



srp newsletter

The Society for Radiological Protection

Issue 36

June 2007

Message from the Incoming President

It is with great pleasure that I start my term as President of SRP. It promises to be a busy year.

I hope that we will be successful in our endeavours in our application for the grant of Royal Charter, gaining recognition for the profession of radiation protection. The result of the vote was nem.con. at the AGM meeting. The postal ballot votes are now in and we have an overwhelming decisive vote in favour. So what are the next steps? The Petition and Charter will be submitted to the Privy Council Office for approval and, if deemed to merit the award, it is then presented to Her Majesty the Queen for signature. If successful this will occur in October. So fingers crossed that we succeed after all our efforts.

At this point I think it is appropriate that I acknowledge the efforts of all those who have been involved in the development of the Petition, Charter and Bylaws, in particular those on the Strategic Planning Committee. I would also like to thank our Partner Societies for their support.

I also wish to acknowledge all the volunteers who have contributed to the other work of the Society, organising and attending committees and scientific meetings, support to the Journal and the web site, representing SRP on external groups and last but not least the Honorary Secretary, Bryan Smith and Tessa Harris for maintaining the Administrative Office.

So what are we going to do in the next year? Much of the work over the summer months will be dedicated to ensuring that the supporting documentation is in place to support the Charter. For example, a panel will be required to assess applications and ensure that all runs smoothly. Various groups and committees will be busy organising future events, such as the Transport meeting and the Skills and Training meeting. The topic for next year's two day AGM meeting will be 'Radiation Protection - The Next Generation' and will hopefully cover a whole range of radiation protection topics including medical technology, nuclear build and qualified persons. The coming year has an exciting programme of events on a range of topics that should appeal to everyone. Look out for the details on the SRP flyers and the web site.

The Society is to host the Informal European Presidents' meeting in October where we hope to impress the European Presidents and convince them that Glasgow is a suitable venue to hold IRPA13 in 2012. Glasgow has certainly changed in recent years from how I remember it.



Sheila Liddle being given the Presidential medal by outgoing President Cathy Griffiths OBE

If you have any ideas for future events please let either myself or Tessa know, as we are here to support the membership. I have assisted in organising so many SRP meetings that I am running out of ideas! I would also welcome any constructive suggestions as to how we can improve our work as a Society. Are there areas where members feel they are not represented? We do take notice of any feedback we get, so please let us know and we will see what we can do to oblige.

Sheila Liddle

New Officers & Council Members

At the AGM on 24 April at Keele University, Sheila Liddle took over as the new President of the Society from Cathy Griffiths OBE. The following positions on Council were also announced: President Elect: George Sallit, Honorary Secretary: Bryan Smith (2007/9), Council Members elected for a second term (2007/10): Tony Richards and David Smith, Affiliate Representative: Richard Wilkins and Associate Representative: Chris Redpath.

Diary Dates: Future SRP Meetings

20th June (Dartington, Devon)

Dosimetry - Requirements & Practice

1st November (Birmingham)

Transport Issues

6th December (London)

Hospital Design: Planning, Pitfalls & Politics

30 January (London)

Skills & Training in Radiation Protection

Late April (Portsmouth)

Radiation Protection - The Next Generation AGM Meeting & Exhibition

Fees (ex VAT):

One day events:

£80 members/ £120 non members

Two day AGM Meeting:

£225 members/£340 non members

Enclosed with this Issue (full members only)

Stakeholder meeting flyer (11 December 07)

Placements: Berkeley Lab, USA & BAe

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Awards

Bursary Awards 2007/8

The Society annually offers two bursaries to students wishing to undertake MSc level studies at a British University. Deadline for receipt of applications for the SRP Scholarship (course fees plus living expenses) and Studentship (course fees plus book grant) is **30 June**. Please see www.srp-uk.org/servburs.html for further details and the application form.

2008 Jack Martin Prize

The Jack Martin Prize is awarded to promote excellence in the field of radiological protection. Recent successful theses are invited for consideration for the 2008 Prize. They will be eligible for submission if they

* have been submitted for evaluation at any time after 31st December 2003

* have resulted (in whole or in part) in the award of a higher degree to the candidate

The dissertations and theses must include a substantial component relating to operational or environmental protection from ionising or non-ionising radiation, but there is no requirement that they shall relate solely to radiation protection. Nominations (with a summary of the thesis) may be received from supervisors or direct from students. In the latter case, the relevant research supervisors may be contacted to verify the date of submission and award of degree. Short-listed candidates will be asked to supply one full copy of their thesis for judging. The final date for submission of nominations is **31st December 2007**.

