REPROLAM

Red de Optimización de la Protección Radiológica Ocupacional en LatinoAmérica y el Caribe

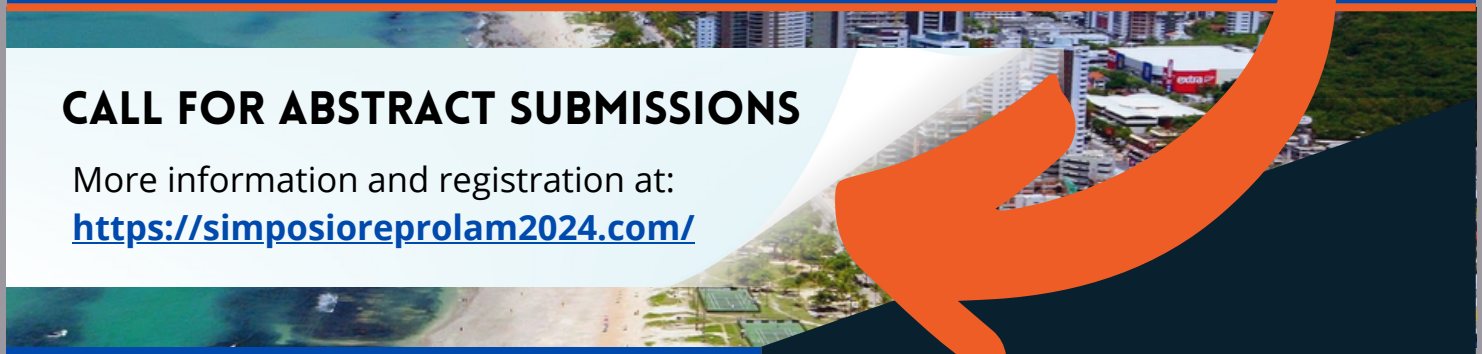
NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4, APRIL 2024

I REPROLAM SYMPOSIUM

"INTEGRATION AND SHARED EXPERIENCE IN RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION"

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2024 - RECIFE, BRAZIL



CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

More information and registration at:
https://simposioreprolam2024.com/

REPROLAM, the Network for Optimization of Occupational Radiological Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean, cordially invites all professionals in the field of radiological protection to participate in this Symposium, themed "Integration and Shared Experience in Radiological Protection.

DATES OF INTEREST	
FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT	January 2024
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT	February 2024
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE	June 26, 2024
ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION	August 15, 2024
EARLY REGISTRATION	August 30, 2024
COURSE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	October 10, 2024
FULL PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION	December 30, 2024

THEMATIC AREAS

1- External and Internal Dosimetry.
2- Computational and Biological Dosimetry.
3- Occupational Radiological Protection and Operational Magnitudes.
4- Occupational Radiological Protection in NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials).
5- Individual Monitoring in Workplace with Ionizing Radiation and in Unregulated Activities.
6- Radiation Metrology in Dosimetric Calibration and Intercomparison.
7- Education and Training of Human Resources.
8- Radiation safety evaluation

NEW

PAPERS

LThe complete works will be published within one year after the Symposium as a special issue of the scientific journal "Applied Radiation and Isotopes" (https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/applied-radiation-and-isotopes).
All manuscripts will be evaluated by two referees and must meet the acceptance criteria of the journal.

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SAFETY FIRST

Space dedicated to common understanding and fostering a Culture of Safety through information, analysis, dissemination of experiences, and related news.

CULTURA DE SEGURIDAD

TECHNIQUES FOR EVALUATING THE SAFETY CULTURE OF AN ORGANIZATION (PART 4)

After addressing survey techniques, document review, and process observation in previous bulletins, we will focus in this edition on the technique of interviews.

Unlike the previous techniques, interviews are interactive, involving mandatory communication between evaluators and those being evaluated in a flexible manner. This facilitates reaching deeper meanings of the culture and revealing certain underlying assumptions that could explain the findings detected by other techniques. For this reason, although there is no predetermined order for applying different techniques, in our practice, we prefer to reserve interviews for a phase after other techniques have been applied.

