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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume XXXVII No. 6
April 2001

Continuing Education Committee

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Duke Engineering and Services
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NELRAD ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Northeastern University, Henderson House
Weston, MA

RADWASTE 2001: NO PROBLEM?

- 8:30 A.M. **Registration. Coffee & Danish**
- 9:00 **Welcome:** Thomas McShane, Executive Director, *NELRAD*
- 9:05 Comments: Hon. Thomas Norton, Executive Director, Mass LLRW Management Board
- 9:15 Comments: Anthony Carpenito, Radiation Control Program, Department of Public Health,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 9:30 LLRW Management at DuPont Pharmaceutical Company, Billerica – **Roy Greaves**
- 10:00 LLRW Management at Unitech Services Group, Springfield – **Kent Anderson**
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 LLRW Management at Brigham and Women's Hospital – **Dr. Frank Castronovo**
- 11:30 Recovering Tritium from Pharmaceutical Mixed Waste Liquid – **Bob Gallagher, President, NSSI, Houston**
- 12:00 P.M. **Lunch**
- 1:30 Sustainable Development: Lessons for Hazardous Waste Management – **Prof. Jeffrey I. Steinfield, MIT**
- 2:15 Assessment of Environmental Plutonium – **Ken Czerwinski, MIT**
- 2:45 Current Status and Strategy at Envirocare of Utah – **Gene Gleason**

Application has been made for Health Physics continuing education credits

Please RSVP to Dr. Drum at (617) 732-6987, page 11161 or dedrum@earthlink.net FAX: (781) 235-3873.

Registration Form NELRAD Annual Meeting

Name _____
Company/Institution _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ FAX _____
E-Mail _____

Mail Registration with check payable to *NELRAD*:

Fee Schedule		Steve Brehio, Treasurer
<i>NELRAD</i> Members	\$30	Office of Environmental Health & Safety
Non-members	\$60	Northeastern University
Students	\$15	229 Forsyth Building
		Boston, MA 02115
		FAX: (617) 373-7622

Photoelectron Corporation Announces Strategic Partnership with Cordis Corporation for Development of Intravascular Radiation System

PRN Newswire, Edited by Tara M. Bandini

Lexington, MA – Phototelectron Corporation, a medical device and technology company specializing in miniature x-ray technology, announced on February 7, 2001, that it has signed an exclusive agreement with Cordis Corporation, a Johnson & Johnson Company, to co-develop and co-manufacture a miniature x-ray source and associated technology for the delivery of intravascular radiation therapy to prevent restenosis of coronary arteries following angioplasty and stent procedures.

Under the terms of the agreement with Cordis, the companies will develop and manufacture an x-ray system based on Photoelectron's patented technology. The new system will include an integrated disposable x-ray tube and catheter and a delivery and control device to deliver intravascular radiation therapy. Both companies will manufacture components for the system, which will be co-labeled. Cordis will be responsible for the sales and marketing for the new x-ray system.

In July 2000, Photoelectron Corporation announced that it had developed a new system for delivering x-rays to the inside of blood vessels. A clinical version of this system would be placed inside blood vessels to deliver a dose of radiation to the interior surface, sufficient to prevent restenosis, following balloon angioplasty and stent placement. Stents are miniature scaffolds that are inserted into a blocked artery to support it and help maintain open blood flow after angioplasty. After an angioplasty and stent procedure, the treated site is potentially at risk for restenosis due to the body's natural healing response.

An estimated 1.3-million angioplasty and stent placements took place in the United States in 2000; this number is expected to build to 3.3 million worldwide by 2003. An estimated 400,000 patients per year will require intravascular radiation therapy by 2003. Clinical studies have shown that restenosis is inhibited in arteries treated with radiation.

Nominations for Chapter Year 2001-2002

Submitted by Thomas O'Connell

As required per Article VII Sections 1-2 of the Charter of the New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NECHPS), a Nominating Committee has been formed and nominees have been selected for all of the prospective vacant elective offices.

A Nomination and Election Committee has been formed per the requirements written in Article VI of the BY-LAWS of the NECHPS. The members of the Nomination Committee are Tom O'Connell - Chair, Bob Scott, and Gerry Fallon.

