

NCCHPS

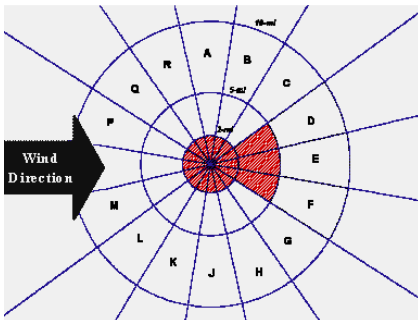
Northern California Chapter-Health Physics Society

March 2012



The NCCHPS March 2012 Dinner Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2012 – Pasta Pelican, Alameda
6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner, 8 pm Presentation:

Grassroots Preparedness, a Radiation Risk Scale, and Marketing of Health Physics



This presentation has three distinct segments. The first segment discusses the significant impact that radiation professionals (health and medical physicists, nuclear medicine professionals, radiologic technologists, nuclear engineers, and others) can make toward better preparing their local communities for response to a radiation emergency. An available funding opportunity to facilitate recruitment and training of local radiation professionals into existing local volunteer registries is described. In the second segment, a Radiation Risk Scale is proposed as a simple tool for communicating radiation risk to the public, leaders, and decision makers. This scaling system offers

several distinct advantages: a) It is simple; 2) It conveys meaning and provides a frame of reference immediately; c) It does not require any understanding or use of radiation units or any mention of radiation dose rates or radioactivity levels; d) It is not affected by differences in specific national or international radiation dose limits, concentration limits, or other regulatory standards; and e) it can be used during an emergency situation or in its aftermath to promote responsible action by the public. The third and final segment of the presentation addresses the need to market the profession of health physics and the organization that represents it. An idea is presented and audience opinion and feedback is solicited using an anonymous multiple choice form.



About the Speaker: Armin Ansari, PhD, CHP

Armin is a health physicist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serving as subject matter expert in CDC's radiation emergency preparedness and response activities. Armin received both his BS and PhD degrees in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas, starting his career as a radiation biologist, and did his postdoctoral research at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos National Laboratories. He was a senior scientist with the radiological consulting firm of Auxier & Associates before joining CDC in 2002. Armin was the lead author of the CDC guide for state and local public health planners on population monitoring, and a contributing author to the federal Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation. He was the 2009 recipient of Excellence in Public Health Practice Award from the National

Center for Environmental Health, and a 2011 recipient of Outstanding Achievement Award from Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Armin is also an adjunct associate professor of nuclear and radiological engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, a member of Georgia East Metro Medical Reserve Corps, and a member of Gwinnett County Community Emergency Response Team. He recently published the text book *Radiation Threats and Your Safety: A Guide to Preparation and Response for Professionals and Community*. Armin had served on the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society (HPS), and was recently elected by its membership to serve as President-Elect.

President's Message

It's been a year now since the Fukushima disaster, and in an earlier newsletter I promised to bring news about Fukushima to your attention. At the previous meeting in January, Carolyn Wong gave an interesting presentation to NCCCHPS and ANS attendees regarding the challenges that were faced – and to a large extent, overcome – by the various national laboratories, commercial laboratories and incident response teams. Carolyn's presentation suggested that many questions and opportunities for improvement still remain.

I found a news article on the web that I'm posting below. (Hopefully, I'm not violating copyright law...!)

(Reuters) - The health impact of last year's Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan appears relatively small thanks partly to prompt evacuations, the chairman of a U.N. scientific body investigating the effects of radiation said on Tuesday. The fact that some radioactive releases spread over the ocean instead of populated areas also contributed to limiting the consequences, said Wolfgang Weiss of the U.N. Scientific Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

"As far as the doses we have seen from the screening of the population ... they are very low," Weiss told Reuters. This was partly "due to the rapid evacuation and this worked very well."

