



IRPA Bulletin

For RP professionals, by RP Professionals



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PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOINT IAEA-IRPA-WHO TRAINING COURSE ON RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE, HELD FROM 9 TO 13 JUNE IN BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

In this issue:

EC MESSAGE: KEVIN NELSON - 2

YOUNG SCIENTIST MINGLING AT THE 20TH NORDIC SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION CONFERENCE - 4

WE ARE FAMILY - 5

ENHANCING THE IRPA-YGN REACH TO THE YOUNG GENERATION - 11

TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE - 13

YOUNG SCIENTIST SESSION ON THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RADIATION SAFETY AND DETECTION TECHNOLOGY (ISORD-12) - 18

UPCOMING EVENTS - 19

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MESSAGE

KEVIN NELSON

Continuing our series of profiles on our new Executive Committee Members, in this issue we turn to Kevin Nelson!

1. How did you end up in this field of radiation protection?

As with many of us, my path to beginning my radiation protection career was not straight forward. All my relatives were farmers, and I was the first to go to college. With undergraduate degrees in chemistry and biology, I had hoped to become a medical doctor. Although I was unsuccessful in getting into medical school, I knew I wanted to pursue other academic opportunities while I contemplated my future. I was fortunate that I had many academic interests, and I spent the summer of 1979 investigating a myriad of academic programs at the University of Minnesota. At the time, my mother had a state appointment in Public Health, and she strongly encouraged me to investigate Public Health along with the other program options I was considering. As I discovered, the Public Health program was multi-faceted and on a fateful summer day, I decided to investigate Environmental Health & Safety. I walked over to the department, and, again, discovered I had many options within the Environmental Health & Safety program. At this time, the United States Environmental Protection Agency had promulgated rules called the Clean Air Act and I asked to speak to the professor in Air Pollution. Unfortunately (or fortunately) he was not present that day, and I was asked to pick another option within the program. My knowledge of radiation was limited to the Three Mile Island incident that had occurred earlier in the year, so it was fresh in my memory, and I asked to speak to the professor in Health Physics. The ensuing 45-minute discussion with Dr. Donald Barber changed my life forever and I am so grateful to him. It turns out I really enjoyed the science behind radiation physics.



I have no regrets not becoming a medical doctor. As Radiation Safety Officer at Mayo Clinic Florida and Mayo Clinic Arizona, I have been able to follow my career passions.... working with patients and being a medical health physicist.

STEM education is so important, and I volunteer at local high schools to provide guest lectures whenever possible. Based on my experience, my advice to my daughter and stepsons...it's important to have a broad-based educational background so that when opportunity knocks, it's easier to open the door.

2. What would you like to see IRPA accomplish over this term?

Chris Clement, IRPA President, has established his goals for the upcoming term with input from the IRPA EC. I look forward to working with Chris and the rest of the IRPA EC in serving the needs of the IRPA Associate Societies and strengthening our connections with our international radiation protection organizations.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MESSAGE

KEVIN NELSON

3. You spent the previous 4 years as the IRPA VP for Congress Affairs, which is no small task. Why did you want to re-join the IRPA Executive Council instead of taking a break?

As others who have served in this IRPA role in the past can attest, you are extremely busy in this 4-year period with all the details required to hold a successful IRPA International Congress and time passes quickly. During my 4-year appointment as VP for Congress Affairs, I learned much more about the mission of IRPA and its many programs. I initially had some ideas centered around mentorship, training, and education that I felt could benefit IRPA. With the assistance of the IRPA YGN and approval of the Terms of Reference by the IRPA EC in 2022, we were able to create the [Task Group on Mentorship](#). Under the YGN leadership of Sylvain Andresz and Viktoria Herner, we made some significant strides, but the work was not complete. In receiving your approval for another term on the IRPA EC, I feel I can continue my efforts with the TG on Mentoring and make additional contributions in education and training. At Mayo Clinic we have some innovative ideas for reaching patients in their homes around the world and I want to see if some of these concepts will work for IRPA. Within the past six months, thanks to the efforts Hielke Freerk Boersma, IRPA has a new [Task Group on Radiation Protection Education & Training](#), and I look forward to working with this new Task Group on some of my ideas.