Section 2 of Article VI of the BY-LAWS requires that the Nomination and Election Committee notify the membership of the nomination slate and of the provision for additional nominations per Section 3 of Article VI of the BY-LAWS no less than 45 days prior to the Chapter's Annual Meeting.

The nomination slate for the prospective vacancies for the Chapter Year 2001-2002 is as follows:

Edward F. Maher	President-Elect
Ronald Thurlow	Treasurer
John Anderson, Jr.	Board of Directors - 1 year term
Brandon L. Graber	Board of Directors - 2 year term
William B. McCarthy	Board of Directors - 2 year term
Michael P. Whalen, Jr.	Board of Directors - 2 year term

The Nomination and Election Committee is required to accept additional nominations per Section 3 of Article VI of the Chapter BY-LAWS. Section 3 states that a petition naming the nominee or nominees for any or all prospective vacancies can be submitted to the Nomination Committee. This petition must bear the signature of at least five chapter members in good standing. The petition must be submitted to the Nomination Committee no less than 30 days before the Chapter's Annual Meeting.

Petitions can be forwarded to Tom O'Connell, Nomination Committee - Chair, NECHPS, 11 Dunbar Street, Worcester, MA 01603.

Recent Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Tara M. Bandini

January 2001

The New England Chapter held its post-holiday meeting on January 25 at Papa Razzi's Wellesley restaurant. The cold weather (no snow this time!) didn't deter the attendance at all, and there were some new faces present as well.

Elizabeth Gilman, a Certified BioSafety Professional, spoke about "Biosafety for the Radiation Safety Professional." The talk covered aspects of laboratory biosafety ranging from definitions of laboratory classifications, to decontamination, to waste disposal. This was a timely topic for radiation safety personnel who also have to deal with laboratories using other biohazardous agents.

For a complete overview of good laboratory biosafety practices, Ms. Gilman suggests the CDC's *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*. To biosafety professionals, this is known as the "BMBL" and is one of the preferred reference books. The Fourth Edition has been printed and is available from www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bmbl4/bmbl4toc.htm.

March 2001

On March 15 a joint meeting of the NECHPS and the Northeast Section of the American Nuclear Society was held, once again at Papa Razzi in Wellesley. The group was evenly divided among ANS and NECHPS members.

Dr. Otto Harling from MIT discussed new advances and techniques in the field of boron neutron capture therapy for treatment of tumors in the human body. Specifically, the talk focused on modifications made to the MIT reactor to make more efficient use of the neutrons the reactor generates as a result of the fission process.

The new design is based on a "fission converter" that will provide a very intense epithermal neutron beam that is virtually free of fast neutron and gamma contamination. The epithermal neutrons then interact with injected boron present in tumor cells, producing a lithium atom and an alpha particle, which destroy tumors from the inside out.

The new fission converter facility at the MIT reactor was recently completed and will allow a BNCT patient irradiation to be performed in just a few minutes. With the anticipated availability of more effective boron compounds in the near future and the collaborative effort with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the theory of BNCT may soon be a clinical reality.

Make Your Comments Heard!

Submitted by William Lorenzen

--THE INTERAGENCY STEERING COMMITTEE ON RADIATION STANDARDS (ISCORS) is accepting comments on a draft document on developing a web-based catalog of radiation dose and risk models. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DOE, and NRC said in a Federal Register notice today that the document would provide model users with general guidance and performance considerations on how to select radiation dose and risk assessment models for site cleanup activities. The document also is to provide a catalog of available dose and risk models. It is at www.iscors.org/cleanup.htm. Deadline for comments is June 21.

The Impact of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Policy on Biomedical Research in the United States (2001)

Submitted by William Lorenzen

The National Research Council, Commission on Life Science, Board of Radiation Effects Research through the Committee on the Impact of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Policy on Biomedical Research in the United States has recently released its assessment of the effects of the current policy for LLRW. The document is a culmination of information gathered from researchers, state and institutional officials, and radiation safety officers regarding the effects of the existing LLRW disposal situation, including the effects of the lack of access to disposal facilities on institutions that conduct biomedical research and on hospitals where radionuclides are crucial for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The text of this report (as a searchable book) can be found at <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309073316/html/>.

AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY CONNECTICUT SECTION MEETING NOTICE

TOPIC: **First, Do No Harm: Being “Cautious” is Killing People
“Effects of Low Level Radiation”**

SPEAKER: Mr. Theodore Rockwell

Theodore Rockwell is an engineer with more than 50 years in nuclear power development, starting as a Process Improvement engineer at the wartime atomic project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. For 15 years he reported to Admiral Rickover, the last 10 as Technical Director of the national program to develop nuclear power for the naval propulsion and to build the world's first civilian nuclear power plant. With two colleagues he founded the respected engineering firm MPR Associates in 1964. He has medals and citations from several branches of the Government, and is known for numerous patents, articles, and books.

Introduction by Ray Necci, VP Engineering, Millstone Station

Panel discussion with Richard Rhodes following speaker. Mr. Rhodes is a Pulitzer Prize winning author on nuclear issues in American culture. He will also be signing books.

DATE: Wednesday, May 2, 2001

LOCATION: Northeast Utilities – Millstone Simulator Building

DINNER: Buffet

SCHEDULE: Social: 5:30 - 6:00

Dinner: 6:00 (Guest speaker after dinner)

Cost: N/A

Reservations: Yehia Khalil

Ken Fox

Millstone Station **OR**

Millstone Station

800.269.9994 x 0443

800.269.9994 x 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT DOT TRAINING FOR SHIPPING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

NECHPS is sponsoring a DOT training class for packaging and shipping of radioactive materials. This will be a one-day class. A basic knowledge of radiation safety and some experience in packaging and shipping radioactive materials is required to be able to keep up with the class. This will be good refresher training for those who have to meet the DOT training requirements.

Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Duke Engineering and Services
400 Donald Lynch Blvd
Marlborough, MA

Trainer: Andy Armbrust, Philotechnics

Cost: \$100 - \$150 (depending on how many sign up)

Since class size is limited, registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Directions will be sent later to registrants.

To register, e-mail Ninni Jacob at ninni.jacob@brown.edu.

NECHPS Annual Meeting Preliminary Program

The NECHPS Annual Meeting will be held on June 5, 2001, at the Westford Regency Hotel in Westford, MA. The theme of this year's meeting is "New Developments in Medical Health Physics". Following is a preliminary list of speakers and topics:

Doug Shearer - *R.I. Hospital* - Shielding Requirements for Intravascular Brachytherapy

Dave Medich- *Implant Sciences* – Intravascular Brachytherapy

Victor Evdokimoff- *BU Med Center*- Releasing High Dose radiotherapy patients

David Drum – *WIH* - Patient Doses in Interventional Procedures

Dave Allard- *PA*- Solid waste Monitoring in PA

Jack Coreira- *MGH*- Health Physics considerations in PET Imaging

Bob Scott- *Roger Williams*- Search and Seizure of Contraband using X-rays

Student paper - **Jeomsoon Kim** from *UMass-Lowell*

The Meeting promises to be a full day of information and a good time to catch up with all those HPs you never see anymore! Vendors will also be on hand to display their latest products.

More details and registration information will follow in the next Newsletter.

Deadline for submitting articles to the Newsletter for publication in the next issue is April 30, 2001.

Local Chapter Members Nominated for Advisory Board

By William A. Lorenzen

The Health Physics Society recently nominated eleven HPS members to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health established by Section 3624 of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-398). The National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) order states "Members shall include . . . representatives from scientific and medical communities."

The list of nominees was developed by the HPS Board of Directors. The nominees were considered to be eminently qualified to represent the scientific community in the areas of dose reconstruction, probability of causation, and radiation worker perspectives and concerns.

Local NECHPS members include: **Ken Skrable** and **Costa Maletskos**.

Congratulations to both of our distinguished NECHPS members.

The HPS letter to the NIOSH and the names of the other nominated members can be found at the members area of the HPS web site.

