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EDITORIAL *Paul Bergstrom*

This issue begins our new volume and is blessed with a wealth of contributions. I highly encourage the members of the Society to write and contribute such pieces. It is through these articles that the rest of the society can become familiar with how Radiation Physics is practiced in your neighborhood.

Professor Richard Pratt contributes his first column as President of the Society to us. Additionally, two of our regional Vice Presidents, Dr Suprakash Roy and Professor Anselmo Paschoa have written and forwarded a number of contributions that reflect the intellectual richness of our field in India and in South America.

Regrettably, two influential figures of the IRPS have recently passed away. Professor Ananda Ghose, one of our two Lifetime Honorary Members, and Dr. Dan Beninson, IRPS President from 1991-1994. Their obituaries are given in this issue

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the new President of IRPS, let me summarize in this first column my remarks at the General Membership Meeting of the Society held as part of ISRP-9 in Cape Town last November.

As is stated in its Constitution, the primary purpose of the IRPS is "to promote the global exchange and integration of scientific information regarding the interdisciplinary subject of radiation physics". I will hope to work with you toward those ends in my three years as President.

Let me begin by thanking Dan Jones, the organizer of ISRP-9 in Cape Town, as well as all his colleagues and associates, for their efforts and hard work in making ISRP-9 such a success, both professionally and in the introduction it gave us to South Africa. We should also thank Malcolm Cooper and Dudley Creagh, the Program Chairs, for their work and success in achieving a very fine program. And I want to also thank all the participants, for their contributions and their enthusiasm, making the Symposium a very fine experience for everyone.

We will now be looking forward to ISRP-10, to be held in Coimbra, Portugal September 18-22, 2006. The organizers will be Margerida Costa and Isabel Lopes, who are already beginning planning for the meeting. We will be hearing more from them in the coming months. (For your information, it has just been decided that ISRP-11 will be in Melbourne, Australia in 2009, organized by Chris Chantler.)

The Society has a proud tradition in its sequence of Symposia, and we should recognize the outstanding efforts of the organizers, from the beginning in Calcutta in 1974 organized by Ananda Ghose, ISRP-2 (Penang, 1982, Ananda Ghose), ISRP-3 (Ferrara, 1985, Ernesto Casnati), ISRP-4 (Sao Paulo, 1988, Ivan Nascimento), ISRP-5 (Dubrovnik, 1991, Ante Ljubicic), ISRP-6 (Rabat, 1994, Mohamed Berrada), ISRP-7 (Jaipur, 1997, Bikash Sinha), ISRP-8 (Prague, 2000, Ladislav Musilek).

Let me next thank Malcolm Cooper, who has just finished his three year term as President of the IRPS, for his strong and continuing efforts on behalf of the Society. We will look forward to further working with him as he now becomes Chair of the Advisory Board of the Society. We should also recognize his illustrious predecessors as President, for all their work on behalf of the Society, beginning with our Founding President, P. K. Iyengar of India (who served two terms 1985-1991), the late Dan Beninson of Argentina (1991-1994), John Hubbell of the USA (1994-1997), and Bikash Sinha of India (1997-2000).

Finally, let me acknowledge and thank John Hubbell and the late Ananda Ghose, widely recognized as responsible for the conception and creation of the IRPS. As stated in the minutes of the June 14, 2002 IRPS Council meeting in Bologna: "The Council approved the award of honorary life memberships in IRPS to Ananda Mohan Ghose and John Hubbell, recognizing their pivotal role in developments and progress in radiation physics over many decades, and their role in the foundation of the IRPS." Ghose and Hubbell are the only individuals who have been so designated.

But now we should turn to the future. We welcome our new members, and we hope you will find your membership helping to open opportunities. We encourage our existing members both to be active in the affairs of the Society, and to recruit more members. Our purpose is to promote the global exchange and integration of information regarding radiation physics. How can a member do that? A more senior member may already have the international contacts and interests and be ready to proceed. If so, keep us informed as to what you are trying to do, try to come to some Council meetings, and allow the Society to try to suggest further contacts and approaches. A new member may start with interests and activities in his/her own country, and from them begin to make international contacts. Again, keep the Society informed (contact any of the officers or Council), and we can try to provide suggestions and other assistance.

Please also contact me if you have other ideas as to how to make the Society more useful, in fulfilling its objectives and in helping its members. I can be reached at rpratt@pitt.edu . I'll look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes for the year ahead!

Richard Pratt

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REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

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Department of Physics,
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Dr Dan J Beninson

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NEW MEMBERS and ADDRESS CHANGES

Welcome to New Members :

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Mr Kresimir Jakovcic, Croatia

Prof Syed M. Qaim, Germany

Ms Rupa Sarkar, India

Mr Michael Josiah Mangala, Kenya

Mr Nagi A. Hussein, Malaysia

Prof. Hassane Erramli, Morocco

Dr Christopher Mayaki, Nigeria

Dr Folorundso O. Ogundare, Nigeria

Dr Olusola I. Okunade, Nigeria

Mr Joao S. Barata, Portugal

Prof A.N. Conde, Portugal

Mr Benjamin Nyarko, Ghana

Dr Dmitry A. Kovalev, Russia

Dr Eugene A. Shikanov, Russia

Ms Mary Assiamah, South Africa

Mr Andy Buffler, South Africa

Dr Given G. K. Mabala, South Africa

Mr Risimati D. Mavunda, South Africa

Mr Tshepp Ntsoane, South Africa

Mr Dawid De Villiers, South Africa

Prof Klas Malmqvist, Sweden

Prof Jason Lee, Taiwan

Dr Orhan Gurler, Turkey

Dr Sezai Yalcin, Turkey

Ms Layla Mohammed Ali, U.K.