Issue No 30 of Radiation Protection News April 2007

(www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/rpa/rpa30.htm)

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- Applications for Certificate of Core Competence
- RPA Assessing Bodies
- Nuclear Industry Changeroom Code of Practice
- Nuclear medicine patients and radiation detectors at UK ports and airports
- Incident involving Alexander Litvinenko
- New edition of Safety Assessment Principles
- Additional Guidance on IRR99
- Clarification in relation to comforters and carers when entering controlled areas
- Additional Guidance on "Radiation Employer"
- Missing values in Column 5, Schedule 8
- Persons below 16 working with ionising radiation
- Further guidance on the definition of sealed sources in relation to the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999
- Special procedures and radioactive contamination
- Role of an RPA and Advice from RPOs etc.
- Application of IRR99 - What is work with ionising radiation?
- Further guidance on the requirements for contingency plans under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999
- Leak tests for smoke detectors
- Advice from the EA on IAEA Category 5 Source Permit Simplification and Standardization

News from RPA 2000

The new HSE Statement came into force on 1st April 2007 (www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/rpa/rpa.htm). RPA 2000 has been in discussions with HSE regarding the implementation of the revised HSE Statement and I am pleased to say that we reached agreement on Friday 28 March. The new RPA 2000 documents detailing the new requirements can be found on the RPA 2000 web site www.srp-uk.org/rpa2000

As from 1st April any applications to RPA 2000 for Certification as an RPA must be based on the new documentation. Documentation for re-certification as an RPA and for certification and re-certification as a Laser Protection Adviser remain the same.

The new RPA documentation includes completely new practical competencies that applicants need to meet to gain certification. The development of these new competencies has involved considerable discussion with HSE. Unfortunately, this has inevitably delayed the recognition process and some potential applicants may have been inconvenienced by the delayed availability of the revised RPA 2000 documents. However, whilst apologising for the delay, the Management Board of RPA 2000 is confident that the discussions have been well worthwhile and have resulted in a very good set of new practical competencies that should benefit all future applicants.

Colin Partington MBE, RPA 2000 Board Member

Suitability

SRP has produced a Guidance Document for employers on what is meant by "Suitable" under IRR99. It was produced by the Qualifications and Professional Standards Committee from a draft by Simon Morris, and has been agreed by Council. It has had extensive consultation through the SRP Email Discussion Group and we feel it properly reflects the views of all sectors of the profession. It is only two sides of A4 and is in pdf format. A .doc version can be provided if required.

Colin Partington, Chairman, QPSC



New on the SRP Web Site

Incoming President's Forward Look 2007/8...Outgoing President's review of 2006/7...Treasurer's & Trustees' Reports for 2006...Links to Polonium-210 articles...Meeting report on HPA conference on Polonium-210...DoH guidance on diagnostic reference levels...Defra presentations: review of strategy for radioactive discharges...slides of the presentations given at the 2 day Keele AGM meeting.

AURPO/Strathclyde Course

Bookings are now being taken for the next AURPO/Strathclyde course. Web-based, it aims at assisting RPAs to demonstrate core competence. The next course begins in September. For further details see www.cll.strath.ac.uk/cpd/scosh/pdrp.htm or tel: 0141 548 4147.

News from SULG (Small Users' Liaison Group)

The 27th meeting of the SULG was held on 6th December 2006. The following matters were discussed:

Qualified Expert Competencies

The Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER) has been commissioned by the environment agencies to set up a project to define the competencies of a QE in radioactive waste management. They will have a core element and an industry specific element. Inputs to this process are required from the industry sectors. An elaborate certification scheme is not envisaged.

UK Discharges Strategy Review

An overview of Defra's review of the UK Radioactive Discharges Strategy, was given. The review covers both nuclear and non nuclear users and both aqueous and aerial discharges. The revised strategy, which is to be published next year, will include discharge predictions for each sector until 2030. Solid waste disposal is not covered by the review. Initial consultation with stakeholders has been undertaken and a stakeholder workshop was run in April 2007. A public consultation will take place in the autumn. Although the Strategy aims to reduce discharges it is not Defra's intention to impose requirements that go beyond BPM.