Membership Dues

Members are reminded that overdue dues should be paid as soon as possible to assure inclusion in the 2001 Member Handbook. Dues status is printed on the mailing label of the Newsletter.

Remember that the current By-Laws state that dues are \$10.00 per year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will get a member 5 years of Chapter membership.

Please send your payment to Robert L. Gallagher, Treasurer, at the MA Radiation Control Program, 174 Portland St. 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. Dues are always accepted and payable at the Chapter's technical meetings.

Call for Award Nominations

Know someone who should be recognized? Let us know!

Volunteer of the Year Award

The National Health Physics Society created a Volunteer of the Year Award in 1999 as a way for the local chapters to recognize up to three chapter members who have contributed their services and expertise to the local chapter. The local chapter selects and presents this award.

The New England Chapter's first recipient of this award was Bob Scott. We want to continue to recognize the contributions made by our members of the local chapter. Please submit your nominations to Tom O'Connell, Awards Committee, 11 Dunbar Street, Worcester, MA 01603. The deadline for submission is April 27, 2001.

National Health Physics Society Awards

Each year the National Health Physics Society (HPS) presents awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our profession. Each chapter of the HPS is encouraged to submit nominees to the HPS Awards committee for its consideration. As you are aware, the New England Chapter has many members who have made and/or continue to make outstanding contributions to the health physics profession.

If you would like to nominate an individual to any of the six awards: Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, Robley D. Evans Commemorative Medal, Elda E. Anderson Award, Founders Award, Fellows Award or the Outstanding Science Teachers Award, please submit the informational package to Tom O'Connell, Nomination Committee, 11 Dunbar Street, Worcester, MA 01603.

Notes from the Continuing Education Committee

By Haro Der Hagopian

Members of the Chapter have asked on occasion, "Hey pal, how many CECs did I get for that NECHPS meeting that I attended couple of years ago?" Well, the Continuing Education Committee has come up with the answers to your questions.

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) awards Continuing Education Credits (CEC) for recertification by the American Board of Health Physicists. The following is a brief list of some of the activities that are approved for CECs.

Activity	CECs
Local Chapter Meeting	2 per meeting
Scientific Meeting	2 per half day, max 12 per meeting
Health Physics Related Committee Membership (ASME, ASTM)	4 per year
Poster Presentation on Health Physics topic at Professional Meeting	8
Local Chapter Annual Meeting	4 per meeting

Additional information on the CEC criteria and the policies of the AAHP can be found on the following webpage: www.hps1.org/aahp/cec/cepolicy.htm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NECHPS Continuing Education Chair, Haro Der Hagopian, at hderhagopian@dukeengineering.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Harvard University is looking for an Associate Radiation Protection Officer for a growing radiation safety program. With significant construction of new science buildings on all campuses, there is variety of challenging opportunities. With Harvard's excellent benefits, stable work environment and a collaborative/team approach this is an outstanding opportunity for the qualified candidate.

If you have any questions about this position, please contact me directly. Please note that applications are accepted at the URL or mail address listed below.

Associate Radiation Protection Officer

Under direction of Radiation Safety Officer manages operational services of rad program and supervises field activities of technicians in providing laboratory surveys, waste management; provides technical and engineering assistance to promote compliance with radiation related regulations, permits and university policy. Ensures program is implemented in compliance with applicable regulations and good practice guidelines in accordance with commitments to affiliated institutions.

B.S. in radiological sciences or equivalent and 3-5 years experience with management and operational aspects of a university/institutional broad scope radioactive materials license required. Certification by American Board of Health Physics and/or Masters preferred. Must possess a strong working knowledge of radiation safety, transportation regulations, NRC, DOT & MADPH regulations. Proficiency with Microsoft Office & familiarity with Web development software required. 2-5 years management and supervisory experience preferred. Strong interpersonal & communication skills. Required to participate in 24 hr. emergency response; must be capable of using negative pressure half face respirator or equivalent. UOS requires pre-employment drug, reference & background screening.

To apply for this position:

Apply on line at: www.hr.harvard.edu/employment or send your scannable resume and cover letter to: Harvard University, Resume Processing Center, Requisition No. 9142, 11 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, Fax (617) 495-4748

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