American Nuclear Society - Health Physics Society

Applicability of Radiation - Response Models

to Low Dose Protection Standards:

Topical Planning Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 19, 2017

Present:

Alan Waltar, Tony Brooks, Ron Kathren, Wanda Munn, Bob Tibbatts, Mike Leimon, Kris Troyer, Jillian Gardner-Andrews, Anna Markham, Darrell Fisher, Jerry Woodcock, Mike Lawrence, Jennifer Bean

By Telephone: Wayne Glines

Not Present:

Steve Baker, Virginia Cleary-Ivanoff, Paul Rittmann

Attachments:

1. [Agenda](2017-09-19Agenda.docx)
2. [Deadline Topic](DeadlineTopic.msg)
3. [Notes](2017-09-19Notes.msg)

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One item to add to today’s agenda was the Wingspread Conferences. Wanda started our discussion today on this topic. Ron Kathren attended the second one.

Wanda called up Genevieve Roessler and Paul Ziemer, two people who were at those conferences. She spoke with them about the conferences and asked them why they didn't accomplish the changes that they were designed to. One of these conferences was put together to accomplish the same thing that our conference is setting out to do. They had scientists, they had people in positions of power, and people in policy. She said that the reason it took 3 months to send out the report is because they worked so hard on the accuracy of the report. For the follow-up conference they ended up doing the "politically correct" thing, which was to make sure that all of the people with authority and power in the organization were included in the list of attendees. Also, the planning for the second conference was different from the first, the first kind was the sort of meeting which had several open plenaries, whereas the second one was supposed to be organized as smaller groups of people where they would debate things and then each group would send back a representative to the plenary, and “things would be great (singing kumbaya and such). However, Ron chimed in to say that it did not work. Sig Magnusson and Gail de Planque were the co-chairs, they both have strong personalities and they forced some sort of order in the plenary session.

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The process for generating the report from the second conference was entirely different from the first one. Wanda said that the list of people involved in this conference was amazing, however there wasn't much of a follow-on plan that came out of this meeting, except that the policy makers that attended the conference were supposed to take the results back to their organizations and to try and make some changes. This did not happen. Ron pointed out that this was not an American conference, there were a lot of people there from a lot of different countries. One of the first questions Wanda was asked was if she had tried to contact Sigurdur Magnusson. She said she hadn't. She was asked who was at IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association) now, and she said that she didn't know. It sounds like this may be something that we may need to look into. Sig was in charge of that organization back then.

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Wanda said that Gonzales is the only big gun still operating, whom we have contacted. Wanda said that all of this starts with UNSCEAR. Wanda printed out the list of members and the names for UNSCEAR. Darrell said that the US representative was invited but he wasn't interested. Ron pointed out that there were two alternate U.S. representatives, he mentioned Ansari was a good guy. Wanda's concern is that all of this discussion of low-dose exposure differences to larger doses has been done before and that nothing came of it. Wanda wants to make sure that we are planning for the follow-on that will assure this message gets onto the agenda of the international policy makers. After the previous meetings, Apparently Gail got sick, Sig went a different way, another person died. Ron said that the most important thing that came from those conferences is that doses below 10 Rad can be ignored. That was the most important agreement that developed from the deliberations at that time. Going on for a minute, the idea of the 10 rad group was that the LNT was not valid below that point. Darrell expanded on that to say the effects were not observed (i.e. they were not statistically significant) for exposures less than 10 rad.

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Wanda said that among other groups, they had Greenpeace there. Ron said that he had a great discussion with a representative from Greenpeace and the representative went along with the 10 Rad finding. Ron said that the rep had to be very careful. His point to Ron was that he had to report back to the Greenpeace policy/publicity boards, and if he goes back and doesn't say what they want, then they'll replace him with somebody who would say what they wanted. One of the reasons Ron thinks things didn't happen, is that only talking with your organization doesn't really change anything. Ron said that the only way to get things done would be to have the message come from the agencies, for instance ILO. Ron said that most people don't think of them but they have a lot of power. Ron also brought up the WHO as another organization that is quietly powerful.

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Darrell said that what did come from this is that the HPS did come up with an official position on this issue. Ron pointed out however, that not everybody is going to go out and read the HPS position papers. It’s like we are just talking amongst ourselves. Ron said that the organization that would be good to speak on this would be the NRC. Darrell clarified that the 2nd report actually said "the lowest does at which a statistically significant radiation risk has been shown is ~100 mSv".

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Wanda brought up a quote from Diaz; among other things it suggested that we take a 10 year hiatus, so that more research should be done to consider alternatives other than LNT. Alan said that ICRP and NCRP are the two driving forces, and that NRC might not take a position without one of those organizations taking a position first. Ron said that John Boice is far more receptive of this, Darrell said that unfortunately the people that he has picked are of the mindset that the LNT is the way to go. Mike pointed out that there is a bottom line below which no regulatory action should be required. Mike thinks that perhaps what we should focus on is identifying what that number is, where that lower threshold is.