Weiss was speaking on the sidelines of a week-long meeting of 60 international experts in Vienna to assess for the United Nations the radiation exposures and health effects of the world's worst nuclear accident in 25 years. The March 11 disaster caused by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami wrecked the Fukushima plant on the coast north of Tokyo, triggering a radiation crisis and widespread contamination. About 80,000 residents fled a 20-km (12-mile) exclusion zone. Weiss said Japanese experts attending the meeting had told him that they were not aware of any acute health effects, in contrast to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine.

"What we have seen in Chernobyl - people were dying from huge, high exposures, some of the workers were dying very soon - nothing along these lines has been reported so far (in Japan)," he said. "Up to now there were no acute immediate effects observed."

Several thousand children developed thyroid cancer due to radiation exposure after the Chernobyl disaster in the then Soviet Union, when a reactor exploded and caught fire and radiation was sent billowing across Europe. Weiss said a few workers at Fukushima had received high radioactive doses, but "so far the initial medical follow-up of these workers who had high doses, as far as the Japanese colleagues told us, was OK."

A preliminary report on the radiation effects of Fukushima will be presented at UNSCEAR's annual meeting in May and a final document will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 2013.

"We are putting together a jigsaw puzzle, evaluating the exposures of the general public, of workers, and radiation effects, and looking for the missing pieces," Weiss said.

The U.N. committee, which has published reports about Chernobyl, groups scientists from 27 countries. Asked whether he was optimistic that the overall health effects would be quite small, Weiss said: "If we find out that what we know now is representing the situation, then the answer would be yes ... the health impact would be low."

(Reporting by Fredrik Dahl)

Are we truly ready for an international response to a major radiological event? Are we truly ready for a major event in our own back yard? Is the hazard presented by such an event truly as significant as feared? Very hard to say, but adequate preparation and clear communications are keys to success.

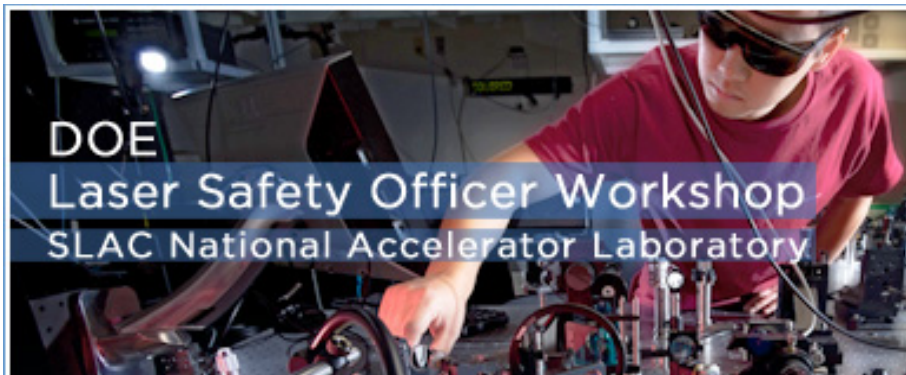
In other Chapter news, I'd like to let you know that, after many years of selfless service, Charlie Schmidt has decided to turn over the care and feeding of the NCCCHPS Moyer program to someone else, and that Radoslav Radev has agreed to step up and continue managing the program and investments. Radoslav has been working with Charlie for the past several years evaluating potential Moyer candidates, and it is important that we maintain strong steady leadership within the program. If you have the opportunity, please make an effort to show your appreciation to Charlie and to Radoslav for their continuing service to the Chapter. The NCCCHPS Chapter's Moyer fund is a truly remarkable charity that makes a real difference every year in the life of a deserving student. It is something we can all be proud of. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Also, it's time to select candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer and Member-At-Large for the Chapter. Our nominating committee this year consists of Kathy Shingleton, John Ahlquist, Keith Heinzelman and Dave Myers, but I'm sure they would welcome any additional assistance you might be able to provide. If you are willing to serve in any of the listed positions, or could make suggestions of suitable candidates, please one of the committee members know.