Finally, I want to thank all the IRPA delegates who voted for me in Orlando for an additional 8-year term. Your trust in me is not taken lightly and is greatly appreciated.

4. What was the first survey meter you ever used?

Ludlum pancake GM's and Victoreen ion chambers. I've been in the profession 45 years and not much has changed in instrumentation.

5. Are you team Rem or team Sv?

Team Sv! I've never fully understood why the United States and perhaps a few other countries continue to use non-SI units while the rest of the world uses SI units.

6. If you could be any radionuclide, which would you be, and why?

In my professional career, I've been asked many questions related to radiation protection, but this question is a first for me. Since I've worked as a physicist in health care most of my career, I suppose I would want to be a radionuclide that would be somewhat innocuous. Perhaps a noble gas such as xenon.

7. Is there anything else you'd like to say to the IRPA membership?

As always, we are always interested in hearing from you, our members, on how we can improve IRPA to serve your needs. I can be contacted at KLN32225@hotmail.com if you have any comments.

YOUNG SCIENTIST MINGLING AT THE 20TH NORDIC SOCIETY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION CONFERENCE

Viktoria Herzner

The Leadership Committee of the IRPA Young Generation Network

At the 20th Nordic Society for Radiation Protection (NSFS) Conference, held during 27–29 August 2025 in Lillehammer, Norway, a Young Scientist Mingling event was organized by the IRPA Young Generation Network (IRPA YGN). The initiative was led by IRPA YGN member Viktoria Herzner, with special thanks to NSFS members Skjalg Are Fagerjord and Tore Ramsøy for their invaluable support.

The NSFS is a regional scientific association that brings together experts and professionals from five Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. Its biennial conference is one of the most important scientific events in the radiation protection community, providing a platform for sharing knowledge, discussing current developments, and strengthening professional networks.



Within this framework, the Young Scientist Mingling session welcomed 21 early-career participants. After a brief introduction to IRPA, the IRPA YGN, and the Nordic scope of NSFS, the participants engaged in guided “speed networking” rounds in small groups. Carefully prepared conversation starters encouraged lively and personal exchanges, ranging from professional challenges and future research interests to broader reflections on career development. The dynamic atmosphere allowed participants to connect quickly, and to enjoy the informal evening gathering.

The feedback was very positive, underlining the importance of creating dedicated spaces for early-career professionals. The session demonstrated how valuable networking opportunities are for the next generation in radiation protection, who represent not only the future of the field but are also an essential part of the societies today. Strengthening their involvement is key: by offering visibility, participation, and tailored activities, societies can become more attractive to young members and ensure continuity and innovation in their professional communities.

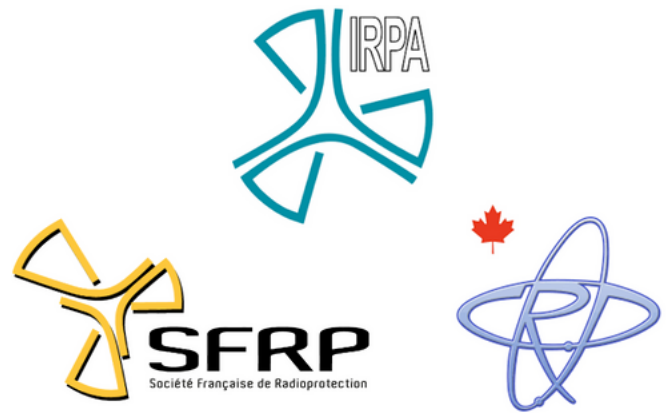
Looking ahead, the IRPA YGN plans to encourage participants to stay connected through various modes like online meetings, technical presentation and an experience-sharing sessions. Next NSFS Conference in Iceland, it has been suggested to expand the concept into a full Young Scientist Mingling evening on the day of arrival, providing even more time and space for early-career networking.



WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

This title is a reference to the musical hit of the 1980s, reflecting here my 33-year career in applied health physics. It also reflects the ties between the Société française de radioprotection (French Radiation Protection Society, SFRP), the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA), which I represent here, and their common parent organization, the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). In 2025, SFRP, which has around 1,500 members, celebrates its 60th anniversary. For this milestone, the society has invited its extended radiation protection family to La Baule, a charming seaside destination, from June 17 to 19, 2025. The town was still quiet, waiting for tourists who appreciate its generous coastline.



There was no need for sunscreen, as UV rays cannot penetrate the conference venue. The family guests honored the invitation to celebrate in science, and around 360 participants and 24 technical exhibitors devoured the 50 or so lectures and 40 scientific posters covering various topics. From the opening remarks by SFRP President Patrick Devin, the atmosphere was professional, solemn, but also friendly. It quickly became clear that, regardless of the country, radiation protection presents its own set of challenges because it touches on something that is quite universal, and not always rational: human beings. It was from this perspective that I attended the meeting, seeking to improve the operability of the radiation protection concepts that I myself have to convey, because radiation protection is not a closed system. We are talking to people, we call them patients, workers, we group them into cohorts or populations, but if you want to apply the concepts, you have to know, a priori, how to reach people with science. A recent pandemic had proven this to be challenging.

Outgoing president Devin, current SFRP president Pierre-Yves Hémidy, and several members of the SFRP executive committee are skilled in human factors and applied science, as will be evident in the conferences and friendly gatherings over the next days.

Within families, marriages are celebrated or disapproved of. Mr. Pierre-Marie Abadie, president of the ASNR[1], opened the conference with a speech marking the first year of a union bringing together the former regulatory body, the ASN[2], and former public research entity, the IRSN[3]. According to its boss, the new entity must find a foothold in research with strategic and operational coherence to navigate challenges such as AI, natural exposure, and radiation protection culture. I could swear I also heard representatives of the CNSC[4] express themselves in this way during the ACRP professional conference last May!

[1] ASNR : Agence de sûreté nucléaire et de radioprotection

[2] ASN : Agende de sûreté nucléaire (former French regulator)

[3] IRSN : Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté nucléaire

[4] CNSC : Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

At the SFRP conference, no need to have the gift of ubiquity, as there are no parallel sessions that require you to juggle between rooms depending on your interests. The plenary is performed in this colorful and modern space where you sit as if in a comfortable living room. And what followed, brought us back to a world that increasingly doubts science, using virtual spaces that feeds on emotional communications, largely from social media, to the point that J.L. Lachaume, representative of HERCA[5], announced the recent publication of a position statement[6] on the importance of maintaining confidence in science, which is indirectly intended as a response to the US decree of May 2025[7] that directly attacks the scientific validity of the LNT theory.

A family is also a mix of generations that challenge or reinforce each other's positions. The new generation that is spreading its wings with confidence, boldness, or even certainty, or the “experienced” generation that is holding steady or hovering along the famous Dunning-Kruger curve. Young SFRP members are given a well-deserved place at SFRP conferences, bringing great hope for the future of the discipline through their practical and essential involvement in the smooth running of each event and through their scientific communications, some of them competing for the Henri Jammet[8] Award, which rewards a young member communication.



Congratulations and thanks to all the participants and to the one who participated a little more this year, the winner, Mr. Mano from CEA[9], with a new method of global spectrum analysis for real-time airborne measurement. Conference participants could also vote for the best posters, and three of them received the most votes in different subjects:

- Optimization of a trapping system to determine C-14 in the atmosphere by liquid scintillation
- Management and conservation of a collection of radioactive minerals combining scientific heritage and radiological risk
- Raising awareness of environmental radiation protection using a serious game.

[5] HERCA : Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities

[6] <https://www.herca.org/herca-statement-on-the-importance-of-maintaining-trust-in-the-international-radiological-protection-system-and-regulatory-independence/>

[7] <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/ordering-the-reform-of-the-nuclear-regulatory-commission/>

[8] Dr. Jammet is one of the “two fathers” of the SFRP, which was born out of the merger of the Société de radioprotection de Jammet (Jammet Radiation Protection Society) and the French section of the Health Physics Society established by Mr. Francis Duhamel.

