

NCRP 43rd Annual Meeting: “Advances in Radiation Protection in Medicine”

During the past two decades remarkable progress has been made in the development and application of new medical technologies that utilize radiation for the early detection and effective treatment of cancer and other diseases. These advances, however, are accompanied by many questions about how to maximize medical benefits to patients, while controlling and minimizing their risks from exposure to ionizing radiation. These issues are the theme of the 2007 NCRP Annual Meeting.

Although the many advances in medical radiation technology have represented significant gains in the prognosis for early disease detection and therapy, there are issues regarding the safety of these new radiation modalities that are of current interest and concern to the medical community. Among these is the administration of higher radiation doses to patients from imaging modalities such as computed tomography than from conventional radiography. Similarly, combined modality imaging and nuclear medicine procedures used in cardiology and other diagnostic procedures are associated with relatively high patient doses. In addition, the increased use of image-guided interventional therapeutic procedures has increased the radiation exposure of both patients and medical practitioners. Special concerns have been raised regarding use of the newer radiation modalities in pediatric radiology and in imaging and radiotherapy procedures with pregnant women.

NCRP's 2007 Annual Meeting will feature presentations by physicians, medical physicists, and experts in radiation health effects who will discuss the rapid growth in use of relatively new medical radiation diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and the current state of understanding of radiation doses received by patients and the associated health risks. Topical areas of focus at the meeting will include diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology, radiation oncology, and interdisciplinary issues such as the implications of radiation dose-response models for the prediction of long-term patient responses to irradiation from diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Speakers at the meeting are internationally recognized experts in the area of radiation protection in medicine. Panel discussions at the end of each day of the meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions or raise points of discussion on the topics addressed.

The 2007 meeting will be the third in a series of NCRP Annual Meetings on the subject of radiation protection in medicine. The first two meetings were held in 1992 and 1999, and the proceedings can be obtained at the website <http://NCRPpublications.org>.

The NCRP Forty-Third Annual Meeting will be held on April 16-17, 2007 in the Crystal Forum of the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. There is no registration fee for the meeting, but attendees should register in advance at <http://NCRPonline.org>. NCRP gratefully acknowledges the cosponsorship of this meeting by the American College of Radiology.