Dr. John Boice

John Boice is professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and President of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), a Congressionally-chartered not for profit organization that supports the scientific and public aspects of radiation protection through independent analyses by leading scientists throughout the United States. He is an international authority on radiation effects and currently serves on the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the US delegation to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and the US Congressionally mandated Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction.

During 27 years of service in the US Public Health Service, Boice developed and became the first chief of the Radiation Epidemiology Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Boice's seminal discoveries and over 440 publications have been used to formulate public health measures to reduce population exposure to radiation and prevent radiation-associated diseases.

In September 2011, he was an invited expert at the International Expert Symposium in Fukushima -- Radiation and Health Effects held in Fukushima City, Japan, and a Featured Speaker at the Department of Energy Integrated Safety Management Champions Workshop in Kennewick, WA. In June 2011, he presented a Plenary lecture at the Congress of Epidemiology in Montreal, Canada on "Fukushima is not Chernobyl". In May 2011, he testified before the US House Committee on Science, Space and Technology on Nuclear Energy Risk Management.

In 2008, Boice received the Harvard School of Public Health Alumni Award of Merit. He has also received the E.O. Lawrence Award from the Department of Energy -- an honor bestowed on Richard Feynman and Murray Gell-Mann among others -- and the Gorgas Medal from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. In 1999 he received the outstanding alumnus award from the University of Texas at El Paso (formerly Texas Western College).

Boice has a bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Texas at El Paso and a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He received a master's degree in Medical Physics at Harvard and also a doctoral degree in Epidemiology at Harvard.

He currently directs the Genetic Consequences of Cancer Treatment study, supported by the NCI, to assess the possible genetic risks related to the curative treatments received by cancer survivors who are able to become pregnant. In cooperation with the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Boice is conducting an NCI-funded study of atomic veterans who participated in any of the 230 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests between 1946 and 1958 at the Nevada Test Site or the Pacific Proving Grounds. In collaboration with the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and NASA, Boice has recently initiated the study of a Million US Radiation Workers and Veterans to examine the lifetime risk of cancer following relatively low-dose exposures received gradually over time.