Mr Michael P Shannon, U.S.A.

Prof Herman Winick, U.S.A.

New Members' addresses are listed in the Contact Members' Details (click on country next to name)

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Report from Regional Vice President South East Asia

SUPRAKASH ROY

Dear Readers,

As was decided in the last Council meeting, all regional Vice-Presidents of the IRPS are responsible for reporting on the Radiation Physics activities of his/her region periodically in the IRPS Newsletter.

I welcomed the decision because this will help our members learn about what is being done and what will be done in future on radiation physics globally, without realizing how hard this task is going to be. Presumably noting my enthusiasm the Council decided to start this section with me.

I have been told to submit a report for this issue of the newsletter. While I was preparing the report on my own, following the preachings of the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore,

"If no one answers your call walk alone.
Walk alone, walk alone, and walk alone.
If none talk to you, O you luckless,
If all are fearful and turn their faces,
Be outspoken and speak your mind
All by yourself to all mankind."

I received some materials from Dr. Kulwant Singh Thind, which are included in the Reports from Members.

(For those uninitiated, Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian and first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913).

I am sure readers of the Newsletter will get a glimpse of what has been happening in this part of the world on radiation physics and also the activities at one of the youngest universities of India.

Enjoy!

Suprakash Roy

* * * * *

Indo-US Workshop in Radiation Physics: New Directions in the Study of Interaction of Energetic Photons with Matter

The above workshop was held at North Bengal University and a part in Darjeeling during March 22-27, 2004, under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India from the Indian side and National Science Foundation (NSF) from the US side. Prof. Swapan K. Sengupta, presently at Jalpaiguri Engineering College, is the Principal Investigator from the Indian side and Prof. Richard H. Pratt of the University of Pittsburgh is the Principal Investigator from the US side. After its inauguration at North Bengal University with some pedagogical lectures on some important topics of Radiation Physics (primarily for the benefits of graduate and post graduate students of that region), the workshop shifted to a more serene atmosphere at the foothills of the Himalayas, a place known as Darjeeling, for more rigorous and vigorous discussions. It is to be noted in this connection that a similar workshop was organised by the duo in 1996.

The primary objective of the present Workshop was to identify and initiate joint activities within this research community, responding to the opportunities of the new synchrotron facilities and other technologies, which are of fundamental interest and importance. The Workshop sought to achieve consensus on what has been accomplished, what needs to be accomplished, and what opportunities are provided by the new technologies, in this very modern field of the interaction of energetic photons with matter. All fundamental interaction mechanisms of photons with matter were considered both from an experimental and from a theoretical perspective, and in each case asking what new and fundamental insights can be anticipated. An important outcome of the Workshop will be a report summarizing these directions and opportunities, which hopefully will provide guidance to the research community in the years ahead. We hope that Indian and US scientists who interacted freely will be able to identify problems of mutual interest, and submit joint proposals in this area of Atomic Physics.

Indo-US Collaborative Programme.

This is not outsourcing. An Indo-US collaborative programme on "Investigations on theoretical aspects of Compton scattering" is under active consideration for support by the DST, Govt. of India on the Indian side and NSF on the US side. This programme has been proposed jointly by Bose Institute, India and University of Pittsburgh, USA. The idea was concieved during the Indo-US Workshop on Radiation Physics held at Argonne National Laboratory last May (organised by Prof. S.C. Roy of Bose Institute, India and Dr. Linda Young of Argonne National Laboratory, USA). If approved, this will be the second such programme between Bose Institute and University of Pittsburgh.

Proceedings of the Indo-US Workshop on Radiation Physics using Synchrotrons and other New Sources.

Proceedings of the above workshop were published in the July/August, 2004 issue of Radiation Physics and Chemistry (Volume 70, Issues 4-5). Those who missed attending the workshop and those who are interested to learn all about the workshop may look at the special issue of the Radiation Physics and Chemistry (Guest Editors: Suprakash Roy and Linda Young).

National Workshop on Radiochemistry and Applications of Radioisotopes

The 51st National Workshop on Radiochemistry and Applications of Radioisotopes was organized from November 10-17, 2003 in the Department of Physics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar from November 10-17, 2003. About 40 students from various colleges of Punjab State and universities participated in the workshop. The workshop was grouped into theory and practical sessions. In theory sessions, lectures on :

(i) introduction to radioactivity

(ii) nuclear structure and stability

(iii) interaction of radiation with matter

(iv) radiation detection

(v) nuclear reactors

(vi) introduction to radiation chemistry

(vii) application of radioisotopes in medicine, and

(viii) health and safety

were delivered by eminent scientists from different parts of India. In practical sessions, stress was given to the detection of beta particles and gamma radiations with G.M. counter and Scintillation counter, radio immuno-assay, Isotope dilution analysis and separation of Thorium -234 from Uranium. In order to familiarize the M.Sc students with the radiation detection and applications of radioisotopes, a one day lecture and practical session was also arranged in D.A.V College Jalandhar and D.A.V. College Amritsar.