Safegrounds

A presentation was given by Safegrounds Learning Network, a forum for developing and disseminating good practice guidance on radioactively and chemically contaminated land on nuclear and defence sites in the UK. This is sponsored by the Construction Industry Research Improvement Association. Consultation is currently underway on guidance on land management of such contaminated areas. See www.safegrounds.com and www.ciria.org

Transport Issues

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods regulations are currently updated every 2 years. Consultation on Radioactive Material Transport for Small Users finished in mid January 2007 and the new regulations have a projected enactment date of July 2007. Specific sector guidance will not be produced by the regulators but any such guidance produced by the sectors involved can be made available if requested.

National Dose Assessment Working Group

A presentation was given on the work undertaken by the above group. This was formed in 2002 with a remit to assess dose to the environment from aqueous and gaseous radioactive wastes. It looks at how dose assessments are performed and verifies the methodologies. See www.ndawg.org.

Radioactive Substances (RAS) Regulation

A presentation was given by the EA on its current work developing a strategy for the RAS Regulation function within the EA. See http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1206BLTQ-e-e.pdf?lang=_e

RSA Charges

The annual review of EA charges was consulted on recently and overall the proposed increases for RSA 93 permit holders, for the coming financial year, is 2.3%. This is a below-inflation increase.

Dates of 2007 meetings

These are scheduled for 26 June and 27 November 2007. If you have any issues that you wish to be raised at future meetings or any queries in relation to the above please contact Mark Singleton (mark.singleton@sth.nhs.uk) or Mike Dunn (mike.dunn@uhl-tr.nhs.uk).

RSA Application Forms Review

This review has been partly brought about by the HASS regulations. The EA is hoping to introduce an online application process. However due to concerns relating to the security of information regarding radioactive sources this may not be possible. New forms are available for download from the EA website with hopefully an online application system in place in 12 to 18 months if the security issues can be addressed.

Environment Agency Customer Survey

Test Research is once again undertaking an annual telephone customer survey on behalf of the EA relating to radioactive substances. If you are contacted to assist with this, check that it is Test Research that have contacted you and if satisfied with the response please assist with the survey. They should not require any sensitive information relating to sources or storage arrangements; caution should be exercised at any time over telephone requests for such information.

Sealed Source Disposal Programme

To date 7025 sources have been registered for disposal, of which 5259 have been disposed of.

Update following the SULG meeting

Defra held a stakeholder workshop in Cardiff in January to discuss the review of the RSA 93 EOs. Stakeholders had been invited to respond to a questionnaire in advance and their feedback was presented at the meeting. Presentations covered a range of topics and a report has been published at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/government/legislation/exemption_orders_review.htm A small group of experts have been invited to participate in the next stage of the project looking at legislative architecture.

SNIFFER Project Dose implications of VLLW

SNIFFER and the EA commissioned a project to review the practice of disposing of radioactive waste via the very low level waste (VLLW). It examined the types and quantities of VLLW produced and assessed the potential impact on doses to critical groups. They estimated that, in 2005, 3600 tonnes of primary VLLW was produced by the non nuclear sector and 48% went to landfill. At a meeting in Edinburgh stakeholders were invited to participate in discussions relating to VLLW. Roger Wilmot, Galson Sciences, kindly gave a presentation on the subject at the AGM meeting in Keele and his slides are available on the SRP website. The outcome of the work was that the doses resulting from VLLW were not as significant as initially thought and even if all the waste was placed in a single landfill site the doses would not be significant.

Low Level Waste (LLW)

In March 2007 the government published its policy on the Long Term Management of Low Level Waste. This policy includes a new definition for VLLW which is a subset of LLW. Copies are at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/waste/index.htm

Update on SNIFFER's Qualified Experts (RSA93) Project

SNIFFER's project to define the competencies of a Qualified Expert for the purposes of RSA93 continues to make progress. Atkins are the principal contractor, with support from HPA. Following an initial workshop for regulators, four other workshops were held in Epsom, Penrith and Edinburgh (at the Zoo!). Each workshop was characterised by very constructive stakeholder engagement that extended the project board's thinking considerably. The project board recently held a review of the proceedings. The outcome of that meeting provides additional direction to the project work and a SNIFFER report is now expected to be published via the SNIFFER web site in the middle of September (www.sniffer.org.uk). It is now anticipated that the project will recommend a "core competencies plus suitability" approach rather than the "core competencies plus sector-specific competencies" approach as was originally envisaged. The emphasis remains on developing a scheme that the regulators and the regulated will find practicable and that aids transparency of the regulators expectations to improve compliance and protection of the environment. The completed SNIFFER project report will be reviewed by the environment agencies and decisions about further work will be made. If the environmental regulators decide to take the report findings further, this will be subject to formal consultation. We would like to re-emphasise that we do not anticipate any substantial additional burdens on regulated parties; the contractors' report concerns itself mainly with formalising current regulatory arrangements, while perhaps going a little further towards assisting the radiation protection profession to bring on the next generation. We have also given considerable thought to the transition arrangements, including the question of 'grandfather rights'.