[9] CEA: Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives.

WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

The SFRP is casting a wide net, and that's a good thing. Skilled labor is a universal challenge. To grow its membership and expand its family, the SFRP has released a series of short videos aimed at influencing people in the field of radiation protection education, highlighting certain professions and training programs for tomorrow's employees, as well as the internships required to access them. Any professional association should take this very good idea. For its 2025 birthday, the SFRP hosted a series of talks with:

- The ICRP, moving towards a sustainable environment with the revision of its system, which could incorporate 14 of the 17 recognized parameters of sustainable development.
- ASNR and its participation in the Fukushima contaminated water analysis intercomparison program, which, at the start of the program, received flamingo dresses instead of the expected samples... one can imagine the dancers' reactions upon receiving bottles of water...
- ANDRA[10] and its assessment of the harmfulness of nuclear waste, and to disseminate the results, working groups including influencers.
- Non-ionizing radiation, from the retina affected by LED matrices, to studies of the behavior of insulin pumps under low-frequency fields, to the risks for pregnant patients undergoing MRI.
- CRPA, which presented the results of a first international symposium on patient radiation protection in Canada.
- Many other usual suspects in radiation protection: the nuclear industry and sustainable management in radiation protection, the ecotoxicity of ionizing radiation, AI in radiation protection, regulation, dosimetry challenges, radon.

And as in any family, a popular uncle, aunt, brother, or sister demonstrate their science and great wisdom providing necessary food for thought. There were several such moments of quality at the SFRP conference, all identified as "Guest Lectures"

Maxence Cordiez, energy engineer, researcher, and public communicator on today's challenges for tomorrow's world when considering and linking climate and energy. The presentation was a solid but traditional reminder of the issue. The changes

stem from mechanical energy, which is more accessible and allows for increased production. The energy source and its potential for greenhouse gas emissions serve as a link because GHGs are responsible for global warming. We must decarbonize by saving energy and electrify, and carbon neutrality is as much a challenge for society as it is for energy.



[10] ANDRA: Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs

WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

Etienne Klein, physicist and philosopher of science, spiced things up with a long and fascinating discussion on an approach to a concept that is fairly well known in radiation protection: risk. Science provides objective knowledge, but also certain uncertainties that are exacerbated by new technologies. Klein quotes Paul Valery, and this quote could very well serve as a bridge to many guest speaker: “L’Homme sait assez souvent ce qu’il fait, mais ne sait jamais ce que fait ce qu’il fait[11] ” Progress and innovation are presented. “Believing in progress means accepting to sacrifice one’s personal Present for the sake of a collective Future...” Sensitivity to risk is “...exaggerated by the fact that we have lost sight of the meaning of history.” Innovation, at its inception, is associated with a principle of conservation: “innovation is what must be done so that nothing changes, or it is what must be changed so that nothing changes.” Klein points out that innovation is currently being used in the same way as its first inception, i.e., to repair what has been damaged by the wear and tear of time, rather than being the solution that leads to a collective vision of the future, as “year 2000” was for an entire generation.

Dr. Géraldine Pina of ASNR is an engineer and physician, future recipient of the French Legion of Honor, who also stands out for her involvement in UNSCEAR[12] and ICRP. She reports on radiation protection issues in the medical field. The US decree is once again the preamble to the discussion. The regulatory body NRC must base its decisions “on science” and is asking for the LNT to be reconsidered, as it is seen as an obstacle to development. And between the lines, Dr. Pina raises the issues of competitiveness of new nuclear technologies and the regulator’s adaptation. Is it an obstacle to doing business? Everywhere, including Canada, there are calls for a more flexible and adapted regulatory framework. But what does that mean? The culture of radiation protection must be strong and must always be able to measure certain indicators.