Radiation Physics Research in Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India

Guru Nanak Dev University was founded in 1969 to commemorate the quincentenary of Guru Nanak Dev (1469- 1539), the founder of the Sikh religion. The university is located in Amritsar, the city famous for its golden temple. The university is one of the youngest universities of the nation, but it has already shown promise. The university is known for its teaching and research activities on radiation physics leading to Ph.D. degrees. It is to be noted that one of the newly elected Council members of the IRPS, Prof. Kulwant Singh Thind belongs to this university.

Research activities covered both theoretical and practical aspects of the subject, which include research on the following specific areas:

- Radiation Damage Studies in Solids using solid state nuclear track detectors (SSNTD);
- Environmental Studies involving uranium exploration and environmental radon pollution in Himachal and Uttar Pradesh Himalayas;
- Nuclear Spectroscopy;
- Basic Interactions of Photons with composite materials, glasses, liquids and ionic solutions;
- Nuclear Chemistry primarily to investigate the interplay between the oxidation states of Ag and Cd and its coordination geometry in proteins using perturbed angular correlation technique.

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Report from Regional Vice President South and Central Americas

Anselmo Paschoa

- The largest scientific meeting in South America this year was the 56th Annual Meeting of the SBPC (the Brazilian Society for Advancement of Science) held in the University of Mato Grosso, Brazil, 18 - 23 July, 2004. The central topic of this year's meeting was Frontiers in Science: Ethics and development.

  Further information on the SBPC Annual Meeting can be found, in Portuguese, in the site

  http://www.sbpcnet.org.br/eventos/56ra

- The 7th Latin-American Conference on Space Geophysics (VII COLAGE): Space Sciences for the XXI Century was held in Atibaia, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 29 March - 2 April, 2004.

  The Latin America Conference on Space Geophysics aims to promote scientific interactions between scientists and students in Latin America interested in the study of Space Geophysics. The site to obtain further information on the VII COLAGE is

  http://www.cea.inpe.br/colage

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Research Activities in Radiation Physics, Department of Physics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India

Kulwant SinghThind

Professor, Department of Physics,
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India

This Physics Department is one of the youngest departments in the region. However, it has created a niche for itself by virtue of diversification and of innovative programmes in both teaching as well as research.

The Radiation Physics Group in the Physics Department has acquired sophisticated instruments such as Multi-Channel Analyzers, HPGe and Si (Li) Detectors, Angular Correlation setup etc. The research activities leading to the Ph.D. are carried out in the major thrust areas such as Radiation Physics, Nuclear Spectroscopy, Nuclear Structure, Solid and State Nuclear Track Detectors.

Despite limited financial and other resources available, the department has made commendable progress in both teaching and research. Teaching and research activities in Radiation Physics is carried out in the following sub-areas.

A. Radiation Damage Studies in Solids and Applications

Radiation damage studies in Solid State Nuclear Track Detectors (SSNTDs) have been one of the major thrust areas of research in the department. Extensive work has been done on the application of SSNTDs in nuclear physics and earth sciences. Etching and annealing studies using high energy fission fragments and heavy ions have been completed on different crystallographic directions of natural minerals. Some corrections of anisotropic fission track ages in crystalline minerals are suggested. The relationship between the reduction in fission track diameter and the reduction in aerial track density in hydrated glass have been investigated under varying annealing and etching conditions. A near one-to-one relationship is observed for adequately etched tracks. The group is also engaged in a new field with potential applications in material science viz.; ion track filters and heavy ion radiation effect in insulators.

A significant contribution in the field of geochronology, geochemical exploration of uranium, radiation dosimetry, radiation damage in solids, earthquake prediction studies, ion beam modification of materials and ion track filters has been made. Inter-laboratory calibration of glass dosimeters has been achieved. The single activation energy model proposed by the group is a unique contribution with universal application and acceptance for the study of radiation damage in dielectrics / insulators.

B. Environmental Studies

The group is also engaged in uranium exploration and environmental radon pollution studies in Himachal and Uttar Pradesh Himalayas using nuclear geophysical techniques. The aim of the work is to locate uranium prospects in Himalayas and to measure the level of radon from the health hazard point of view. The efforts are also being made to measure the level of radium in soil, water and rocks in addition to uranium and radon. The laboratory studies regarding radon diffusion in soil are also being carried out. Concentrations of radon and thoron daughter products have been determined by the use of direct beta counting of filtered air samples. An air- sucking head was designed for use in sampling of air on a glass microfiber filter. Defined Solid Angle Absolute Beta Counting (DSAABC) method was employed to determine the absolute air concentration of radon daughter products and a computer programme was developed to suit the particulars of our set up. The investigations are also in progress to study mitigation materials which may be used to attenuate radon emanating from soil and building materials in dwellings. The work is also being carried out for correlating radon anomalies with the seismic events at Amritsar. Ongoing projects involve geothermobarometry and geochemical investigations of granitoids of Himalayas to evolve a model for their origin. The department is in a position to carry out various geophysical exploration work in gravity, magnetic and groundwater related research.