Chris Englefield, Project Manager, SNIFFER Project UKRSR10

NDA Stakeholder Engagement

Monthly updates are available from Sarah Graham (020 8683 6833). The results of the consultation on the NDA's Stakeholder Engagement Arrangements and the NDA and Convenor's response will be on the NDA website after the NSG meeting in July (www.nda.gov.uk).

Principles, Processes and Tools for Stakeholder Engagement in RP

3rd International one-day Workshop 11th December 2007, HPA Chilton

The engagement of stakeholders is now recognised as a key element for the building of sustainable and acceptable decisions. This workshop is aimed at all RP and other professionals directly concerned with stakeholder engagement in their day-to-day practice as well as to radiological safety authorities, governmental advisors, local authority representatives and NGOs who are engaged in the assessment and management of radiological risk in all domains. Expressions of interest to participate should be sent to tessa.harris@redadmiral.eu by 31st July 2007 (cost will be approx £30). For further details see www.srp-uk.org/servevent.html

BSS Working Group

As reported at the recent SRP meeting at Keele (24-25 April 2007) the, currently ad hoc, Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Working Group was established late last year to consider proposals, received via IRPA, for revising both the IAEA (et al) and the Euratom Basic Safety Standards for radiation protection and advise SRP Council on possible responses. The WG is chaired by Wendy Bines, who led the UK negotiating team for the previous revision of the Euratom BSS Directive, with Iain Devine as Secretary. The WG has a core committee that covers all SRP's main interests, with members nominated by the four Sectorial Committees, two of the Topic Groups, the International Committee (because SRP is acting as the UK's Associate Society to IRPA and therefore wishes to ensure that the Partner Societies are fully involved) and the Qualifications and Professional Standards Committee, as follows (in alphabetical order):

Adrian Bush (Non-nuclear SG and Practical Radiation Protection TG), Philip Clewer (International Committee) Rob Drake (Nuclear SG), Kate Goan (Research and Teaching SG), Richard Paynter (QPSC), Jill Reay (Medical SG) David Smith (Legislation and Standards TG).

Core committee members will be responsible for consulting their sector/topic etc group colleagues as appropriate and coordinating their comments as a contribution to the overall draft response. To ensure that the WG's coverage of the wide variety of topics and issues in the BSSs will be as comprehensive as possible, and to try to ensure that the official UK negotiators have the opportunity to be aware of its activities and input if they wish (without in any way wishing to usurp their position or responsibility), other interested parties (such as Govt Depts) are being invited to nominate corresponding members.

Although the WG expects to work mainly by correspondence, it met on 4 April and discussed terms of reference, ways of working, possible corresponding members and the extent to which it can be proactive given that its work programme will be largely dictated by external events (ie drafts issued by IAEA or the European Commission for consultation). Feedback from that meeting, as well as other related information, may be found in Wendy Bines's presentation to the Keele scientific meeting 'National and International Developments in Radiation Protection', on SRP's website (www.srp-uk.org/servslide.html)

Wendy Bines OBE



The 21st L H Gray Conference 4-6 June 2008, Edinburgh

The L H Gray Memorial Trust has organised over 30 conferences and workshops in radiation science since 1967 and these have been recognised as prestigious and productive forums for scientific debate. The 21st conference, to be held jointly with SRP, will be a major international meeting which will bring together experts in radiobiology, epidemiology and risk assessment, and scientists and clinicians involved in diagnostic and therapeutic radiation exposure.

Further details at www.srp-uk.org/events/lhgray2008

IRPA

News Items from the IRPA Web Site (www.irpa.net)

- A new radiation warning symbol, to supplement the existing trefoil symbol has been published by ISO as Standard #21482- Ionizing-Radiation Warning Supplementary symbol.



