

INFORMATION OF THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF ICRP COMMITTEE 3 (PROTECTION IN MEDICINE)

The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 15 September 2005 under the chairmanship of F. Mettler. C. Cousins acted as Vice-Chairman and E. Vano as Secretary. The meeting was attended by 15 full members plus 2 observers: Norbert Bischof, delegate of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and Marie-Line Perrin, delegate of the International Standardization Organization (ISO).

The ICRP full members attending the meeting were: JM Cosset, C Cousins, I A Gusev, Yexiong Li, J Liniecki, S Mattsson, F Mettler, MM Rehani, P Ortiz, LV Pinillos-Ashton, H Ringertz, M Rosenstein, C Sharp, E Vano, Y Yonekura.

F. Mettler announced that he will leave ICRP after the meeting in Geneva. All the members express their gratitude for his excellent chairmanship over the previous two terms of Committee 3 (C3).

The draft "00/220/04 version Aug05" of the new ICRP recommendations was presented by F. Mettler. The Main Commission (MC) has requested a contribution from C3 for the New Recommendations and F Mettler also presented the 'White Paper' he had written for the MC as an introduction to the 'building block' document to be prepared by C3 for the new ICRP Recommendations. It was highlighted that very few changes, if any, are needed in the medical area.

The preparation of a specific document for this purpose was discussed and a 'building block' document will be prepared by a WP with M. Rosenstein as Chairman. The key material will be selected from the documents published by C3 during the last two terms.

J. Liniecki discussed advances in the document on "Exposure of hands to ionizing radiation while preparing and handling radiopharmaceuticals" (a Working Party –WP– agreed in the Beijing annual meeting in 2004). A first draft will be anticipated next year.

C. Cousins presented the draft of the document "Radiation protection for cardiologists performing fluoroscopically guided procedures". The target group will be Cardiologists and Medical Physicists. Completion of the document is expected for the next meeting in 2006.

L.E. Holm (chairman of the ICRP, attending some sessions of the C3) presented some aspects of the last draft (August 2005) of the new Recommendations and the need for a contribution from C3. Patients are to be considered in a separate section of the document. The medical section should include the current problems with digital radiography, interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, therapy, paediatric radiology, comforters and carers of patients, biomedical research, needs for training, etc. The summary conclusions of the Malaga Conference (International Conference on the

Radiological Protection of Patients: Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy, Malaga, Spain, 26-30 March 2001) could be used as a guide for the current challenges of radiation protection in medicine.

Information required by C3 for the New Recommendations includes: risk factors by age (for men and women), protection of working women, lens injury threshold, risk estimation: organ doses and the limitations for the use of effective doses. It was pointed out that the “source related dose constraints” could be easily misused for medical workers, e.g., work in different X ray rooms.

J.M. Cosset presented the document on “Radiation protection issues of modern radiotherapy techniques”. At least 2 years will be required to finish the document. It was suggested to include some information concerning potential accidents.

Y. Sasaki (from MC) presented an abstract on the “Activities of the Atomic Bomb Survivors Health Care Commission”.

E. Vano presented a tentative content for the document on “Radiation protection training for clinical personnel using ionizing radiation in medicine”. Training and certification of medical users should be included in the document. It was decided that diagnostic (including nuclear medicine) and interventional radiology should be included with some specific annexes for CT, fluoroscopy, paediatrics and digital.

C. Sharp presented the outline of the document on Medico-Legal exposures using ionizing radiation without direct benefit to the exposed individual. A WP proposal was prepared by C. Sharp to deal with this topic.

Some aspects of the expected documents on “Medical examinations and follow-up of persons accidentally or occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation” and “Medical screening of asymptomatic persons using ionizing radiation” were presented by F. Mettler. It was agreed to delay these documents for 2 years as they are not considered urgent at present.

S. Mattson presented the latest report of the Joint C3/C2 Task Group on “Dose to patients from radiopharmaceuticals”. One of the most difficult aspects is how to make this data available to the users. C3 proposes that this material be published with the full data set being made freely available on the internet in a digital format for downloading. It is understood that C2 will have data from voxel phantoms within a few months.

E. Vano presented new information on lens radiation injuries. C3 was seriously concerned about the impact that some of this new data, which has been recently presented at scientific Congresses, might have on the ICRP dose limits if it was confirmed. The data has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

F. Mettler presented some of the results of Chernobyl Forum report.

N. Bischof presented the activities of IEC in the area of interest of C3 (TC-62 Medical Electrical Equipment and Subcommittees). The possibility of co-operation between ICRP C3 and IEC was highlighted.

H. Ringertz presented the first draft of the report “Protecting children: Diagnostic techniques involving ionizing radiation”. Coordination with similar projects by the European Commission and IAEA may be established. Differences between adult and paediatric radiology will need to be emphasized.

M. Rehani presented the draft of the document on “Dose management in multi-detector computed tomography (CT)”. It was agreed to propose a Task Group (TG) to proceed with this document.

P Ortiz presented an update of the International Action Plan on the Radiological Protection of Patients coordinated by the IAEA. He highlighted the synergy with the ICRP activities. He also emphasized the new Action Plan Website to exchange information with health professionals worldwide.

Marie Line Perrin (ISO) presented some of the activities of this international organization.

It was agreed to promote the work of ICRP C3 in Congresses and meetings that address the use of ionizing radiation in medicine.

C3 requests that the ICRP Secretariat contact Elsevier to investigate that possibility of increasing the impact of the Annals of ICRP on Medline.