C. Nuclear Spectroscopy

Some aspects of the nucleus such as energies and intensities of gamma ray transitions, conversion coefficients, level schemes, level characteristics such as electric and magnetic moments and transition multipolarities are studied by applying nuclear techniques e.g. directional correlation and sum peak methods. Intensity ratios of photons emitted from some of radioactive nuclides which are known to vary with environmental conditions under which the sources are placed, are observed by applying Sum Peak method. This method is also used to study K-capture probabilities to various levels and atomic fluorescence yield of elements with single detector. This technique has also been applied to measure Nuclear Quadrupole Interaction (NQI) parameters in different inorganic compounds of ^{111}Ag, ^{160}Tb, and ^{133}Ba biological complexes and its detection between the nucleus and its local surroundings. The results obtained are checked with theoretical results predicted by Angular Overlap Model (AOM).

D. Basic Interactions

The group is working extensively on interaction of photons with composite materials like soils, cements, biological samples etc. The parameters like absorption coefficients, mass energy absorption coefficients, effective atomic numbers, atomic cross sections of shielding materials and of biologically important substances in aqueous solutions are determined by the application of transmission method. The sphere transmission method for the direct measurement of mass energy absorption coefficients is used in the Department of Physics. In case of interaction of photons with dilute solutions of salts in water, some new aspects on sample characteristics has been introduced. The results provide a base to study the interactions of photons with the solvated (hydrated ions) rather than bare ions in the solid form. Multiple scattering of gamma rays in composite materials such as water, concrete and sand is also studied for better understanding of the process of transport and energy degradation of a primary photon. From the comparison of shielding properties of materials it has been proven that glasses have a potential applications as transparent radiation shielding.

E. Nuclear Chemistry

The small electron transporting copper protein, Azurin has been studied in order to investigate the interplay between the oxidation states of the metal and its co-ordination geometry. The results show that the metal co-ordination geometry for Ag (I) in Ag (I) substituted wild type azurin is only slightly different from the geometry for Cd (I) in cadmium substituted azurin both being similar to the geometry for copper in native azurin. These results were obtained by perturbed angular correlation of gamma ray spectroscopy using two radioactive isotopes ^{111}Ag and ^{111m}Cd (II) as probes of a monovalent and a divalent ion respectively. It is suggested that the role of Met 121 is to maintain the rigid tri co-ordinated metal co-ordination geometry independent of the oxidation state of the metal. The structural details of the metal site in the {His 121} azurin mutant from Alcaligenes denitrification where the axial methionine has been replaced by a histidine has also been studied after substitution with the divalent cadmium ion and the monovalent silver ion by the application of perturbed angular correlation technique.

F. Study of Glass Materials

The study of absorption of gamma radiations in shielding materials has been an important subject in the field of radiation physics and is potentially useful in the development of semi-empirical formulations. In view of the significant importance of the study of effective atomic numbers of materials and various applications in science, technology and human health, the attenuation coefficients, cross sections and effective atomic numbers of a variety of glasses with varying elemental composition are determined by applying gamma transmission and Compton scattering technique in which Compton scattered photons will be detected only at 90 . In order to determine the mass attenuation coefficients, effective atomic numbers (Z_{eff}), interaction cross sections and effective electron densities of various glasses of the type[x M - (1-x) B_2O_3 where M = Bi_2O_3, PbO, CdO, BaO, CaO and x is the mole fraction and x ZnO - 2x PbO - (1-3x) B_2O_3] at different photon energies gamma ray transmission method is being investigated.

G. Glasses Containing Fly ash

Fly ash has emerged from the realms of a waste to that of a resource and is being utilized to an ever-increasing extent in applications as diverse as building and construction, environment rehabilitation, waste management and polymers. Despite this, the value of fly ash as a resource is still underestimated as its large quantity is being dumped in slurry form in large areas close to power plants without being put to gainful use. Knowledge of the needs in the market-place and the symbiotic relation between research and product development is paramount in creating the new opportunities for fly ash and is a challenge to the research community. The main component in the chemical composition of fly ash is SiO_2 with Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3 being the second major components. The other components of fly ash are CaO, MgO, K_2O, $Na_2O$and unburnt carbon particles. Samples of bismuth borate glasses (Bi_2O_3 + B_2O_3) containing different amounts of fly ash are prepared by melt-quenching technique. In addition to this, bricks of fly ash have also been prepared in the laboratory which are found to have large mechanical strength.

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Radiological Impact Due to Oil and Gas Extraction *

Anselmo S Paschoa
Professor of Radiation Physics
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)

* This article was originally published in *Business Briefing : Exploration and Production : Oil and Gas Review 2003* (Offshore Technology Reports)
by Business Briefings Ltd., London

Introduction

The occupational exposures to technologically enhanced natural occurring radionuclides (TENORM) in the oil and gas industries have been well documented for over two decades.[1] In 1996, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Commission published a comprehensive review (CEC) recommendations, which were based on the principles of justification, dose limitation and optimisation.[2] These recommendations should be applied to the workers of any industry, including oil and gas extraction and processing, if the exposure scenarios to TENORM are likely to exceed 1 mSv y^{-1}.

