

North Central Chapter

Jerry L. Artz, RSO, Hamline University

The spring meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCCHPS) was called to order by NCCHPS President-elect Christopher Kessler at the



Christopher Kessler

Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee on 23 April. More than 30 of the 112 members of the chapter were present.

An exciting program included a number of exceptional speakers. Dr. John Moulder from the Department of

Radiation Oncology at MCW began the program with “Development of Medical Countermeasures Against Radiological Terrorism.” Should a terrorist event occur that would result in significant radiation exposure to the public, the first line of action during the first 48 hours is mitigation in an effort to avoid widespread panic. Moulder discussed various immediate mitigation techniques that include biological dosimetry, decontamination, and treatment of acute gastrointestinal (GI) and hematological injuries.

Late-injury mitigation typically requires bone-marrow transplant for high-radiation (~5 Gy dose) victims, but Moulder emphasized that following bone-marrow transplant, additional treatment may be necessary for hematologic injury, GI injury, possible renal failure, and lung, cardiac, and central nervous system (CNS) failure. Late-effect mitigation has been proven effective in at least two experimental systems for kidney, lung, CNS, and skin.

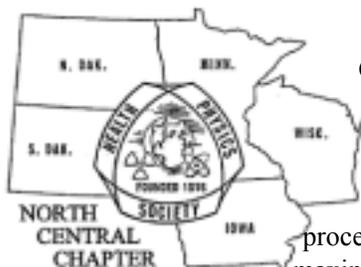
Attorney Douglas M. Poland followed with a discussion of two topics: “Yucca Mountain Update” and “ACR Appropriateness Criteria in the Practice of Medicine.” Poland first discussed the Yucca Mountain timeline beginning October 2008 and prior to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) Safety Evaluation Report (SER) due to be released August 2010 and continuing after release to March 2012. The Yucca Mountain repository for the storage of high-level nuclear waste continues to meet many litigation hurdles. In September 2009 there was a backlog of court cases that included 10 petitioners and 296 admitted contentions. A key date will be the November elections.



John Moulder



Doug Poland



Poland then discussed the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria whereby a panel of experts assign a number from one to nine (nine being most appropriate) that matches appropriate diagnostic imaging procedures to disease. The attempt is to maximize standard of care of the patient while

minimizing medical malpractice cases.

Sander C. Perle from Mirion Technologies Dosimetry Services Division presented “Direct Ion Storage – Revolutionizing Radiation Monitoring Programs.” The direct (read-out) ion storage is a device for detecting gamma and x rays. The usual secondary electrons are generated in the ion chamber, collected, and calibrated to give immediate readout of dose at any time from memory. Linearity and angularity of dose was discussed.



Sander Perle

After a superb lunch, NCCHPS President Glenn Sturchio thanked the three affiliate members (Mirion Technologies, Landauer, Inc., and DEQ Technical Sales) who attended and who helped support the meeting. The chapter then discussed the possibility of an alternative to the science teacher award that traditionally is given each year—namely, to award grants to purchase equipment. The idea here is to “build a larger pool” of science teachers who do nuclear radiation experiments in the pre-college grades. The chapter continues to encourage and help science teacher workshops in the five-state area. Sturchio encouraged “voluntary apprenticeships” from the membership to help with committee work.



Glenn Sturchio



Chuck Roessler (left) and Gordon Tannahill as councilors.

Election results included Robert McTaggart from South Dakota as president-elect and Charles (Chuck) Roessler and Gordon Tannahill

Rounding out the program was a presentation given by Steve Reynolds, director of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety from the NRC, who reported on “Veterans Affairs Medical Events.” Reynolds reported on a disturbing six-year period at one facility during which 97 medical events occurred involving prostate cancer patients, elected for brachytherapy (seed implants), who received a dose less than 80 percent of the prescribed dose. The importance of diligent oversight of the radiation safety officer in a



Steve Reynolds

situation such as this was emphasized.

The final presentation was given by **Ralph Grunewald (left) and Ning Zhang** Ralph Grunewald and Ning Zhang, who discussed “The Evolution of the Nuclear Technology Program at Lakeshore Technical College.”



Continuing ongoing activities and an NCCHPS membership application may be found at the NCCHPS Web site at <http://www.hps1.org/chapters/ncc>. 

North Carolina Chapter

Laura Pring and Bill Byrum, CHP

Dr. James E. Watson Tribute and NCHPS 45th Chapter Anniversary Celebration

The North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCHPS) 2010 45th anniversary spring meeting was held 4-5 March at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. The program included a tribute to the late Dr. James E. Watson, who passed away in April of last year. Watson retired as director of the Radiological Hygiene Program in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was past president of the NCHPS as well as past president of the national HPS. Watson was an exceptional mentor and extraordinary man.

The call for presentations honoring the memory of Watson generated an enthusiastic response from his former students. The topics presented at the spring meeting by Watson’s former students covered many disciplines of health physics. Presenters represented diverse



geographical areas of the country. Because of the excellent presentations by Watson’s students, the commemoration was an outstanding success.

The program started on Thursday afternoon with a joint presentation, “It’s ELEMENTary, our dear Watson!” given by Dr. Nelson Couch, president of Triangle Health and Safety, Inc., and Dr. Daniel Bourland of Wake Forest University of Medicine. Dr. Robert Emery of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston followed with “Texas Radiation Protection Program Outcomes.” Michael Boyd, health physicist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, joined us from the HPS Baltimore-Washington Chapter to present his talk on “50 Years of Federal Radiation Protection Guidance—What’s Left to Do?” Dr. David Hamby, Oregon State University, traveled



Former Watson students: Nelson Couch, Jonathan Moore, Bill Fitzgerald, Mike Boyd, David Lee, Stan Mavrogianis, Alan Mabry, Todd Baker; not pictured: Bradford Taylor, Bill Deforest, Bob Emery, David Hamby, Dan Bourland



Watson speakers with NCHPS officers—front row: Todd Baker, Laura Pring, Bill Byrum, Bob Emery; back row: Nelson Couch, David Hamby, Mike Boyd, Alan Mabry, Dan Bourland