IRPA executive secretary and former president, Bernard Le Guen, another SFRP past president, sent a video message wishing the SFRP a happy anniversary, surrounded by several representatives from 20 African countries gathered in Brazzaville to work on the same topic he will be presenting SFRP, Radiation safety culture in the medical field. This topic echoes the recent scientific contribution[13] on this subject by WHO, together with IRPA, IOMP, and IAEA. Dr. Le Guen emphasized the role of IRPA in passing on the culture of radiation protection from one generation to the next, and in showing how to take the right actions. The IRPA family has a rich and extensive genealogy, with 19,000 members and branches spanning every continent.

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[11] Man often knows what he is doing, but never knows what he is doing, what he is doing.

[12] UNSCEAR: United Nation Scientific Committee on the Effect of Atomic Radiation

[13] Enhancing Radiation Protection Safety Culture in Health Care : Guidance for Health Care Providers. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240091115>

WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

Hildegarde Vandenhove, IAEA director, engineer, and expert researcher in radioecology, confronts us with the optimization of radiation protection in radioactive waste management. The IAEA has a 2030 agenda centered on the use of the 17 sustainable development goals as previously discussed in this conference, by ICRP Task group chair, Thierry Schneider. The sustainable use of nuclear energy covers at least nine goals. We are talking about safety and sustainability, which are intrinsic: the key to sustainability is safety, and sustainability informs safety. "Safety is not an end in itself, but a prerequisite for the protection of people."



As stated on its website, the SFRP wishes to "share its experience". It walks the talk by publishing, on the public domain, an impressive number of videos of keynote addresses and various presentations[14]. In addition, the SFRP has a scientific communication organ, Radioprotection Journal[15], whose articles are reviewed by a sharp editorial team led by Mr. Berthot and Bourguignon.

[14] <https://sfrp.asso.fr/blog/les-manifestations/congres-national-de-radioprotection-sfrp-2025/>

[15] <https://www.radioprotection.org/fr/>



WE ARE FAMILY!

STEPHANE JEAN-FRANCOIS

The SFRP is serious business, but they know how to have fun too. The 60th anniversary celebration in the well-named Batz-les-Mers combined summer warmth with a family atmosphere. In addition, the “Radiation Protection for a Champion” contest allowed any participants to test their knowledge of radiation protection in a playful way. Latin characteristics are also very much in evidence at SFRP: good cuisine, good wine, warm of the exchange and on some occasions, approximative punctuality. We knew when the presentations started, we sometimes ended up running late due to the audience's passionate exchanges with the speakers or very long questions to the experts, by other experts. It differs from ICRP last meeting in Tokyo in 2023, where even social events were stopped sharp on time, with the efficiency of a Shinkansen schedule. But time is relative, you might say, and you would absolutely be quite right!



We appreciate this high-level scientific gathering, which takes place every two years, alternating with another applied radiation protection event. I can testify that this high organizational quality of this conference is consistent over the years, thanks to the conductor and her first violinist: greetings and thanks go to Valérie Chambrette and Christine Guerreiro, who always give you a warm welcome, and to Fabrice LePrieur, chair of the scientific and organizing committee for the 2025 conference. Of course, you have to understand Molière or at least, a French menu to grasp the speakers' presentations. And that is precisely why the North American from Quebec who is writing these lines, a member of the CRPA, the HPS, and of the SFRP, feels at home among his cousins who are so talented in radiation protection.

By the way, in 2027, Troyes (Champagne region) will greet a new radiation protection family party, with bubbles I would presume... Cheers and long life to SFRP, and looking forward in seeing you in Troyes.

ENHANCING THE IRPA-YGN REACH TO THE YOUNG GENERATION

Dr. V. P. Singh

The Leadership Committee of the IRPA Young Generation Network

1. Strong Bonding of IRPA-YGN with European Nuclear Education Network

A 2025 Summer School for BSc and MSc students, as well as a Nuclear Competition, was organized at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Hungary from 30 June to 04 July 2025. 40 students were nominated to attend by members of the European Nuclear Education Network (ENEN) or other universities. On 30 June 2025, Herzner Viktoria of the IRPA-YGN attended as a special guest at the “Cross-YGN Workshop: Nuclear Paths – Education, Networks and Career Opportunities”, where she gave an invited talk to young professionals from various nuclear disciplines.