Today, there is a great deal of knowledge on the problems involving TENORM in the oil and gas industries. However, exceptions made to the European Union (EU) Directive 96/29 by the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council (NAS-NRC) guidelines, norms and rules dealing specifically with TENORM, are still limited.[3]

In some countries with small but well-organized oil and gas-extracting procedures, for example Australia, protection assessments are performed in oil producing and processing installations. In countries with large oil and gas industries, such as the United States of America, for example the US, only regulation was needed to have systematic unfavourable judicial decisions in the courts, which paved the way for the establishment of the Oil Pollution Act (OUATOM 8355) made the following recommendations:[4]

- It is the responsibility of the Member State to identify all those workplaces where handling of material with increased TENORM could occur.
- In such cases, appropriate measures should be taken in terms of monitoring and/or reduction of the TENORM-induced radiation exposures.
- The threshold for mandatory action is set at 1 mSv y^{-1}.
- The activity concentration of naturally occurring radioactive material in non-nuclear industry waste should not exceed 500 Bq kg^{-1}.
- If the limit of 500 Bq kg^{-1} is exceeded, a Member State can exempt this type of activity only if the individual annual dose of 1 mSv, irrespective of the collective dose of 1 man-Sv is not exceeded. An alternative approach can be the demonstration that the average dose to individuals is indeed the optimum solution in terms of radiation protection, for example by applying an optimization procedure.

The oil and gas extraction industry in Europe is subject to Radiation Protection 58 because it encounters natural materials associated with the natural decay series of radionuclides in workplaces.[5] A group of experts established under the EURATOM Treaty has developed a tiered, hand-in-hand system which switches between each two sheet for regulatory control above the limit of 1 mSv y^{-1}. As far as regulatory control is concerned, the tiered system includes:

- band 1 - no need for regulatory control (below an exemption level);
- band 2 - lower level of regulation;
- band 3 - higher level of regulation; and
- band 4 - the area of work permit for individual assessment.

Taking into account the identified pathways for each case, screening and reference levels were devised to indicate the likely level of regulation for the workplaces in question. The screening level is set at 1 mSv y^{-1} and is the lower bound screening level above which the tiered process is based. Other levels would be need for regulatory control. However, if the derived level placed the individual in question in band 1, control measures would be applied if the dose were assessed at several processing plant sites.[6]

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Public awareness of environment issues is increasing worldwide. At the same time, the recycling of materials, the transport of raw materials, the exposure risk from the downgrading of installations in the oil and gas industry. Such material is frequently contaminated by natural radionuclides of the ^{238}U series (^{226}Ra and thorium (Th) decay series, including ^{228}Ra and ^{228}Th, found in the organic materials from which the petroleum originates.[7] Experimental work to confirm such estimates is still to be done.

Only a crude estimate can be made of the annual collective dose. The activity transferred from oil reservoirs to the surface. A United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) study of oil production and natural gas extraction and sludge production rates,[8] the amount estimated was about 250 m^3 for a period of 25 years. The annual production of water generated by oil production worldwide was about 77 x 10^9 m^3 y^{-1}.[9]

and the growth of the alpha-emitting polonium isotope ^{210}Po ($t_{1/2}$ = 138 d).

The ultimate origin of the radionuclides which contaminate pipes, pumps, and other equipment components used in the oil and gas industry is until a matter of debate. However, ^{226}Ra and its daughter products are found in association with large number of external gamma readings (6,274) taken in several oil production facilities and processing plants in the petroleum activity centre.[10] There is significant uncertainty attached to such a procedure because of the effects of the geometry of the source, the presence of scale and sludge, the chemical structure of the scale, and distribution of radionuclides within the scale. The published average alpha concentration is 4 Bq g^{-1}.[11]

^{226}Ra activity brought to the surface is 9180Bq per year. Similar studies are to be carried out in the Netherlands and Germany, where the oil and gas are not as much as the maximum values reported in the UNSCEAR report, which

reach values of 1 x 10^6 Bq kg^{-1} of ^{226}Ra.[12] However, in some Brazilian oil plants, the ^{226}Ra free ion (dBq per day) ranges from 0.82 ± 0.01 to 6.2 ± 0.5 m^{-3} at the 95% CL (0.95 to 0.83 ± 0.01 Bq m^{-3}).[13]

Large amounts of brine (estimated to be around 10^{10} to 10^{11} tons per year) are raised to the surface as an unwanted by-product of oil and gas extraction procedures. As a consequence, increased exposure to the radionuclides ^{226}Ra and ^{228}Ra from several industries (Sera on typical.[14] and ^{222}Rn is some concern.[15]

Table 1 Typical ^{226}Ra and ^{228}Ra Concentrations (or Range) in Oil and Gas Extraction

Type of Material	Typical Concentration or Range	Reference
Gas samples (wet with liquids	0.048 Bq m^{-3}	12 (UNSCEAR)
Overbar material	0.24Bq m^{-3}	12 (UNSCEAR)
Scales	3 - 1000kBq ^{226}Ra series.g^{-1}	13 (UNSCEAR)
Production water	4 - 43kBq ^{226}Ra series.m^{-3}	13 (UNSCEAR)

Table 2 Range of Typical Activity Concentration Values for ^{226}Ra in Brines and Scale from the Gas and Oil Industry

By-Product	Range of ^{226}Ra Concentration
Brine	7.4 - 296kBq m^{-3}
Scale on equipment	0.2 - 1.2kBq kg^{-1}

Data taken from Reference 13

The long-half-life of ^{226}Ra ($t_{1/2}$ = 1,600 years) in association of the

disposal of large amounts of contaminated scale and scale-waste resulting from oil and gas extraction and processing can pose an environmental problem for current and future generations if adequate disposal procedures are not taken into account.