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UNSCEAR looks at the relevant data and then ICRP makes the decision. Tony said that both ICRP and NCRP have more clout than UNSCEAR. Wanda asked Tony why if 20 years of research has been done, how come UNSCEAR isn't looking at it. Alan asked Darrell who from UNSCEAR we should invite to change things. Darrell said that we should invite all of the people from this list of UNSCEAR representatives. At this point Darrell said that we have invited about six people from the list.

Alan asked Darrell to resend a copy of the letter that was sent to Salomaa, it sounds like Alan might need to take another approach to it. Mike (Leimon) pointed out that the date of the conference has been changed and that some people who may have had a schedule conflict, might now be available. Darrell said that he thinks that all of these people should be invited to submit an abstract. Ron suggests that it would be better to send this request as a hard copy instead of sending an email.

Alan asked Darrel to contact Vince Holahan to get the list of addresses for the other UNSCEAR representatives. Darrell said that Vince and Armin are basically our two guys that are in charge. Alan is willing to write a letter to all of these people but he doesn't want to have to look up their addresses. Darrell said that he will get the addresses. Darrell also suggested that Alan only needs to write up one version of the letter. Ron thinks it would be good to contact Labor Unions.

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Darrell is saying that what we need by May 1st is a call for abstracts. However, Wayne has a different schedule for publications. What we need to put together is the program, and session chairs, so that everybody else can do their part. Darrell is saying that we don't have enough papers to put together the program.

\*Wayne had to go at this point\*

Darrell said that we are doing this different from the way ANS does it. Alan asked when we want things... Darrel said that we want abstracts TODAY, now. It sounds like at this point we have about six months to put together a program. We have done what we need to do on the HPS side, but we haven't done the same sort of thing on the ANS side. What we need to do is put out a call for abstracts and titles and we should do it now. Mike (Lawrence) asked if there was some sort of issue with us putting out a call for abstracts and titles from ANS members even though we haven't gotten full approval yet.

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Mike (Lawrence) said that it is essential that we have a paper or several papers which summarize the research done over the past twenty years. Darrell said that Tony is going to do that. Also Gayle Woloschak is going to do that as well. Mike said it is essential that all of that information is out there that we could then agree on. So now we need to look at the sorts of things that happen underneath that 100mSv limit. A paper should describe the trends... Tony said that he has invited Doug Boreham.

Darrell said that currently we have 17 abstracts, including the keynote speaker and three of the people from our group. It sounds like we need to come up with a date by which things need to be submitted. December 1st sounds like a date that people like. Tony said that the problem is that when we first invited people it was so long ago that they just pushed it off the table. Ron said that we should get these by Dec. 1st, and we review them by March 1st. From the review of these, we can construct the program and the sessions. Then we send that to ANS by April 1st, which is 6 months before the conference (which is what we need to do).

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Ron said that we need to get this call for abstracts and titles out to those groups like the Radiation Research Society. Darrell would prefer that we set the deadline to be November 1st. Ron wanted to compromise with November 15th. Wanda said that sending out a call for abstracts isn't that big a deal. She said that Betsy would do whatever she can to try and get that call out. Alan said that at earliest, the call would go out in October. Alan proposed pushing back the deadline to January, but Jerry and Darrell said that is not good enough, we need to have a conference before 2018.

Anna will contact Betsy to put the call for abstracts in the next Nuclear News. She should do this tomorrow morning. We might also consider putting this out in the Radiation Research publication. Anna will contact HPS to put out another announcement in the HPS newsletter, Darrell will send the latest greatest announcement to her.

After more discussion, December 1st was the agreed upon date to use for the call for papers.

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Darrell told Anna to feel free to change the letter that he is going to send to her. He told her to call it the second call for abstracts. The deadline on the website needs to be changed to December 1st. Ron said that we need to go more broad than that, including CRCPD and Rad Research, American College of Radiology, and AAPM. Alan asked Ron to send those places to contact to Anna in an email.

Mike (Leimon) asked if perhaps we should consider adding a perk to earlier submittal as opposed to only using the stick approach, Darrell responded by saying that we should add the following: “Preference will be given to abstracts submitted earlier” to the letter for the second call for abstracts.

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Alan asked Mike (Lawrence) to send him an electronic copy of the paper that was written up at his house. There is a one-liner in that paper that perfectly summarizes the action. It is included here:

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The goal of this conference is to explore the current scientific knowledge and understanding of low dose radiation effects, consider their applicability to current radiation protection standards, and recommend a path forward.

