

September 2005

# NCCHPS



## Mark Your Calendars!

The 2005-2006 NCCHPS technical meeting dates are listed below!

September 22, 2005

Francesco's in Oakland

November 17, 2005

TBD

January 19, 2006

TBD

March 16, 2006

TBD

April 2006

TBD

May 19, 2005

TBD

## Thursday September 22, 2005

### @ Francesco's in Oakland

6 pm-Social Hour  
7 pm-Dinner  
8 pm-Presentation

**Speakers:** Mo Bissani, Paula Tate and Dawn Banghart , LLNL

**Title:** "Radiation Safety and Environmental Monitoring Experience from Trips to Morocco and Libya under the DOE Sister Laboratory Program."

### **Abstract:**

In the early 1980s, the United States launched a new initiative to establish cooperative institutional relationships between its own nuclear research laboratories and those in developing nations that have supported the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty (NPT). Sister Lab arrangements are currently in place with Argentina, Costa Rica, Ghana, Mexico, Romania, Thailand, Egypt, Morocco, and Peru. The Sister Labs program establishes a direct line of communication between U.S. nuclear specialists and the nuclear research and scientific communities in participating countries and helps to facilitate cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

In September 2000 and July 2004, under the Sister Laboratory Agreement, a team of LLNL technical experts went to Morocco to jointly assess and exchange information with colleagues working at the Moroccan National Center for Nuclear Energy Sciences and Techniques. The presentation will discuss our information exchange process and program assessment of their Environmental Monitoring Program. This includes installation of the radionuclide air effluent monitoring system for their research reactor, radioisotope production, and waste treatment building stacks, conducting surveillance and compliance monitoring of ambient air in diverse locations and upgrading the existing meteorological station. The presentation will also discuss training and support provided in the consequence/safety analysis and modelling of hazardous material spills and releases.

In July 2005, under the newly formed Sister Laboratory Agreement, a team of LLNL technical experts went to Libya to jointly assess and exchange information with colleagues working at the Tajura Nuclear Research Center. The presentation will discuss the early phases of establishing a working relationship with the Tajura colleagues, the information exchange process and program assessment of their Radiation Protection, Health Physics, ES&H and Quality Assurance programs. The presentation will demonstrate a way to resolve proliferation challenges peacefully through political and diplomatic channels using the tools of technical exchange, training, and collaboration.

# NCCHPS



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

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#### About the Speaker:

Mo Bissani is the MPC&A Program Leader in the Non Proliferation, Arms Control, and International Security Directorate of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He leads the MPC&A Program in preventing the theft and diversion of Russian nuclear weapons, weapons-usable material, and radiological materials by securing, consolidating, and reducing stocks of weapons-grade fissile material. He manages the Sister Lab projects with Morocco, Libya, and Egypt. Mr. Bissani has 12 years of experience with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory leading and supporting several ES&H programs, LLNL missions, and projects including ES&H oversight, facility decommissioning, deactivation, decontamination and demolition (D&D).

He has a B.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Environmental Safety and Health Certification from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is an EPA Registered Environmental Assessor.



#### About the speaker:

**Paula Tate** is an Environmental Scientist in Environmental Protection Department of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She has 18 years of experience in environmental monitoring, modeling, and procedure development with an emphasis on ambient air monitoring and radiological stack effluent monitoring. Recent experience includes developing sampling plans for public transportation facilities in the event of a positive detection of a biological agent, and serving as the CAM System Engineer for the LLNL Plutonium Facility. Additionally Ms. Tate has earned a Master of Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a Bachelors of Science in Forestry with Mathematics minor from Humboldt State University.



#### About the speaker:

**Dawn Banghart** is a Health Physicist in the Hazards Control Division of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She has 17 years of experience in radiation safety, quality assurance, procedure development, auditing and supervision. Recent experience includes performing 10 CFR 835 internal audits for LLNL, and while at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories, providing health physics support for heavy element, earth science and biomedical research. Special projects have included management and reduction of transuranic legacy materials. Additionally Ms. Banghart has served on local and national health physics committees, is certified by the American Board of Health Physics and has earned a Master of Arts from San Francisco State University, a Bachelors of Arts in Physics from the University of California Santa Barbara.