Interviews can be structured, semi-structured, or unstructured, with semi-structured interviews being the most commonly used and recommended in this type of evaluation. This is the most common type of interview in any setting, where open-ended questions are asked, explored, and a dialogue is established with the interviewee.

Advantages:

- Allows reaching deeper elements of the Safety Culture within the Organization, explaining the "whys" of behaviors.
- Greater degree of interaction of the evaluation team with managers and workers.
- Allows adjusting the course of a particular response or making clarifications.
- Provides additional information through the interviewee's non-verbal language.

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Disadvantages:

- Complex interaction:
- Depends on the interviewer's skill and interpretation, as well as their methods.
- Does not allow for quantitative analysis.
- Shows reduced sample size due to method complexity.
- Not anonymous: affects the quality of responses.
- Interviewer's effect on the quality of responses.
- Possibility of deviation: opportunity to voice complaints.
- Complexity of result processing.

Some rules for organizing and conducting an effective interview are:

- Define the timing for conducting the interview, preferably after the application of other methods.
- Use a semi-structured interview format.
- Ensure the preparation of the interviewers.
- Communicate to the interviewee the confidential nature of the interview, ensuring that the responses will be used for evaluation purposes and not against the individual.
- Start the interview with broad questions.
- Maintain the pace and direction of the interview.
- Redirect and guide the conversation when necessary.
- Formulate clear questions.
- Listen, refrain from passing judgment, debating, or displaying superiority.
- Manage your own non-verbal language (tone, gestures).
- Maintain objectivity and distance from the interviewee's socio-emotional aspects.
- Show respect, empathy, and an open mind. Avoid making it feel like an interrogation.
- Keep the focus of the technique on the cultural aspects.
- Organize the work of the interviewing team: Two interviewers (a lead interviewer and a note-taker), and process notes immediately after the interview.
- Select interviewees considering functional and hierarchical representativeness and their relevance to the topic being analyzed.
- Choose a suitable interview location, preferably a neutral, quiet, informal, and confidential environment.
- Organize the interview schedule, defining one interviewee at a time and a duration not exceeding 40 minutes.

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- Preparing topics and questions:
- Clear and concise
- Avoid overwhelming the interviewee
- Adapt the language, which is crucial for maintaining a positive interview atmosphere

And as always, remember: If you are a manager or work promoting Safety Culture, keep in mind that the interview technique is very effective for reaching the underlying assumptions of behaviors. Therefore, reserve it to clarify the reasons behind the safety culture findings that you identify in the organization being evaluated.

References:
[1] IAEA. IAEA TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS COLLECTION. TECDOC 1995. Safety Culture in Organizations, Facilities, and Activities with Ionizing Radiation Sources, Vienna, 2022.

NERIS

WORKSHOP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

AGIA PARASKEVI, ATTICA, GREECE, ON APRIL 18TH AND 19TH, 2024.

PIANOFORTE is organizing the workshop on "Artificial Intelligence and Radiological Protection" with the aim of presenting and discussing current and future implementations of artificial intelligence in various sectors of radiological protection, including medical applications, radiation dosimetry, radiobiology, radioecology, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. To delineate the relevance and applicability of artificial intelligence and big data technologies in the domains of radiological protection and identify thematic areas that appear to be most susceptible to AI implementations.
2. To identify and develop links with scientific communities specialized in artificial intelligence and big data technologies.
3. To promote the adoption and application of artificial intelligence in the third open call of PIANOFORTE.

