

North Central Chapter

Barb Hodge, Radiation Safety Specialist, University of Minnesota

Fall Technical Meeting

The University of Minnesota (U of M) hosted the fall technical meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (HPS) at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum 26 September 2014. The meeting was emceed by Chapter Councilor Shari Mask and included a technical program, a business meeting, and vendor exhibits by Mirion Technologies, Landauer, and Canberra Industries, Inc.

The technical program was opened by Brian Vetter, radiation safety officer at the U of M, who presented “Data Management for a Radiation Safety Program.” He outlined the process that the U of M went through in collaborating with a software development firm to create a web-based materials management system, accessible across varying operating systems and available on all coordinate campuses. Many processes were reexamined and redesigned during the creation and review of over 350 solution requirements. Brian concluded by acknowledging that the program will never be “done” and describing ongoing weekly meetings with the developer.



Todd Lamb

Next, Todd Lamb, pharmacy manager at Cardinal Health, gave the talk “Commercial Nuclear Pharmacy Challenges.” Besides the organizational challenges of having a delivery staff that drives over 90,000 miles in a month, Todd’s areas of focus are lowering exposure through engineering controls, ^{131}I compounding, standardizing employee training through use of computer modules, mentoring, competency checks, audits, and customer education, frequently the most daunting task. Todd also shared personal experiences dealing with shortages of radio-nuclides and the resulting scheduling issues.



Brian Hinderliter

Brian Hinderliter, PhD, associate professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, presented “Expansion of Radiation Related Subjects in the Undergraduate Curriculum,” describing the work he did in developing an undergraduate program in radiation safety. One of the primary hurdles was the lack of lab exercises available. In response to this, he designed project-based labs, rather than “cookbook” labs, that involved activities such as taking survey meters home to explore the environment.



Nancy Kirner

HPS President-elect Nancy Kirner, CHP, gave the talk “10 Things I’ve Learned About Health Physics,” in which she shared life experiences and lessons learned during her many years in the profession. One of her main messages was to encourage people to join the national society, to learn by sharing with colleagues, and to use that knowledge volunteering within the society and the community.

Regina Miller, MEd, RRPT, Research Scientist at Battelle, described her work for the U.S. Army in “Use of Handheld Radiation Detectors for Estimating Internal Contamination.” By using a system of monitoring, decontaminating, and remonitoring to screen for possible internal contamination and using tables to convert readings to dose, soldiers can be quickly screened for necessary treatment or return to duty.

Mike Lewandowski, CHP, led the panel discussion “The Value of Volunteering—What’s in it for Me.” Chris Kessler, CHP, Gen Roessler, PhD, and Rich Vetter, PhD, also participated, sharing their experiences working in and around the HPS. The panel was an excellent follow-up to Kirner’s presentation.

Finally, Mike Lewandowski gave the presentation “An Introduction to Magnetic Field Safety,” in which he discussed basic physics, varying magnet strengths, and occupational exposure limits.

[Check out this month’s short course offerings](#)
[Starting on page 26](#)