## NCCHPS President's Column

The Board of Directors took off to a grand start with a summer meeting followed by high tea at the President's home. We are pleased to welcome three new members aboard, Radoslav Radev (President-Elect), Melissa Mannion (Secretary) and Todd Sundsmo (Member-At-Large). Our warm thanks to the outgoing members, Elsa Nimmo (Past President 2004 -2005), Linnea Wahl (Secretary 2003 -2005) and Dawn Banghart (Member-At-Large 2003 -2005) for their excellent work. They will be missed!

### Meet the Board



(L to R Front: Melissa Mannion (Secretary), Nisy Ipe (President), John Ahlquist (Past President), Back: Radoslav Radev (President-Elect), Jim Tripodes (Member-At-Large), Todd Sundsmo (Member-At-Large) Missing: Rao Goriparthi (Treasurer). Photograph courtesy of Elsa Nimmo.

Kudos to our Past President John Ahlquist for leading the effort to help our chapter win the bid to host the 2008 Mid Year Meeting, a joint venture with the Accelerator Section of the HPS. We will soon need volunteers to serve on various committees. Please contact any one of the Board Members if you are interested in helping out with the 2008 Mid-Year Meeting.

Our enthusiastic President Elect, Radoslav Radev, has already come up with a full slate of speakers (and then some) and a wide variety of topics for our meetings. Our first meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> will feature two of our very own members.

Letters were sent to the members of the California Senate Rules Committee in support of confirmation of the appointment of Jim Tripodes as a member of the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission.

There are currently various opportunities to serve the membership. If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees please do let me know (nisy@comcast.net):

Awards, Public Information, Education and Training, B.J. Moyer Steering, Nominating, Finance, Affiliates Liaison, Newsletter and Website Committees.

In the meanwhile let us know how we the Board can serve you better.

### Are You Being Served?



I look forward to hearing from you.

Nisy E. Ipe  
President, NCCHPS

### Welcome To Our Newest Chapter Members

The NCCHPS would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:  
\* Dr. Steven Bakhtair, Berkeley Hazardous Waste Handling Facility;  
\* Michelle Flynn, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;  
\* Meredith Lahr, Genetech, Inc.; and  
\* Lin-Shen Casper Sun, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.



## A Special Thanks to Our September Dinner Meeting Sponsors!

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Canberra has established a Homeland Security Division, providing a range of products designed specifically for these needs. These include the InSpector-1000, a hand held MCA with a color display, capable of storing 250 Spectra. This unique unit will provide Dose Rate, and Nuclide Identification. Both qualitative and quantitative information is presented, with Automatic Nuclide Interference Correction also included. Multiple Nuclide Libraries are provided with the InSpector-1000. Software to permit the user to setup his own subsets is also included.

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### The NCCHPS November 2005 Meeting!!

Date: Thursday November 17, 2005

Location: TBD

Speaker: Brian Dodd, HPS President Elect

Title: "The IAEA and the Control of Radioactive Sources"

## A Message from the California Department of Health Services

In the near future (and perhaps by the time you read this NCCHPS Newsletter item), the California Department of Health Services, Radiologic Health Branch, will be accepting applications for Associate Health Physicist positions statewide. Information will be posted on the agency's Web page at <<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/jobs/html/exams.htm>>. If the posting is not yet there when you look, applications may also be requested by calling Victor Anderson at 916-440-7931 or Robert Greger at 714-270-0368. Candidates must have a four-year degree in an appropriate field of study (e.g., physics, health physics, chemistry, mathematics or engineering), and have experience working as a health physicist.

### MOYER FELLOWSHIP UPDATE (Charles Schmidt, Julia Ryan and Bill Vermeere)

This year, the Moyer Fellowship was awarded to Nino Chelidze from Idaho State University. Nino was kind enough to submit a brief biographical note which is shown below in this news-letter. The fellowship stipend for this year was raised to \$7500. because of the increased financial support from our chapter.