The sessions were a great success, and attendees in particular appreciated:

- Information on education and career paths – it was very helpful to hear the speakers’ personal experiences and how they could be related to the education & career goals of students in many sectors of nuclear science and technology.
- Networking in the nuclear field – Young Generation Networks are a key contributor to networking for students, and they actively support and encourage the participation of young professionals in international networking opportunities.



ENHANCING IRPA-YGN REACH TO THE YOUNG GENERATION

2. Youth-to-youth peer mentoring and collaboration model

The Kenyan Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Youth Network (RPNS-YN) has around 100 members, and focuses on Promoting awareness, education, and engagement among Kenyan youth in matters related to radiation protection.

The RPNS-YN hosted a webinar was conducted on 9th July, 2025 with more than 50 students, professionals, and youth leaders in attendance. The goals of this webinar were to:

- raise awareness on holistic approaches on radiation protection
- build capacity among youth
- foster international dialogue between students and experts
- promote diversity in the nuclear sector in Kenya.

The webinar series was conducted in the association with Women in Nuclear, the World Nuclear Association, Women in Nuclear Innovation, the Nuclear Society of Kenya, and with the participation of the IRPA-YGN. Speakers from various countries including Mexico, USA, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Egypt and Kenya discussed key topics.

One of the speakers, Prof. Rui Qiu of Tsinghua University, discussed work on advanced multi-scale dosimetry models. Another speaker, Dirosan Landon from Canada, emphasized the importance of clear radiation risk communication, including a case study from Brazil. Also, speakers like Dr. Suleiman Bello, Dr. Margaret Chege, and Edwin Kagai highlighted the importance of Pan-African collaboration, especially the need for African-specific phantoms and the proposal to establish a nuclear energy research hub for training and accreditation across the continent.

The webinar was truly inspiring, and our final speaker, Florencia Renteria, emphasized this with her closing remarks. As next steps, Kenya is planning to create a regional youth mentorship council and to work on advocacy for including youth in national radiation protection strategies.



TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Participation in the Joint IAEA–IRPA–WHO Training Course, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo Bernard Le Guen

In 2012, the Bonn Call for Action identified strengthening radiation safety culture as one of ten key priorities to enhance radiation protection in medicine. A decade later, in 2022, the IAEA launched the “Rays of Hope” initiative to mark World Cancer Day, emphasizing the need to expand access to radiotherapy while ensuring safety. In 2024, the publication of “Enhancing Radiation Safety Culture in Health Care: Guidance for Health Care Providers,” prepared jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provided new momentum to this goal.

Building on this foundation, Africa hosted a major milestone in 2025: the Joint IAEA–IRPA–WHO Training Course on Radiation Safety Culture in Healthcare, held from 9 to 13 June in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. This event was made possible with the support of Ola Holmberg, the IAEA Department of Technical Cooperation, and collaboration with IRPA and WHO.



A Continental Gathering with a Shared Mission

The training focused on evaluating and improving radiation safety culture in radiotherapy facilities. Experts from 24 African countries—from North to South, East to West—gathered to share experiences, assess their current practices, and propose improvements.

The week began with comprehensive presentations on the principles and challenges of radiation safety in healthcare. Subsequent sessions delved into case studies and real incidents, sparking in-depth discussions around key Radiation Safety Culture (RSC) traits such as communication, responsibility, and problem identification.



TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Radiation Safety Culture in African Healthcare: Key Findings

Participants from Tunisia, Rwanda, Congo, Uganda, Ghana, and Tanzania presented national insights, offering a snapshot of radiation safety practices across diverse contexts. A clear consensus emerged: radiation safety is not merely a technical or regulatory issue, but a core component of institutional integrity and patient care ethics.



