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Networking in Radiation Protection within the Americas

Networking in Radiological Protection of the
IRPA 12 Congress.

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Vice President of the Americas - ISRRT

WORLD CONGRESS



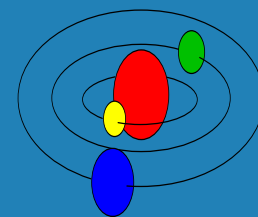


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Networking in Radiation Protection within the Americas

PAHO/WHO, IAEA, ISRRT have undertaken activities in the Region toward the implementation of radiation protection standards. Most of the Caribbean countries are not member states of the IAEA and projects encounter financial restrictions. The link to the IAEA is through PAHO/ISRRT.





Networking in Radiation Protection within the Americas

Regulatory Authorities are basically non existent, however, in order to have a functional networking system in place, a Sub regional approach seems to be the most appropriate way to regulate the specific uses of ionizing radiation and radioactive sources within the region.



Networking in Radiation Protection within the Americas

A technical working group from PAHO/ISRRT proposed the following actions:

Action: To establish a sub regional legal framework (Sub regional Regulatory Authority) for the implementation of Legislation/regulations governing the uses of ionizing radiation and the management of radioactive sources following the Basic Safety Standards recommendations, already sponsored by the Caribbean governments.

Action: To advocate International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) membership among Caribbean countries. This will allow access to the IAEA technical cooperation to assess and advice in the establishment of Regulatory Authorities for radiation and radioactive sources.



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The following recommendations from the IAEA also need to be implemented.

The establishment of a regulatory framework - the most time-consuming activity - involving the drafting and promulgation of radiation protection laws and regulations, the designation and empowerment of a national regulatory authority and the establishment of a system for the notification, authorization and control of radiation sources (including the preparation of an inventory of radiation sources and installation).

The establishment of occupational exposure controls (workers) - with individual and workplace monitoring, dose assessments, systematic record-keeping and quality assurance programmes.



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The establishment of medical exposure controls (patients) - aimed at controlling the exposures of patients in diagnostic radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. It includes the establishment and implementation of quality assurance programmes.

The establishment of public exposure controls (public) - involving programmes for the control and safe disposal of radioactive waste, for the control of consumer products containing radioactive substances, and for environmental monitoring.

The establishment of emergency preparedness and response capabilities, (accidents) which involves the development of plans and the allocation of resources to ensure the effectiveness of national regulatory authorities and other relevant organizations in dealing with different radiological emergency scenarios.



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- ∞ *Benefits from a networking system within the region:*
- ∞ *Most of the territories do not have resident medical physicists. This system will enable information, skills and experience sharing.*
- ∞ *There could also be sharing of calibration equipment*
- ∞ *Communication must be a vital aspect in this exercise.*
- ∞ *Consultation activities among the radiation experts and facilities to share training.*
- ∞ *Research at the various facilities in the effort to implement **diagnostic reference levels.***



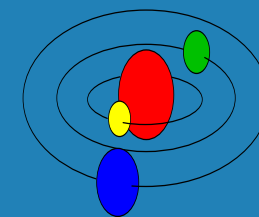
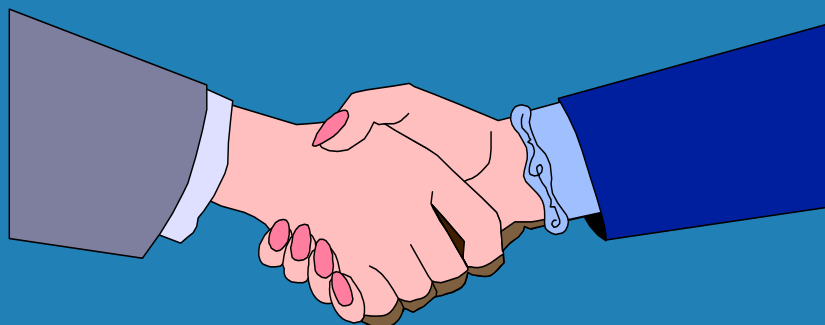
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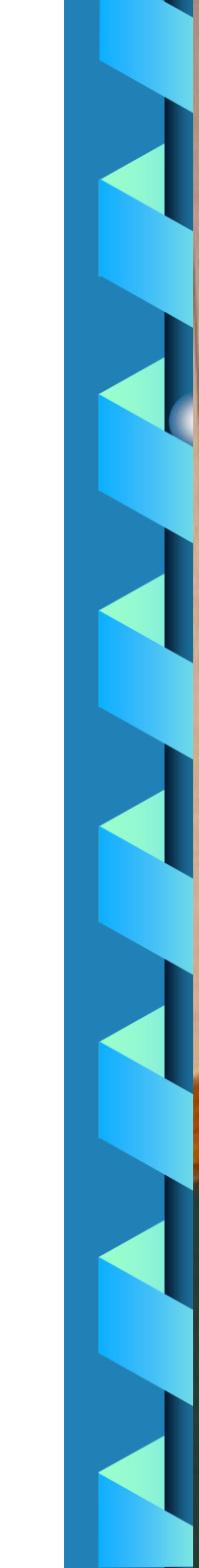
Taking into account the integration process which is taking place in the region, (CARICOM states are in the process of having a Single Market and Economy, a Caribbean Court of Justice), a sub regional approach seems to be the most feasible way to address these problems. It is hoped that the key stakeholders such as Radiologists, Radiation Oncologists, Medical Physicists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, Educators in Radiation Medicine and Regulators will play their part in their particular expertise. This would include planning, monitoring, evaluating and advising.

The entire effort will ensure a safer radiation environment for patient, staff and the general public within the region.



Thank You





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