The main TENORM exposure pathways to humans may be either by inhalation of ^{222}Rn, or by ingestion of food contaminated by ^{226}Ra. The studies of the areas around oil-extraction plants in order to provide a link between the environmental behaviour of the natural radionuclides in the basement and TENORM, as far as exposure to humans is concerned.[16]

Occupational doses

In many oil and gas extraction and processing plants, radiation exposure during maintenance and operations is not yet recorded routinely. Therefore, there is a scarcity of scientific information on exposure-related data (dose-rate levels), the radiological impact on humans and the environment from the TENORM in these industries. Although the dose rate from the external gamma radiation is usually originating from the radon flow from the oil, the predominant risk is assuming a radon flow rate of 620Bq per day (near the maximum value reported here), and an exposure time of 2000 hours per worker per year, the annual dose would be 0.5mSv y^{-1}. Workers exposed to scale-contaminated processes may receive an additional dose due to the inhalation of various long-lived radionuclides.

In order to assess the significance of the TENORM-induced doses, it is useful to compare those with the doses reported in studies of the high-level radiation areas, such as those due to the inhalation of various long-lived radionuclides

^{222}Rn and its progeny, ranges from 0.02 to 20 μJy h^{-1} in the areas of high natural radioactivity.[17] In the human urinary bladder, the annual external exposure radiation levels were reported to range from 0.3 to 13 μSv y^{-1}, consistent with the exposure obtained from worldwide UNSCEAR data on this kind of area.[18] However, the equivalent annual dose in the urinary bladder, the ingestion of uranium and thorium series radionuclides was estimated to be 260 μSv y^{-1}.

Dose constraints

Taking into account appropriate exposure pathways in conjunction with the EURATOM basic safety standards (BSS) and the ICRP recommendations, dose constraints for ^{226}Ra plus progeny for oil and gas removal, scales in pipes, and sludge ranging from 30 to 3000Bq ^{226}Ra. Thus, for concentrations below 30Bq g^{-1} there would be no need for regulatory control in the workplaces above 3000Bq g^{-1}.[19]

OBITUARY

Professor Dr Ananda Mohan "Anu" Ghose

December 26, 1926 to May 23, 2004

Professor Dr Ananda Mohan Ghose, or "Anu" as he was affectionately known to many of us, departed this planet May 23, 2004, local India time, 1:45 am (May 22 in Europe and the Americas), from a heart attack in his sleep in his Gariahat Road residence in Calcutta, thus bringing to a close his long battle with Parkinson's disease in his last years. He was a brilliant and world-class researcher and teacher in his own right, but we know him best as the "Father of the International Radiation Physics Society."

According to available records, Prof. Ghose was born in Kishengaunge, Bihar, India December 26, 1926, to Prafulla Kumar Ghose (a graduate in Mathematics) and Surama Ghose. When Ananda was about three years old, the family moved to Calcutta where Prafulla accepted a position as head clerk at Tata's Calcutta Office. Ananda's elementary education was mostly at the Jagadbandhu Institution, following which he enrolled in St. Xavier's College for his I.Sc. and B.Sc. (1945), with honors in Physics. From Calcutta University he received his M.Sc. (1947), graduating first in his class, with high honors including the Jubilee Postgraduate Award and the University Gold Medal. Later, also from Calcutta University, he received his D.Sc. (Physics) in 1965. Among his other academic recognitions, he was named the Lafont Gold Medalist and the M.M. Roy Medalist. In 1970, he was made a Fellow in the Indian Physical Society, and was subsequently elected Vice-President of that Society 1976-1977.

As a sportsman, he excelled in badminton under the tutelage of his uncle, Sunil, and won several local tournaments. While at Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1957 under a Fulbright fellowship and a Ford Foundation fellowship, he won the badminton championship in the men's single category.

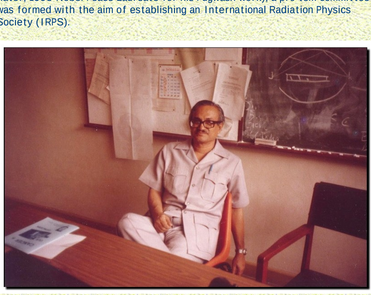
He is most closely associated with the Bose Institute in Calcutta where he was Head of the Physics Department 1970 to 1978. Among his doctoral students at the Bose Institute was Suprakash Chandra Roy who eventually rose to Head of the Physics Department himself and has held numerous offices in the IRPS including currently Vice President for Southeast Asia. Prof. Ghose then took a year's assignment in 1979 in Bangkok as a consultant to the UNESCO Regional Office for Asia and Oceania.

