The following text was included in the application package for the EPA Bronze Medal:

The function of the former Federal Radiation Council to "...advise the President on radiation matters, directly or indirectly affecting the public, including guidance for all Federal agencies in the formulation of radiation standards..." was transferred to EPA’s Administrator in 1970. With the support of other federal agencies, EPA issued a federal guidance report (FGR) in 1976 on the safe use of x-rays in federal facilities (FGR 9). This guidance helped minimize doses to workers and patients for over 25 years.

With the advent of higher dose digital imaging procedures such as computed tomography (CT) and interventional fluoroscopy, the average dose to the American public from x-rays increased more than sevenfold between the early 1980s and 2006. As a result, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) asked EPA to revise the guidance in FGR 9 to help improve the management of radiation doses to patients and workers at federal healthcare facilities. An ISCORS Medical Work Group was formed in 2007 and agencies were asked to appoint experts in the field of diagnostic and interventional imaging to assist EPA in this task.

Federal agencies responded by offering some of their most talented staff to support this effort, including physicians, dentists, medical physicists and health physicists from facilities across the country. The outstanding quality of the Work Group that is being nominated for the EPA Bronze Medal reflects the priority that these agencies assign to addressing the appropriate use of ionizing radiation in their healthcare facilities. The task was not an easy one. Beginning in 2007, the Work Group held frequent conference calls to edit and assemble the technical chapters. Using collaboration software, the guidance document was constructed paragraph by paragraph. With over 300 references, the revised guidance draws extensively from the current scientific literature and published best practices by organizations such as the American College of Radiology and American College of Cardiology. Following OMB’s initial review, a Notice of Availability for the proposed guidance was published in the Federal Register in April 2013 and comments accepted for 60 days. This process generated over 900 comments from 23 professional organizations and individuals. The Work Group then reviewed all suggested changes to the document and kept a meticulous record of how each comment was resolved.

The resulting updated Radiation Protection Guidance for Diagnostic and Interventional X-Ray Procedures (FGR 14) was published in January 2015. This guidance will reduce the number of unnecessary x-ray procedures performed in federal healthcare facilities and help keep doses from needed procedures as low as reasonably achievable, thereby lowering the doses and risks to workers and patients, including more sensitive individuals like children and pregnant women. Although tailored to the use of x-rays in federal facilities, FGR 14 will be available to the broader medical community and has the potential to promote the benefits of improved dose management in the private sector. Because of the far-reaching public health significance and timeliness of this guidance, the ISCORS Medical Work Group is being nominated for the EPA Bronze Medal for their exceptional service.