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Alan was looking over this list of important people and would like it to have the titles updated. Darrell said that all of that money goes away on September 30th, Bob is going to send the name of the person to contact to Alan. The term Darrell said that we should use, is "sweep-up funds". Bob said that we didn't use that term. The Japanese Nuclear Society agreed to co-sponsor. Ron asked if we got anything from RERF. Alan wants Ron to contact the guy he knows that was at RERF.

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On to funding, Alan said that he is still waiting on things from Doug Boreham, he hasn't heard anything from him at all. We need to get that $40K, we can’t let it drop. Tony said that Doug Boreham will be at the Rad Research meeting in October, and that he could get in touch with him there. Neil Cohen... Alan said that he hasn't heard from Steve on exhibitions. On to Jerry for the local arrangements report. Jerry said that everything is fine. We have a contract with the hotel that is sitting there, we have all the room, time, and flexibility we need. Alan went on to the website, Tony said that it still looks the same. Alan said that we were planning to spice it up and asked if Virginia needs help. Wanda said that we will be enhancing it once things develop more. Darrell said that our website needs to be enhanced from a tourist standpoint. He said that we need to advertise the area better. Wanda will work on getting the hot buttons put up there which can say what people can do. What we need to do is to make our website more enticing.

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Wanda asked if anybody else has been able to find out something interesting to put up there. Kris said that she has some pictures from a B reactor concert which would be great to include. Jillian said that she could quickly write up a paragraph on the importance of the B-reactor. Jillian and Kris will work together on this.

Darrell said that the airport to fly into should be listed there on the website so that Japanese tourists will know which one to fly into and which shuttle services are available. Jillian said that there is a website that you can submit those calls for abstracts and it will blast it out to everybody. Jillian will share those listserves with Anna. Kris will send what she pulls together on to Jillian, and that they will send that material on together to Virginia and to be sure to CC Wanda, et al.

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Kris was talking about the B-reactor concerts, she said that the first time she went out it was $120 and they set up the tents and everything and it was great. The second time around it was much cheaper but it didn't include food or alcohol, but Kris said that the food she ate on the way was really not great. She said that the expense of the tent adds $3,000 to the price of the event. We could keep down the price of the event by not including the tent. The first time around, they served lasagna but Wanda was unimpressed, she would prefer salmon. The meal of lasagna was $50/person, which included the tent. Anna asked if maybe they just did tabletops and have heavy hors d’oeuvres. Mike liked the idea of the heavy hors d’oeuvres.

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Apparently, there is a potential issue with people getting overly intoxicated which is causing us to have to limit drinks to two per person. Jillian thinks that the heavy hors d’oeuvres will probably cost the same as a meal. It was pointed out that it might be cold at night out there, and since this is going to be at the end of September it's going to get dark early. It sounds like it might be cleaner if the catering was done at the hotel ahead of time as opposed to having the meal or the hors d’oeuvres out at the B-reactor instead. Wanda wants us to bring our own local wines as opposed to using the Hotel wine. Jerry indicated that we are bringing a large conference to them and spending lots of money, that we can probably get some good leverage. Jillian said it might be worth our while to try and contact some of the local wineries to see if they would donate some wine to be included as a sponsor.

Ron said that if we are going to have heavy hors d’oeuvres by the hotel, the hotel is going to want to provide it. Jerry pointed out that if we do that, it will help go against the cost we are expected to spend for the conference anyhow. Kris thinks there should still be a charge to cover the wine.

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On to the final approval. We have a draft, is there a way Darrell can update it so that it looks like we have been working on it. He said that the meeting(?) is October 30th so we need to get some papers soon. Darrell does not want to put in any name of somebody that hasn't submitted an abstract. Darrell said we basically have five weeks. We need to work hard to beef up the program before then. He spoke with Tony and Ron to try and put something together at this point but there aren't enough papers yet.

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Darrell said that it only takes an hour to put together and to submit an abstract. Tony said that it will likely take personal contact to people to get the titles and abstracts from people so that we can move things forward. Darrell said that he will be able to send Alan a finished program by the time Alan goes to Brazil. However, Darrell needs the people that Alan has invited to spend just one hour to write up and submit an abstract for us. What Darrell has done is just individually ask people to submit an abstract by the end of the week, and most people have accommodated this. Darrell thinks it is more important to focus on people like Don Cool, the guy at memorial... Larry Dauer. Darrel said that he will send him a note.

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Kris asked us what theme we were looking for, at the conference. Serious and academic, or more comedic. It sounds like people are leaning towards a light and comedic program since the rest of the conference is going to be serious and academic.

We agreed upon scheduling the next meeting for Tuesday November 7th, from 4 pm to 6 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for .

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