Our financial status is fairly good at this time. Total assets are \$76,100 with \$12,000 in a CD due 3/06 and \$62,200 in seven (primarily) equity mutual funds. Those funds have had an average gain of 4.4% YTD through August 24. Most market indices have been essentially flat over that time period. Our contribution of \$3500 for 2006 is due next spring.

On the downside, total contributions for the 2004-05 chapter year were \$1685. That total included \$800 as a corporate donation from Genentech, \$560 from the chapter and only \$325 from our members. We hope that you will be more generous in the coming year. Small donations are welcome - fifty members at \$ 25 each would come to \$1250, certainly a more respectable sum. Of course, larger individual contributions would not be turned down.



### A Note from the 2005 Moyer Fellow

My name is Nino Chelidze. I was born on March 8, 1982 in Tbilisi, Georgia. I was the eldest child in my family. I also have a sister and a brother.

My interest in math started when I was still in elementary school. My Dad is a physicist, and he used to give my sister and me interesting and challenging math problems. We enjoyed solving them a lot. I started studying physics in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Since then I took part in many national Olympiads and conferences in both physics and math and have been awarded with several diplomas and honorable mentions. I graduated from high school with honors in 1999. I had decided to major in physics, so I went to the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University for four years. I graduated from the University with honors in 2003. Before that I was an exchange student in Indiana University \_ Purdue University Indianapolis for one academic year.

For graduate studies, I attended Idaho State University in the fall of 2003. I got involved in Health Physics program and it has been a wonderful experience for me. I also became a member of the Health Physics Society in 2004 and attended HPS annual meetings in Washington DC and in Spokane, WA. I presented poster presentations both times.

My goal is to teach at the university eventually. That's why I'm going to pursue the Ph. D. program at ISU as soon as I'm done working on my Master's degree.

I got married last summer and now have a 3 month old daughter.

## Health Physics Society News

NCCHPS Members,

I am very pleased to announce that at the July meeting of the Symposia Committee of the national Health Physics Society [HPS], the joint proposal of the NCCHPS and the Accelerator Section was accepted. The proposal was to host a meeting in Oakland in January 2008 on the subject of Accelerators and Radiation Producing Machines. The last meeting on this topic was held in 1997 in San Jose. The Oakland Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Marriott Hotel were very supportive of this proposal and will provide an excellent venue for this meeting. One of the proposal's strong points was by the size and strength of our Chapter. If you are interested in volunteering to help host the meeting, please contact one of the Board members. The Chapter can earn money from the national HPS if we take over a number of the local arrangement jobs.

We'll keep you posted as more information becomes available.

John Ahlquist

- **Would you like to take an active role in NCCHPS?**
- **We're currently looking for volunteers to take on exciting tasks providing backup support for the Newsletter Editor, Website Administrator, and other functional positions within NCCHPS! If you're interested please contact our Member-At-Large Todd Sundsmo.**

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Mailing Label

You can register for dinner ONLINE starting Sept. 8 at <http://hpschapters.org/ncchps/meetings.php3!!>

**The Menu:**

- 1) Fresh fillet of Pacific Red Snapper
  - 2) Pot Roast of Beef
  - 3) Eggplant Parmegiana
- Fresh Vegetables, Rolls & Butter

**Schedule:**

- 6 pm-Social Hour  
No Host Bar  
7 pm-Dinner  
8 pm-Speaker

**The Next Meeting!!**

**Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2005

**Location:** Francesco's  
8520 Pardee Drive at Hegenberger Road, Oakland CA 94621

**Speakers:** Mo Bissani, Paula Tate and Dawn Banghart , LLNL

**Title:** "Radiation Safety and Environmental Monitoring Experience from Trips to Morocco and Libya under the DOE Sister Laboratory Program."

**Registration Deadline:**  
Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005  
\$25 Pre-registration  
\$30 At The Door

Try Online Registration OR  
Please contact:  
Rao Goriparthi  
[raorso@gene.com](mailto:raorso@gene.com)

The next deadline for newsletter input is :  
Friday October 7, 2005  
To the newsletter editor:  
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