- The 2nd All African IRPA Regional Radiation Protection Congress was held in April in Egypt. The Congress attracted over 100 participants from 12 countries in the African region, plus a few participants from Europe and the United States. The Congress was one of the series of regional congresses organised by Associate Societies and held periodically mid-way between the IRPA International Congresses. Similar meetings took place last year in Paris, Acapulco and Beijing. All the meetings have had similar formats featuring a scientific programme covering all aspect of radiation, waste and transport safety, presentations on the work of the international organisations, round table discussions on selected areas, professional enhancement training courses and an Associate Societies Forum. The round table sessions were designed to highlight various topical areas in radiation protection and covered the revision process of the International Basic Safety Standards, the prevention of accidents with radiation sources and the management of radioactive waste. The international organisations represented were UNSCEAR, ICRP and the IAEA, which had also provided considerable financial support to the meeting. Presentations from these organisations provided an excellent snapshot of international activities and developments in radiation protection. The meeting was highly successful with a number of presentations highlighting the particular problems faced within the region, where often human resources are scarce and supporting infrastructure is not always well developed. A highlight from the meeting was the Associate Societies' Forum. Minutes of the Forum are available on the Publications page of the site.
- ICNIRP together with the ILO and WHO have recently published "Protecting Workers From Ultraviolet Radiation" (www.icnirp.org/activities.htm)

Diary Notice: IRPA Events

- IRPA Regional Congress for Central & Eastern Europe 24-28 Sept 2007
- IRPA12, 19-24 Oct 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina (www.irpa12.org.ar) Theme: Strengthening RP Worldwide. Deadline for abstracts: 31 October 2007
- 3rd All European IRPA Congress, June 2010, Helsinki, Finland (www.euradnews.org/)

EUTERP

EUTERP is the European Training Platform on Training & Education in RP. Its first two newsletters are now available at www.euterp.eu and the first EUTERP workshop was held recently in Lithuania. The meeting identified differences in EU approaches, defined the common minimum requirements for competence and provided guidance on implementation into national regulations.

ICRP

At its meeting in Essen, Germany, 19-21 March 2007, the International Commission on Radiological Protection, ICRP, approved a new set of fundamental Recommendations on the protection of man and the environment against ionising radiation. These Recommendations will replace the Commission's previous Recommendations from 1990. The new recommendations take account of new biological and physical information and trends in the setting of radiation standards. While much more information is available now than in 1990, the overall estimate of the risk of various kinds of harmful effects after exposure to radiation remains fundamentally the same. The three basic principles of radiological protection are still justification of activities that could cause or affect radiation exposures, optimisation of protection in order to keep doses as low as reasonably achievable and the use of dose limits. The new recommendations feature an improved and streamlined presentation, give more emphasis to protection of the environment and provide a platform for developing an updated strategy for handling emergency situations and situations of pre-existing radiation exposures. After copy-editing the new recommendations will be published in the Commission's journal, the Annals of the ICRP.

IAEA

- The Radiological Protection of Patients section of the IAEA web site has been updated see <http://rpop.iaea.org/RPoP/RPoP/>
- The IAEA has opened a new web site that provides help for first responders (the first people on the scene) following radiological or other emergencies. See: www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/emergency-response-actions.asp In addition, the recently published "Manual for First Responders to a Radiological Emergency" can be downloaded by clicking the Publications link
- To commemorate its first 50 years, the IAEA is issuing a photographic history of the organisation and its work. This limited edition publication will be published in the autumn Price: 40 euros plus P&P (if ordered by 30 June). See www.iaea.org/books/50thAnnBook

EC-DG TREN Report

The European Commission's DG-TREN (Directorate General for Energy & Transport) has published its Eurobarometer survey of Europeans and Nuclear Safety. DG TREN - Europeans & Nuclear Safety Survey (Feb 2007) is available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_271en.pdf

New Publications

* Radiological Assessment of Disposal of Large Quantities of Very Low Level Waste in Landfill Sites. See www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/hpa_rpd_reports/2007/hpa_rpd_020.htm

**Radiation Protection: a Memoir of the National Radiological Protection board* www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/memoir.htm

*The 2006 revision of the SAPS has now been completed. (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/saps/index.htm)

* NPL has published 'The Examination and Testing of Equipment for Monitoring Airborne Radioactive Particulate in the Workplace', see www.npl.co.uk/armug.

Reports from Recipients of SRP Awards

Extract from a Report on his visit to King's College Hospital in February 2007

Thom Senganimalunje, University of Malawi

(full report is on the web site at www.srp-uk.org/medicine/rep070129.pdf)

The SRP funded a month visit for me to be attached to the Department of Medical Engineering and Physics, Radiation Protection Section of Kings College Hospital, London. The general aim was for me to obtain practical and analytical skills in carrying out Quality Assurance (QA) and/or Quality Control (QC) procedures on medical diagnostic equipment with emphasis on general radiography.