Radiation Safety Committees: Catalysts for Change

One of the most widely endorsed recommendations was the formation or strengthening of Radiation Safety Committees. These multidisciplinary bodies serve as institutional drivers of governance, safety, and culture change. An effective committee typically includes:

- Hospital leadership (e.g., CEOs, department heads)
- Radiation Safety Officers
- Medical physicists
- Oncologists
- Radiological technologists

Their roles extend beyond compliance to include:

- Monitoring staff exposure
- Conducting quality assurance on equipment
- Investigating incidents and near-misses
- Recommending and following up on improvements

Crucially, these committees also function as communication bridges, breaking down silos between clinical, technical, and administrative teams.



TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Assessing Culture: A Wake-Up Call

The training introduced a formal evaluation tool to assess RSC traits such as individual accountability, leadership engagement, questioning attitudes, and organizational learning. In one assessment, the average score was 2 out of 10, underscoring the urgent need for cultural transformation in several institutions.

Key obstacles included:

- Hierarchical workplace dynamics that suppress upward communication
- Poor documentation and ambiguous workflows
- A punitive approach to errors, discouraging transparency
- A prevailing “boss-is-always-right” culture, limiting innovation and dialogue



These cultural issues not only hinder safety but affect overall staff morale and patient trust.

Pathways to Change: A Phased Transformation Strategy

Participants proposed a three-tiered approach to catalyze meaningful and sustainable change:

1. Immediate Actions

- Establish Radiation Safety Committees
- Update and standardize procedures
- Create confidential, non-punitive reporting channels

2. Short-Term Initiatives

- Train committee members and emerging safety leaders
- Integrate daily safety briefings in clinical routines
- Launch anonymous culture perception surveys

3. Long-Term Goals

- Institutionalize regular safety audits
- Develop regional and national oversight mechanisms
- Promote a culture of learning, transparency, and accountability

The collective goal is to shift from compliance-based systems to a proactive, prevention-oriented culture—where every professional, regardless of rank, is empowered to contribute to safety.



TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE



Toward Pan-African Collaboration

A bold vision emerged during the discussions: creating a continental platform for collaboration on radiation safety. This would enable:

- Sharing of best practices
- Standardized documentation and protocols
- Joint training initiatives
- Harmonized regulatory engagement across countries

Such a platform would directly address regulatory fragmentation, fostering coherence between radiation authorities, health ministries, and equipment regulators.

Cultural Change: The Heart of the Mission

Above all, participants agreed that building radiation safety culture requires more than new policies—it demands leadership commitment, transparent communication, and a non-punitive environment where learning from mistakes is the norm.

Radiation safety must be a living value system, continuously reinforced through education, dialogue, and institutional example.

With the support of international partners like the IAEA and WHO, and through regional collaboration, Africa is poised to transform radiation safety from a marginal concern into a healthcare cornerstone.



TIME FOR AFRICA: STRENGTHENING RADIATION SAFETY CULTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Final Reflections and Shared Challenges

On the final day, participants shared key takeaways and reflected on the barriers to implementing strong radiation safety culture programs in their respective countries. Common challenges included:

- Lack of routine monitoring
- Inadequate equipment quality assurance
- Insufficient incident reporting frameworks

A recurring theme was the need to move beyond regulatory compliance toward a culture of shared responsibility, continuous improvement, and ethical practice.

Conclusion

The Brazzaville training course marked a significant step forward in Africa's journey toward a resilient, ethical, and patient-centered radiation safety culture. The road ahead is complex, but the collective commitment shown by participants offers a promising foundation.

As one participant aptly concluded:

"We cannot afford to treat safety as a checkbox—it must be the backbone of everything we do."

Bernard le Guen, IRPA Exec. Officer, 13 August 2025

Special thanks to Ola Holmberg (IAEA) , Maria del Rosario Perez (WHO and IRPA), and Chris Trauernicht (South Africa , IAEA expert) for their outstanding expertise and friendship, to Gaspard LIYOKO MBOYO for the organisation in Brazzaville and to all our African colleagues for their active participation and commitment to advancing radiation safety culture in healthcare.



