

North Central Chapter

Dr. Robert McTaggart

Coordinator of Nuclear Education, South Dakota State University

Beckman Coulter hosted the fall meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCCHPS) on 1 October 2010 at its training center in Chaska, Minnesota. The meeting was attended by 30 members, two vendors, and three speakers. Highlighting the agenda were the president-elect of the Health Physics Society (HPS), Kathryn Pryor, and the Wissink Memorial Lecturer, Dr. William Angell, director of the Midwest Universities Radon Consortium and president of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists. Exceptional talks were also provided on the cost-effectiveness of radon mitigation, by Dr. Daniel Steck from St. John's University, and the importance of reaching the next generation of health physicists, by Mike Lewandowski from 3M.

Pryor attended the Executive Council meeting the evening before and led off the 1 October meeting with a discussion of the radiological design necessary to convert plutonium pits from nuclear weapons into mixed oxide fuel. For example, shielding for glove boxes must account for neutron and gamma doses to workers while allowing the work to be done. Reduction of airborne releases, time and motion studies for worker occupancy, remote handling, and automation of the disassembly process all play a role in reducing whole-body and extremity doses. Revised dose calculations have been made recently to align with 10 CFR 835, which changed the way photon and neutron doses are evaluated.

Pryor also provided an update on the HPS and encouraged everyone to read the October newsletter. The newsletter addresses opportunities for chapter leadership training, organizational changes, the establishment of an HPS charitable fund to will money to the organization, and the "member get a member" campaign to increase plenary membership.

There was also a discussion of a proposed amendment to the HPS bylaws, which would remove language for needing a college degree to become a voting member. Attendees were encouraged to get involved in the national HPS by



serving on committees or in elective office.

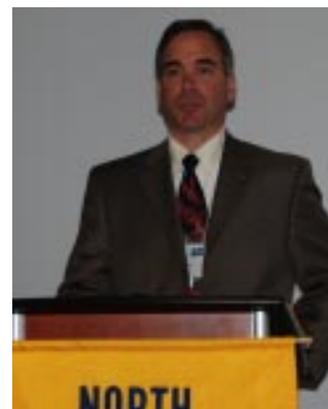
Steck followed with a presentation on the cost-effectiveness of radon mitigation. What should we do with regard to radon mitigation in the upper Midwest? If universal mitigation is applied at the action level of 4 pCi L^{-1} , he estimates that more than 70,000 deaths from lung cancer could be avoided over a 74-year period in Minnesota alone.

The full economic impact is very sophisticated, but compared with dialysis, radon mitigation is more cost effective in saving lives. Radon mitigation can be reasonably incorporated into public health policy.

Outgoing NCCHPS President Dr. Glenn Sturchio from the Mayo Clinic led the Executive Council meeting and the chapter business meeting. Congratulations go to new President Chris Kessler of the Marshfield Clinic, new President-elect Dr. Robert McTaggart from South Dakota State University, and new Councilors Gordon Tannahill from the



Daniel Steck



Glenn Sturchio



Chris Kessler

Mayo Clinic and Dr. Charles Roessler, who is retired from the University of Florida. The chapter needs a new affiliate coordinator and more than one person to run for election in each of the leadership positions.

Lewandowski reported that the self-contained instrumentation kit, which remains available for outreach by chapter members, would soon be introduced to Minnesota and Wisconsin teachers at an upcoming workshop. The Executive Council recommended and the chapter approved a change in the Science Teachers Award to convert it into a Science



Kathryn Pryor

Teacher's Grant. Teachers would propose what they want to do with \$500, which is substantial for high school science budgets. Such teachers would remain eligible for recommendation for national HPS awards. The preference for such grants will be for new awardees, and up to two awards will be made annually.



Mike Lewandowski

The 2013 HPS Annual Meeting will take place in Madison, Wisconsin. While there is interest in having local NCCHPS members participate in a local arrangements committee, HPS has not requested any formal commitment on the part of NCCHPS to support the annual meeting. Different levels of participation by NCCHPS will be investigated.

After the business meeting, Lewandowski discussed several ways that chapter members can get involved to generate interest in health physics by K-12 students. One can choose one's level of participation in an area of interest within allowable resources. For example, instead of preparing and running a day-long science teacher workshop, one can give a talk to students in a classroom or at a career fair, support nuclear science merit badges in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, or support a local

science fair by being a judge or by advising a project. The point is to make the experience fun and encourage students and teachers to consider health physics as a possible career.

Dr. William Angell spoke about the history of radon mitigation, what the state of radon mitigation is in the United States and Canada, and what may occur in the future. There are several similarities between programs in the United States and Canada, but the two main differences are where radon may leave the home in mitigation and the action levels required in Canada. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should be encouraged to renew efforts for radon mitigation, particularly in the construction and weatherization of multi-family dwellings and low-income housing. More homes with radon above EPA action levels exist today, which will increase if the action level is ever lowered to 2.7 pCi L^{-1} . Updated EPA protocols should consider testing on a periodic basis and implementing radon control in building codes.



William Angell

Our thanks go to Irene Patrek and Christen McKnight at Beckman Coulter, who were excellent hosts, and to the affiliate sponsors who attended the meeting: Mirion Technologies, Inc., and Canberra Industries, Inc. The spring 2011 meeting will be at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



Inactive Chapters of the HPS

Howard Dickson, CHP

This year four chapters of the Health Physics Society (HPS) were declared inactive by action of the HPS Board. Those chapters are the North Texas, Panhandle, Prairie State, and Bluegrass Chapters. The chapter leadership of record in each case has been notified by the Secretariat of the action; however, due to the very nature of the chapter inactivity, chapter members in these four chapters may not have been made aware of this action. Consequently, the Executive Committee requested that this announcement be communicated to the impacted chapter members via this newsletter.

A chapter may be placed in inactive status by the Board for:

1. Failure to hold an annual meeting for two consecutive years,
 2. Failure to hold elections for two consecutive years,
 3. Failure to submit annual reports to the Executive Secretary for two consecutive years, or
 4. Conducting activities that are inconsistent with the purposes and objectives of the Society.
- A chapter that has been in inactive status for two consecutive years will be encouraged to dissolve or combine with another chapter. A chapter on inactive status may be removed from inactive status by the Board following completion of the following:
1. Holding an annual meeting for two consecutive years,
 2. Holding elections for two consecutive years, and
 3. Submitting annual reports to the Board for two consecutive years.