See you on March 15th!

Sincerely,

Jack Topper, President
NCCCHPS

57th Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society, Sacramento, California**Sunday 22 July - Thursday 26 July 2012;****Updated March 2012....**HPS Meeting Site: [57th Annual Meeting](#)The primary conference hotel is the [Hyatt Regency Sacramento](#).The back-up conference hotel is the [Sheraton Grand Hotel](#).[Sacramento 365](#) - The Year-Round Source for Sacramento**DOE
Laser Safety Officer Workshop
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory****8th Annual DOE
Laser Safety Officer
Workshop****September 11 - 13, 2012,
Kavli Auditorium,
SLAC National
Accelerator Laboratory
Menlo Park, California**

This Workshop is for individuals with laser safety responsibility and interest in a research or academic setting who want to update and expand their knowledge. It features presentations on current laser applications, and associated laser safety issues and solutions. Anyone interested in laser safety will not want to miss this one-of-a-kind workshop! The Workshop also serves as the official annual meeting of the U.S. Department of Energy Laser Safety Working Group (DOE EFCOG working group on laser safety).

The workshop is a 2.5-day meeting and will include both invited and contributed talks. It will include a tour of the experimental facilities and associated optical laser systems for SLAC's x-ray laser facility, the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS; <http://www-public.slac.stanford.edu/lcls/aboutlcls.aspx>). The LCLS is a revolutionary x-ray light source that will probe ultrafast phenomena. The Workshop will also include time for a Vendor Exhibit so attendees can learn about the latest products and services in laser safety and education.

Abstract submission is now open. Registration will open March 1, 2012.

Visit the Workshop website at <http://www-conf.slac.stanford.edu/lso/> for more information.

<p><i>Upcoming NCCHPS Meetings...</i></p> <p>15 March 2012</p> <p>17 May 2012</p> <p>NCCHPS 4435 N. First Street #141 Livermore, CA 94550</p> <p>ncchps@gmail.com</p> <p>http://hpschapters.org/ncchps/</p> <p>Direct input for our next newsletter to:</p> <p>Warren TenBrook warren@tenbrook.org 925-423-1470</p>	<p><u>The Next NCCHPS Meeting!</u></p> <p>March 15, 2012 Venue: Pasta Pelican 2455 Mariner Square Dr Alameda, CA 94501 Phone 510 864 7427</p> <p>Menu: Rib eye Steak Salmone Picatta Pollo Picatta Pesto di Genovese</p> <p>Dessert: Cheesecake</p> <p>Cost:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>NCCHPS members</td> <td>\$30 (\$35 @ door)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCCHPS member spouses</td> <td>\$35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Students</td> <td>\$10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-members</td> <td>\$40</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Deadline:</u> Please register by March 12, 2012 <i>Note that cancellations may not be made after the RSVP deadline.</i></p> <p>http://hpschapters.org/ncchps/dinner.php3</p> <p>Only online registrations will be accepted. Contact Ibrahim Ozcan ONLY if you encounter problems with online registration: IOzcan@lbl.gov</p>	NCCHPS members	\$30 (\$35 @ door)	NCCHPS member spouses	\$35	Students	\$10	Non-members	\$40	<p><u>2011-2012 NCCHPS Board Members:</u></p> <p>President Jack Topper (925) 423-8082 topper1@lbl.gov</p> <p>President-Elect Fran Dickens dickens3@lbl.gov 925-422-3813</p> <p>Past President Quang Le (510) 486-7862 ql@lbl.gov</p> <p>Secretary Naomi Reeves NEReves@lbl.gov (510)495-2202</p> <p>Member-at-Large Phillip D. Worley worley6@lbl.gov 925-422-7574</p> <p>Member-at-Large Ibrahim Ozcan (510) 486-2842 IOzcan@lbl.gov</p> <p>Treasurer Marcia Torres (650) 926-2764 mtorres@slac.stanford.edu</p>
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