Through 1980 to 1988 Prof. Ghose served as Professor of Biophysics at the University of Science of Malaysia in Penang. After 1988, Prof. Ghose was associated with the group at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Calcutta. He held part-time researcher and visiting professor appointments at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, at North Bengal University, at the University of Rangoon, Burma, the Joint Research Centre of the European Communities in Ispra, Italy, and elsewhere including serving as an IAEA Technical Cooperation Expert to the State University of Mongolia in Ulaan Bator.

Prof. Ghose's research areas focused on radiation physics of gamma rays, and also neutron physics, with more than 125 publications including a monograph published by EURATOM. He was active in the (Indian) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and served on the NCERT Science Advisory Committee, also was Editor for a physics textbook for schools, published by NCERT.

Prof. Ghose's radiation physics extensive researches first came to this reporter's attention in the mid-1960's, examples of which were his original and useful works ***"Measurement of absolute differential collision cross sections of*** Co^{60}, Nucl. Phys. 65, 145-155 (1965) and ***"Sphere transmission method for the measurement of atomic photoeffect cross-sections,"*** Nucl. Instr. Meth. 35, 45-54 (1965). Our mutual radiation physics interests resulted in a number of reciprocal visits, first mine in Calcutta in 1972 as the U.S.-side collaborator in a joint Indo-U.S. (PL-480/NBS) project "The Interaction of Gamma Rays with Matter." The next year, in 1973, he visited me at NIST (then NBS) in Gaithersburg where he mentioned to me his idea of an International Symposium on Radiation Physics, in Calcutta. This idea came to fruition in 1974 as ISRP-1 at the Bose Institute in which my wife Jean and I participated, and the proceedings were published by NBS as NBS Special Publication 461 (1977), edited by A.M Ghose, D.V. Gopinath, J.H. Hubbell and S. C. Roy.

Eight years after the 1974 Calcutta symposium and during his stint at the University of Science of Malaysia, in Penang, Prof. Ghose was the guiding spirit in organizing a second International Symposium on Radiation Physics, ISRP-2 in 1982, in Penang. Among his major assistants was another of his graduate students (at Penang) David Bradley, a future stalwart of the IRPS including currently Secretariat. ISRP-2 attendee Richard Pratt (Pittsburgh) would become the IRPS Secretariat for all terms up until the present one, for which he was elected to the IRPS Presidency (2004-2006). At ISRP-2, under Prof. Ghose's chairmanship, and with some input from attendee Joseph Rotblat (later, 1995 Nobel Peace Laureate for his Pugwash work), a pro tem committee was formed with the aim of establishing an International Radiation Physics Society (IRPS).



Professor Ghose at ISRP-2 in Penang

The Society came into existence at ISRP-3 in 1985 in Ferrara, Italy, Prof. Ernesto Casnati, organizer, and a triennial frequency of subsequent Symposia was established.

Prof. Ghose continued as a central figure in the organization of ISRP-4 (São Paulo 1988), ISRP-5 (Dubrovnik 1991) and ISRP-6 Rabat, Morocco 1994). ISRP-6 (Rabat 1994) was the last Symposium to benefit from Prof. Ghose's physical presence. Some surgery prevented his attendance at ISRP-7 in 1997 in Jaipur, India, and general ill health caused him to miss also the subsequent ISRP-8 (2000, Prague) and ISRP-9 (2003, Cape Town). However, Prof. Ghose's spirit and influence were very much present in these later meetings, as they will be in all future ISRP's, and at ISRP-9 in Cape Town in 2003 he was honored in absentia, being named as a Lifetime Honorary Member of the International Radiation Physics Society. Also, in preparation is an all-invited special issue of Radiation Physics and Chemistry, dedicated to Prof. Ghose and reflecting his varied radiation physics interests, now unfortunately to appear as a posthumous testimonial to his creative, productive and inspiring lifetime of radiation physics and related scientific contributions.

Prof. Ghose's quiet and charming help-mate wife Lalita predeceased him in 2001, after 49 years of marriage. He is survived by his son Kanad (and grandson Saugata and granddaughter Ipsita) and by his daughter Sudeshna (and granddaughter Sukanya). We join his family in mourning the passing of this great man of science and of scientists, and this reporter thanks son Kanad for providing some details of his father's early life. We are indebted, individually and as a Society, to Prof. Ghose and his critical role in drawing together our "global radiation physics family" from researchers throughout the developing and developed countries of the world, unusually free of the political, cultural and economic barriers, as well as by scientific discipline, normally separating and compartmentalizing the global human enterprise.

For his scientific and educational contributions as well as for his visions of our International Symposia on Radiation Physics and our International Radiation Physics Society, this small planet is thankful for the life, now complete, of Prof. Ananda Mohan "Anu" Ghose.

John Hubbell

Return to Obituaries

Dr Dan J. Beninson

1931 - 2003

IRPS President 1991 - 1994

* * * * * * *

Dr. Dan J Beninson is dead. He was a great man and an exceptional radiation protection professional. During the more than half a century of his professional life he achieved such prestigious standing as to influence the international development of radiation protection and the views about radiation risks within the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). Dan never strove for such a position; he reached it purely on the strength of his many positive qualities. The announcement of his death, which occurred on 21 August 2003, brought deep sadness to the scientific community as he had excelled so brilliantly in the field of the sciences related to nuclear activities, primarily but not solely, to radiological protection and nuclear safety. His achievements transcended national boundaries and merited him much deserved international recognition.

