

## **SRP Sectorial Committee: Radiation Protection in Medicine**

### **Meeting Summary: 003 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2004. London**

The arrangements for the SRP Special Focus session at the UK Radiology Congress are in place. The session takes place on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> June in Manchester (G-Mex/MICC). The programme has been set to focus on staff and operational issues rather than patient dosimetry, which tends to be covered elsewhere in the Congress. We have also included talks on radiation protection from other sectors to widen the knowledge of healthcare practitioners. The talks and speakers are:

- The Management of Radiation Protection in Diagnostic Radiology - Colin Martin, NHS Glasgow
- A Comparison of Personal Dosimetry Practice in Healthcare in Europe – John Croft, NRPB
- A Review of radiation doses to Staff in Healthcare Compared to other Sectors - Stuart Hughes, NRPB
- An Overview of Radiation Safety in the Nuclear Industry - Colin Partington, BNFL
- HSE Guidance on Comforters and Carers - Mark Singleton, NHS Sheffield
- Fitness of Equipment for Medical Exposures - Mike Nettleton, HSE.

A provision programme for Cardiff 2005 was discussed as Colin Martin has been approached by SRP to consider a session on medical exposures.

The format for the Medical Sector pages of the SRP website was agreed. Several recent meeting reports will be submitted for inclusion and a volunteer has been found to provide regular news, events and general interest items. It is hoped to have material to the SRP webmaster later in the summer.

The RPA2000 Re-Certification Scheme was discussed, and concerns raised on a number of aspects, including compatibility/transfer with other schemes (in particular the IPEM scheme), the difficulty in gaining competence based points for an RPA with a single employer and no external clients, and the balance between learning and competence. There was also concern that many hospital-based RPAs may have difficulty getting funding/time-off from their employer to attend a sufficient number of RPA Update events. Peter Marsden will raise these issues at the IPEM RPA Working Party meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Also, several Committee members will be at the next RPA2000 Assessors meeting.

One book review ("Practical Radiation Protection in Healthcare") has been completed by Mark Singleton and has been published in JRP in Dec 2003. Another ("Medical Imaging and Radiation Protection for Medical Students and Clinical Staff") is being prepared.

With regards medical exposure items which appear in the popular press (eg the recent article on linking low birthweight babies to dental X-rays), the Committee agreed it should be prepared to respond should any queries be passed to it via the SRP website, but would not prepare a response to all such articles in the absence of any request to do so. It was also agreed that we use our judgement to select journal articles for mention on the website rather than give a regular digest of all radiation protection articles appearing in medical sector journals.

The next meeting of the Committee is provisionally booked for early November 2004 in London.

Report prepared by Peter Marsden, RP in Medicine Chairman. May 2004.