Some Major Activities Occurring in the AIRRS Section

The Academic, Industrial, and Research Radiation Safety Section (AIRRS) of the Health Physics Society section has some significant activities occurring now and in 2018. The first is an effort being pioneered by the Western NY Chapter and the University of St. John Fisher College, in Rochester NY. The Spring WNY Chapter meeting is planned to be a radiological career day, introducing the students of the college who are in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs into the field of Health Physics. Talks will be offered which will provide information as to what Health Physics is. During and afterwards, an information exchange between the chapter members and the students, allowing them the opportunity to learn just what Health Physics offers.

Later in the Spring the AIRRS section plans to be at the USA Science & Engineering Festival, at the Washington DC Convention Center, during a similar project but on a much larger scale. The date for this is April 6-7-8, 2018. Cathy Ribaudo spoke to the Baltimore/Washington Chapter of the HPS this week at their local meeting to solicit interest in attending the STEM Expo in April as ambassadors for HPS/AIRRS and helping to man the booth. There was a good response. They agreed to follow up with an article in their next newsletter and an e-mail blast to all members.

The Baltimore Washington Chapter, acting as the “host” chapter of the USA Science & Engineering Festival, has made an online website for registering volunteers to help with the AIRRS booth. Cathy Ribaudo has developed an e-mail list of interested volunteers and as the dates get closer, we can reach out to them for planning further details of the booths. If we get a great number of volunteers for AIRRS, we can allot some extra hands to Rob Gunter’s booth and the other health physics booths. This is an action that is in progress and more will be determined later. The link for this is http://bwchps.wildapricot.org/event-2757115.

I had the privilege of speaking to the Virginia Chapter about their support for the effort at the Washington DC Convention Center. Afterwards the chapter indicated their interest in participating in the effort and assisting in staffing the display. At the festival, we are not going to be providing contacts for employment, but demonstrating what employment is available in the Health Physics industry.

It appears now we may have four tables at the USA Science & Engineering Festival. These would include the one provided by Rob Gunter under his own consulting company’s name, AIRRS would be the second, there is a potential booth from the students of UMass Lowell (my old alma mater) and a potential fourth from the medical section of the HP society. We expect to have an excellent turnout at this exhibition and should have a great opportunity to showcase what our society represents.

Our primary goal would be to provide information on what the society does, in particular our section. To that regard, we are planning on some demonstrations, power points, and other easy to present but fun to talk about with young people items.

Cooperation with the Campus Environmental Management Association.

A second initiative is to communicate with and collaborate with the Campus Safety Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA). This collaboration would provide the CSHEMA group a quick go to technical resource for specific health physics issues that may not happen frequently at their facility (e.g. dose reconstructions, internal dose calculations, neutron dosimetry, etc.).
Dedicated session at the national HP society meeting

We have the Tuesday afternoon session dedicated to the AIRRS section at the national Health Physics meeting in Cleveland, 2018. We are already beginning to look for papers. Subject matter would include, but not be limited to University and Research Health Physics issues, Industrial Radiological Health issues and similar areas of interest. We have some individuals who have already committed to providing papers, so we expect a lively section meeting.

New President

We would like to announce our new section president elect, Daniel Menchaca to our section. He will be taking the helm beginning after the Cleveland Health Physics meeting. We wish Daniel the best in his new role.

Thank you for your time

Frederic J. Mis, Ph.D., CHP

President AIRRS Section