Dr. Beninson was born in Buenos Aires on 19 February 1931. In 1954, he graduated from the School of Medical Sciences at Buenos Aires University, where he taught Biological Physics. Between 1955 and 1956, he was a researcher at the Donner Laboratory of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in the USA. After obtaining a Ph.D. degree in Applied Physics in the USA, he joined the Atomic Energy Commission of Argentina, where he conducted research in the Radioisotopes Department and co-ordinated the activities of the Radiophysics Department.

Dan's professional career in Argentina was outstanding. Over nearly half a century, he headed all Argentine activities in radiation protection. From 1994 to 1998, he was Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Argentina. Between 1998 and 1999 he was President of the Atomic Energy Commission of Argentina.

As early as 1956, Dan began his unique relationship with UNSCEAR. Up to 1958, he was engaged in the UNSCEAR Secretariat and from then on until his death he was the delegate for Argentina. From 1962 to 1964 he served as Chairman of UNSCEAR and from 1974 to 1979, he was Director of the Committee's Scientific Secretariat.

Another unusual relationship he established was with ICRP, of which he became a member in 1963. He acted as Vice-President of ICRP between 1977 and 1985, and as President from 1985 to 1993, when he became an Emeritus Member. He chaired ICRP Committee 1 on effects of radiations and subsequently ICRP Committee 4 on applications of the Commission's recommendations.

In 1959, he launched an extremely fruitful co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a member of the Panel of Experts for the determination of radioactive materials in the biosphere. His long-term association with the IAEA in a plethora of activities made him almost symbiotic with the IAEA Secretariat. It should be noted that as early as 1960 and 1961, he contributed to the establishment of the first international Basic Safety Standards by the IAEA. Between 1987 and 1994, he took part in the IAEA's International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG).

He was founder of the International Radiation Protection Association and a charter member and President of the Sociedad Argentina de Radioprotección (SAR) (Argentine Society on Radiological Protection). He was also a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences and advisor to the Holy See's Pontifical Academy of Science.

For his studies on Nuclear and Technological Physics, he was honoured with the Konex Award. In 1991, the Health Physics Society of USA awarded him as the '1991 G William Morgan Lecturer' for his outstanding contributions to knowledge and skills in Radiological Protection. In 1991, he was selected 'Personality of the Year' by the American Nuclear Society for his scientific studies in the discipline of nuclear energy. In 1991, he was elected President of the International Radiation Physics Society (IRPS). In 1996, the International Radiological Protection Association presented him with the Rolf Sievert award, which is one of the most prestigious international awards in the field of radiation protection, and he delivered the Sievert Lecture. In 1998, in recognition of his personal career, he was honoured with the 'Premio República de Oro' (Golden Republic Award) by the Argentina 'Centro de Estudios Empresariales'.

Part of Dan Beninson's legacy are the priceless papers, many highly innovative, in the nuclear and radiological protection disciplines.

Without question, Dan Beninson exemplified a life entirely devoted to the pursuit of knowledge. He was a most impressive person; the true polyhistor, equally prominent in mathematics and physics as in biology but with far wider interests than natural sciences. He had a deep interest in history and in languages. Of course his Spanish, French and English were fluent, but in addition he spoke quite a number of other languages. He learned Japanese and took pleasure in surprising Japanese children by being able to chat with them. During his last years he studied Chinese seriously. He was a master at chess and once beat Bobby Fisher, albeit at the beginning of the latter's career.

Sometimes people thought that they had caught him saying something for which there was no real basis. He could explain so clearly that the audience was often mistaken to believe he was dealing with something self-evident. However, they always discovered that, on such occasions, they had underestimated him. He had dug deeper than they had imagined.

Dan was a courteous man but had no patience for conceit and stupidity. His anger about an injustice was formidable; the awe-inspiring thunder of his powerful voice was backed by his forceful stature. However, he was in fact an intensely kind man. He had a fondness of practical jokes and mischief that might have seemed childlike, but when it really mattered he showed deep understanding and empathy. And much was forgiven because of his wonderful sense of humour. Wherever he travelled he showed a genuine interest in the activities of the people he met, and his knowledge of names and local traditions made people feel that a true friend had visited them. Which they were, Dan liked to build up friendships.

His wife, Ambretta, a scientist in her own right, was very dear to him. Ambretta's untimely death in 1983 was a hard blow to him, after which he took less care of himself, something that greatly worried his many friends.

Dan was not a religious man - his sharp intellect made him inevitably agnostic - however he had a remarkable knowledge of, and interest in, biblical and theological issues and a surprising affection for churches which he always visited with fervour, just as he liked to visit museums, both historical and technical. As a true scientist, he made a clear distinction between facts and wishful thinking.

Many radioprotectionists who have been privileged to know and work with most of the great protagonists in radiation protection feel that Dan Beninson ranks supreme.

Anselmo Paschoa

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