**Graduation ceremony with
Mr Gaspard LIYOKO
MBOYO**



YOUNG SCIENTISTS' SESSION ON 12TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RADIATION SAFETY AND DETECTION TECHNOLOGY (ISORD-12)

Mr. Takahiko Kono

Leadership Committee of the IRPA Young Generation Network

I attended the ISORD-12 (the 12th International Conference on Radiation Safety and Measurement Technology) held at the University of Tokyo on July 3 as a representative participant of the Young Generation Network of the International Radiation Protection Association (multi-disciplinary). This was a hybrid event (in-person and on-line) with nearly 50 participants, including researchers from Korea, China, and Japan.



Each representative of young researchers from Korea, China, and Japan presented recent activities of their respective young organizations, followed by a lively exchange of opinions among participants. I strongly hope to strengthen the connections among young radiation protection researchers from these countries, to help contribute to the advancement of radiation protection in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Professors Hiroyuki Takahashi and the Assistant Professor, Yuki Mitsuya from the University of Tokyo for their significant efforts in organizing this very successful meeting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

7th European IRPA Congress hosted by SRP

1 - 5 June 2026, Liverpool

www.irpa2026europe.org



The biggest radiation protection event in Europe and one of the largest taking place in the world.

Submit an Abstract

Abstract submissions for both oral and poster abstracts [are now open](#). **Note the extension deadline** - oral submissions will now close on 31 October 2025, and poster submissions will close on 21 November 2025. To submit an abstract, you will need to create an Oxford Abstract account, this is the platform that's being used to collect abstracts. Further information, including which topics the Programme Committee would like to receive abstracts about, can be found on the '[Submit an Abstract](#)' page.

Exhibition and Sponsorship Bookings

34 organisations have already booked. If your organisation would like to book a stand or sponsor, please don't wait too long to [get in touch](#) as we're anticipating that the other sponsorship packages will be taken very soon. View organisations that have [already booked](#) and see which stands are still available.

Accommodation

You can now book your hotel through the dedicated [event accommodation website](#). It is recommended that you do this as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as the closest hotels to the venue will sell out fast.



UPCOMING EVENTS

This Congress will incorporate The UK Society for Radiological Protection's Annual Conference next year.

Social Media Accounts – please tag us in communication about the Congress:

LinkedIn - www.linkedin.com/company/7th-european-irpa-congress

Instagram - www.instagram.com/7th_europeanirpacongress/

X (Twitter) - <https://x.com/7thEuroIRPA>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/7thEuropeanIRPACongress



Contacts

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Tessa Harris – admin@srp-uk.org

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MIRION
TECHNOLOGIES

[Mirion Technologies](#) is the main
Congress sponsor.

[ChartHouse Data Management](#) and [Gemini Technology](#) have sponsored the
Alpha Package (lanyards).

ChartHouse



[Click here to see the many more exciting sponsorship opportunities that are available!](#)



SEND US YOUR NEWS & EVENTS!

Do you have news to share? Send it to:

cop@irpa.net

We'll share it via the IRPA News and the IRPA Bulletin. Stories for the Bulletin are normally 200-300 words plus images.

We're always looking for updates from our Associate Societies for our Society Spotlight. Let us know what your society has been up to. Meetings, conferences, general events or any good news is always welcome!

Your IRPA Commission on Publications:

IRPA Communications Officer: Dave Niven

Bulletin Editors: Andy Karam, Dave Niven

Associate Societies Liaison: Michèle Légaré

Website Manager: Dave Niven

Social Media Managers: Sara Dumit & Dave Niven

Great news! You can now donate directly to the IRPA Montreal Fund through PayPal! Starting last year, we've made it even easier to donate to the Montreal Fund as an individual. Simply click on the donate button below to make a donation via PayPal.

All donations will help increase participation at future IRPA Congresses, such as the IRPA Regional Congresses in 2026 and the IRPA 17 International Congress in 2028, by those who may not otherwise be able to attend. The need for support is increasing and your contributions are urgently needed.