More information: **https://eu-neris.net/home/newsletters/273-neris-workshop-2023-reminder-6.html**

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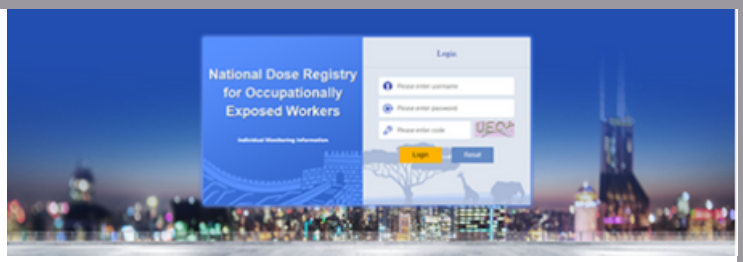
IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency



WEBINAR: USES AND BENEFITS OF THE NEW NATIONAL DOSE REGISTRATION SOFTWARE

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, 11:00 AM (VIENNA, AUSTRIA TIME)

Moderator: H. Burçin Okyar (IAEA)

Presenter: Jun Deng (National Institute of Radiological Protection, China)

Organized jointly with the African ALARA Network (AFAN) and the ALARA Network of Asia and the Pacific (ARAN)

Question: True or false — In your country, employees monitored for radiation exposure at workplaces with high exposure to naturally occurring radon receive an average effective dose of 2.9 mSv per year. This is notably higher than the average effective dose received at workplaces in your country with exposure to artificial radiation sources.*

With access to a national dose registry (NDR), this is an easy question to answer.

Keeping a national record of how much radiation a worker is exposed to is important for optimizing radiation protection in occupations ranging from power generation and medicine to industry and agriculture. A national dose registry that contains the secure dose records of exposed individuals is significant for enhancing worker protection against ionizing radiation and national arrangements for occupational radiation protection.

This month, a new online national dose registry tool will be released to help countries collect and analyse worker exposure data via a central system, and strengthen worker protection and safety. The system can be used by regulatory authorities, technical service providers, operators, workers and other stakeholders to monitor individual exposure over a lifetime, review radiation safety practices and contribute to health research.

This webinar will introduce the new tool, its features and benefits, and how it enables the collection of personal, employment and dosimetric data for all occupationally exposed workers. It follows the discussions of a 2019 IAEA webinar on the objectives of an NDR, which can be watched here.

The software is designed to help countries meet the legal and regulatory framework requirements described in IAEA General Safety Requirements (No. GSR Part 1 (Rev. 1)) and the International Basic Safety Standards (No. GSR Part 3) for continuous improvement and harmonization of occupational radiation protection programmes.
It was developed by the National Institute for Radiological Protection of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, supported by the IAEA technical cooperation project on strengthening technical services in occupational radiation protection in compliance with the international basic safety standards (RAS9093).
The webinar will include a brief demonstration of the new tool.
*For interest, the annual average received dose from artificial (human made) sources of radiation worldwide is 0.5 mSv.

Learning objectives

- To understand the IAEA safety recommendations on the establishment and maintenance of a national dose registry.
- To understand the typical characteristics of an NDR.
- To learn about the new NDR tool, the information it records, as well as how to submit dose records and perform data analysis.

For more information:
https://www.iaea.org/resources/webinar/uses-and-benefits-of-the-new-national-dose-registry-software

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IOMP SCHOOL WEBINARS

IOMP IMPW 2024 WEBINAR - DAY 5 - AFOMP AND SEAFOMP "RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE"

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024, AT 12:00 P.M. GMT;
DURATION: 1 HOUR

Presenters: Dr. Pankaj Tandon
Associate Professor Somanesan
Titles:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xFRg2t_LQbCpX1xa0iflNg#/registration


Dr Pankaj Tandon

Part 1:
Management of Radioactive Waste and Associated Radiological Protection in Nuclear Medicine


Assoc. Prof. Somanesan

Part 2:
Practical Aspects of Targeted Radionuclide Therapies

More information and registration at:
https://www.iomp.org/international-medical-physics-week-impw-2024/

The Network for the Optimization of Occupational Radiological Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean (REPROLAM) is a scientific and cultural society, non-profit, political, religious or racial, of unlimited duration, whose objective is to promote the optimization of occupational radiological protection. REPROLAM seeks to expand academic and scientific cooperation among its members, with the aim of promoting adequate radiological protection for workers.

Visit our website for more information: **http://www.reprolam.com/**
How to contact: **reprolam2020@gmail.com**