Activities Carried Out

•QA/QC Visits

- Access to Literature, Software and Data

This will form part of a research note that I will present to the National Research Council of Malawi.

•Nuclear Medicine Department Visit

I spent my last couple of days in the Nuclear Medicine Department of Kings College Hospital where I had a brief overview of their activities. It was a rich experience where the most important lesson I learned was that one does not need expensive equipment to do some nuclear medicine procedures.

The visit has been very useful. With good support (team work, understanding clinical personnel, legislation and local rules etc) equipment and literature, seemingly complex work can be done with relative ease.

My immediate term plans are to conduct research in radiation protection. At the national university, I feel I am rightly placed to encourage students to take this and related career paths with a view to forming a professional body in the near future to further advocate for our interests. Professionally, I would like to pursue PhD studies in radiation protection and be one of the many people that tackle fundamental questions in this complex and multi-disciplinary subject area.

Extract from a Report on her attendance at the Second Annual Radiological Device and Nuclear Event Symposium (Virginia, USA, March 2007)

Stephanie Bloomer, Cranfield University

(full report is on the web site at www.srp-uk.org/mrep070305.pdf)

Since 9/11 defence against unconventional weapons has become a priority in the United States. With recent events involving Alexander Litvinenko and Dhiren Barot, radiological dispersion devices have become a topic that is particularly relevant for us here in the UK. I have the pleasure of being in my final year of studying for a PhD in the field of detection of radioactive material focusing specifically on prevention against radiological emplacement devices as well as accidental radioactive misplacement hazards. For this reason I was very excited about the opportunity to travel to Virginia to present at the Second Annual Radiological Device and Nuclear Event Symposium. This was made possible by the award of a travel bursary from the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science Engineering and Technology and with some additional funding from SRP.

The talk I presented was titled 'Simulating and Optimising the Detection of Sealed Radioactive Sources in the Urban Environment'. The presentation first addressed the current

threat climate in the UK, in order to set the context of my work and also to share with transatlantic colleagues the approach which the UK is taking. The presentation then went on to explain how, by using a programme created by us in the C programming language, it is possible to predict detection probabilities for a number of different radiological emplacement device scenarios. My talk was very well received with a number of commercial companies showing interest in our work and in potential collaborations. The format of the conference offered a panel discussion as opposed to questions directly after presentations. There were plenty of opportunities at coffee breaks and networking events in the evenings in which to receive specific feedback on my work from delegates. Colleagues made interesting suggestions of further utilities for the code. I was also able to make useful connections with people in many different aspects of the radiation protection field who work in the US.

For me, the highlights of the conference were an extremely comprehensive review of radiological and nuclear terrorism given by Jim Barnes from the Health Physics Society and an informative presentation given by Leticia Pibida from the National Institute of Standards and Technology on their standards and the application of these standards in determining suitability of equipment. Many of the talks were of a very high quality and I would recommend anyone interested in the subject to purchase the proceedings.

MSc in Radiation and Environmental Protection

Physics Department, University of Surrey

Course Description:

This well-established Master's level postgraduate course is focused on addressing the needs of industrial and global radiation and environmental protection. Industrial demands for highly-trained post-graduate qualified personnel in the fields of radiation and environmental protection continue to grow dramatically, and our course provides relevant training leading to excellent future employment prospects in radiation protection and health physics professions in the nuclear power, defence, medical and environmental sectors.

Entry Requirements:

Graduates with a minimum of a second class honours degree (or equivalent professional experience) in physical and/or environmental sciences (i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Geography etc.) are encouraged to apply.

Funding:

Research Council (EPSRC) plus additional industrial sponsorship is available for suitably qualified students covering tuition fees plus a generous stipend for UK nationals. EU students may be eligible for funding to cover tuition fees only.

Partial funding may now also be available for UK industry candidates wishing to undertake the course on a part-time basis.

The deadline for the receipt of applications for the September intake is 31st August but for those seeking funding we recommend applying as soon as possible.

