiology
2. Radiological protection issues in specific uses of diagnostic radiology, such as mammography

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- and computed tomography (with special consideration of the impact of digital techniques)
3. Radiological protection in interventional radiology, including fluoroscopy not carried out by radiologists
 4. Radiological protection of patients in nuclear medicine
 5. Developing and using guidance (reference) levels in radiology and nuclear medicine examinations
 6. Radiological protection of the embryo and fetus in pregnant patients
 7. Radiological protection of pediatric patients
 8. Radiological protection of patients in radiotherapy (including the prevention of exposures differing from prescription)
 9. Radiological protection of patients in biomedical research
 10. Influence of standardization in the design and development of medical radiological equipment on the radiological protection of patients.
 11. Education, training and continuous professional development in the radiological protection of patients
 12. Topics for research and development in the radiological protection of patients
 13. Implementation of regulation on the radiological protection of patients

Six **round tables** with discussion on subjects such as: expectation of patients advocates, what should be done about radiation sensitive groups, establishing priorities on radiological protection of patients, how to assess

the risks and benefits, regulations, what is the acceptable (non-occupational) exposure for caregivers- have completed the Conference.

Authors of contributed papers had the possibility to present their work in the form of **Posters**, which were exhibited in a Poster Area of the wonderful “Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones de la Costa del Sol”

Romania was represented at this Conference by two authors of the Contributed Papers:

C. Milu, A. Dumitrescu, R. Marin, F.S. Popescu: “Radiation doses to patients in diagnostic radiology in Romania: comparison with guidance levels and possibilities of reduction” (Institute of Public Health- Bucharest)

Olga Iacob, Cornelia Diaconescu: “Doses to patients from diagnostic radiology in Romania” (Institute of Public Health-Iasi).

An extensive technical exhibition, featuring the latest products of leading medical radiation equipment, was opened all days of the Conference.

Olga Iacob