For further information or an informal discussion on the course, please contact Mrs Jayne Speed, Postgraduate Administration Manager, SEPS, University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 7XH.
E-mail J.Speed@surrey.ac.uk. Tel: 01483 686843
Visit our department web site at www.ph.surrey.ac.uk/msc/rep

SOCIETY AWARDS

The Philip Nicholson Award was presented to Ron Clayton

Following incorporation of the Institute of Radiation Protection into SRP in April 2006 and the transfer of residual funds, it was decided to use the money to fund a new award of a prize in memory of Philip Nicholson, a founder member of IRP who died in spring 2006. It is only fitting that the first award of this prize should go not only to a former IRP member, but also to a member of SRP, who continues to enjoy a long and rewarding career in radiation protection. Throughout his career as a Health Physicist/Radiation Protection Adviser, Ron has worked with many changes in regulatory requirements. He was initially required by his employer to provide advice under the Radioactive Substances Act 1960, followed by provision of advice on the requirements of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work, etc Act. Ron was appointed by his employer as an RPA under IRR85 and, after his retirement from the Joint European Torus Project (JET) at the Culham laboratory in 1987, he continued to provide advice under IRR85 and, more recently, under the transitional arrangements of IRR99 as part of his own consultancy business. Ron is a Director of Radoch Services Ltd, which provides RPA advice to industry, including X-ray equipment manufacturers and installers, radioisotope producers, veterinary laboratories and higher educational establishments including universities. Ron has a long list of achievements and publications spanning a lengthy career in the field, to include being the sole author of the IAEA Technical Report No. 120. "Monitoring of Radioactive Contamination on Surfaces", participation in the HSE Working Groups during development of IRR85, provision of RPA advice on the construction of a radioisotope plant in Romania and to the contractors building and commissioning the new metrology department at the NPL. His extensive career in radiation protection came to my attention early in 2006, when I was appointed lead assessor for his application to RPA 2000 for a certificate of

competence to practice and provide advice as an RPA. Mr Clayton started his career in the Chemical Engineering Division at AERE Harwell in 1953, transferring to the Health Physics Division in January 1960. For many years he served as an operational Health Physicist/RPA responsible for providing radiation protection advice for both routine work and emergency situations at AERE Harwell site, including working internationally as a representative of UKAEA. In preparation for his retirement in 1987 he set up his own Company, Radoch Services Ltd, which has resulted in his continuing active involvement in provision of RPA advice. Over the years that I have provided my services as an assessor to RPA 2000, I have heard numerous grumbles from experienced RPAs who have previously operated under IRR85 and IRR99 transitional arrangements, identifying how unduly onerous and difficult it is to obtain a certificate of competence. My role as lead assessor to Mr Clayton's application restored my belief that the process of putting together a suitable portfolio of evidence was little more than an administrative and time consuming chore to the experienced and competent professional! I therefore had no hesitation in nominating Mr Clayton to be the first recipient of the Philip Nicholson Award. *Cathy Griffiths OBE*



Recent 2-day Meeting at Keele University

The SRP recently held its two day meeting and AGM at Keele University. Keele was a former World War II training camp used to create the 'University of Staffordshire, Keele'. Keele itself is a tiny village with one pub and a post office but the University is one of the largest campus - based universities in Europe. The attendance at the conference was the largest ever for a national meeting with over 200 delegates for the two day event, with international speakers from the EU (Augustin Janssens) and the ICRP (Jack Valentin) highlighting the latest progress towards revisions of ICRP 60 and the EU BSS. A large number of exhibitors also attended. Particularly of note of note was John Croft's presentation on the ^{210}Po incident and associated response. The questions at the open sessions sparked debate and carried on some of the themes raised during the conference. As usual, the event was a good opportunity to carry out

networking and exchange of ideas and philosophies. The slides are now available on the SRP website at www.srp-uk.org/servslide.html. At the AGM, the assembled members voted to approve the next stage in the process towards Chartership. This vote approved the requirement for a formal vote by the members of the SRP to vote for (or not) Chartership. Thanks go to John Scott and John Hunt (and others) for ensuring that SRP has reached this point. Feedback from the meeting was positive in terms of professional development with a broad range of topics to support CPD and RPA 2000 accreditation. Approximately half of all the attendees filled in the questionnaires (101 to be exact) and the comments are currently being reviewed to see what improvements can be made for future events. Thanks go to the organisers for putting together a very successful programme and to Tessa for making sure it went smoothly on the day.

John Bradshaw, Events Committee

Member News

Karen Beach is now at UKAEA (Harwell)...Andy Carey is now at UKAEA (Harwell)...Lee Gascoigne is now with British Energy...Carolyn Job is now at SEC in North Shields...Dominic Jones is now at AWE...Nigel Kelsey is now at Atkins Global in Dubai...David McCubbin is now at Magnox (Hinkley Pt A)...Ken Nicol is now at UKAEA (Thurso)...Geoff Simpson is now at Technip UK...Tony Powell is now at NUKEM (Harwell)...

Affiliate Member News

Welcome to our newest Affiliate Member, Trident Medical Services, who provide occupational health services to AWE and other organisations in the field of radiation protection. Contact Nick Lewis on nick.lewis@awe.co.uk

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Freke who was a Founder Member of the Society.

New Members of the Society

- Valerie Alderson, British Nuclear Group, Capenhurst
- % Anastasios Apostolou
 - Michael Asbridge, Matom Radiological Services, Sunderland
 - * Kirandeep Basra, British Nuclear Group, Bradwell
 - Robert Corby, Magnox Electric, Hinkley Point A
 - Andrew Dawson, British Nuclear Group, Sellafield
 - % Nneyi Egbe, University of Calabar, Nigeria
 - * Peter Jewell, University of Bath
 - Stuart Johnson, AWE Aldermaston
 - Phillip Klar, HMNB Devonport
 - * Neil MacPhail, MoD (N), Gosport
 - * Lee Malpass, Matom Radiological Services, Sunderland
 - Paul Marks, GE Healthcare, Amersham
 - % Kelly Masters, British Nuclear Group, Dungeness A
 - % Christopher McKay, Serco Assurance, Warrington
 - % Sarah Merrilees, HPA, Chilton
 - % Amy Nisbet, AMEC NNC, Warrington
 - % James Picken, AWE
 - Elizabeth Raymond Brown, Laser Training & Education Centre, Nottingham
 - + Trident Medical Services, Aldermaston
 - Donald Urquhart, Johnson Matthey, Tracerco

+Affiliate, *Associate, %Graduate, #Student

UPGRADE TO MEMBER

Karl Davies, Springfields Fuels
Laurence Jones, Dstl, Alverstoke
Reuben Phillips, Magnox Electric, Hunterston A

Honorary Fellows	22
Fellows	52
Members	1097
Graduates	98
Associates	116
Students	29
Affiliates	25
TOTAL	1439
Plus International Members (not already members of SRP)	665
Total	2104

Next Newsletter

Copy and photos for the next edition of the SRP Newsletter should be sent by **1st August** to Bryan Smith, Honorary Secretary at the SRP Administration Office (see box on front page for details).

FUTURE MEETINGS - 2007

SRP MEETING: 20th June – Dosimetry: Requirements & Practice (S Devon) Bookings for this meeting are going very well with around 100 delegates expected. Bookings can still be taken; just call 01364 644487. For scope and programme see www.srp-uk.org/servevent.html

AURPO Annual Meeting 4-6 September, University of Greenwich (www.aurpo.org)

IPEM Annual Meeting 10-12 September, Cardiff University (www.ipem.ac.uk)

Introduction to Environmental Surveillance & Dose Assessment This is a 3-day course to be run on 29-31 October 2007 at REM Scotland. It is aimed at non-specialist scientists; regulators and those involved administratively in monitoring for radioactivity in the environment. Contact: Yvonne.McGaley@hpa.org.uk (Tel 0141 4404830)

SRP MEETING: 1st November – Transport Issues, Birmingham (www.srp-uk.org)

SRP MEETING: 6th December – Hospital Design: Planning, Pitfalls & Politics, London (www.srp-uk.org)
Principles, Processes and Tools for Stakeholder Engagement in RP – International Workshop
11th December, HPA Chilton (www.srp-uk.org/servevent.html)

And finally...

...the latest kitchen gadget – ‘The Industrial Laser’ (Cost £1,400)

‘Alongside the Fat Duck’s Heston Blumenthal, Homaru Cantu of the restaurant Moto in Chicago is one of the world’s biggest culinary gadget geeks. Not only does he insist his waiters wear FBI-style earpieces and microphones, but there is a patent pending for his Willy Wonka-esque food replicator which prints flavours onto edible paper. Cantu’s latest kitchen accessory is a Class IV laser which could apparently melt metal if the fuse could take it. “We’ve got a new laser dish on tonight. We make a pyramid-shaped pastry cone and we take some of the edible packaging material that we use which has been soaked in natural popcorn extract. Then we zap the packaging material, the essence is collected in the cone which gets cracked open at the table.” Unfortunately, the Food and Drug Administration has not yet regulated the laser’s use on animal products, so in the meantime Cantu has to content himself with zapping vanilla pods.’ *The Guardian* (March 06)

And continuing along the food theme...

New Scientist (23/5/07) reports that dark-coloured fungi devour radiation and convert it to fuel.... The work suggests such fungi could be grown in the high-radiation environment of space and fed to astronauts on extended space missions.

