



**Panel: “Health Physicists Unite: Building Capacity for Our Radiation Protection Future”**

# Thoughts from NCRP on the Radiation Sciences Workforce

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# NCRP – A Council of 100 Radiation Professionals

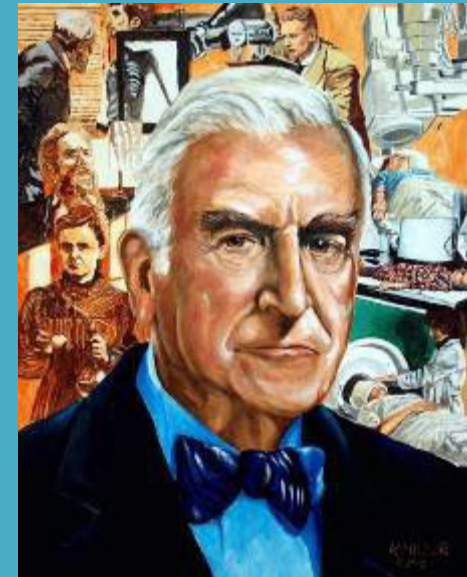
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**1929**: U.S. Advisory  
Committee on X-Ray and  
Radium Protection

**1946**: U.S. National Committee  
on Radiation Protection

**1964**: National Council on  
Radiation Protection and  
Measurements **chartered by  
Congress** (Public Law 88-376 )





# What is the NCRP?



To support radiation protection by providing independent scientific analysis, information, and recommendations that represent the consensus of leading scientists.

- Although chartered by Congress, has never received direct funding from Congress
- 501 (c) (3) Corporation (non-government, non-profit)



# NCRP Council Members

- Selected for their **scientific expertise**
- Elected to six-year terms
- Unpaid **volunteers** (100s of hours/year)
- Serve on many of the Scientific Committees and PACs
- Review documents produced by NCRP



Meeting of SC 4-9



# Council Membership Areas of Expertise

Cancer Biology  
Dentistry  
Diagnostic Radiology  
Dose Reconstruction  
Dosimetry  
Education  
Emergency Response  
Environment  
Epidemiology  
Ethics  
Genetics & Epigenetics  
Health Physics  
Interventional Cardiology

Interventional Radiology  
Nuclear Engineering  
Medical Physics  
Molecular Biology  
Nonionizing Radiation  
Nuclear Medicine  
Nuclear Power  
Occupational Medicine  
Physics  
Public Health  
Radiation Measurement  
Radiation Oncology  
Radioactive Waste Management

Radiobiology  
Radiological Terrorism  
Radiochemistry  
Regulatory  
Risk Analysis  
Risk Assessment  
Risk Communication  
Safety Analysis  
Statistics  
Teratology  
Toxicology  
Training  
Ultrasound



Broad range of radiation sciences expertise underpins Health Physics



# WARP



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## *Where Are the Radiation Professionals (WARP)?*

Synopsis of NCRP Statement No. 12

January 23, 2015

**Background:** Since the discovery of x rays and radioactivity in the late 1800s, sources of ionizing radiation have been employed in medicine, academia, industry, power generation, and national defense. To provide for the safe and beneficial use of these sources of radiation, the United States developed a cadre of professionals with the requisite education and experience. Unfortunately, their numbers have diminished alarmingly, as assessed by the National Research Council, the Health Physics Society, and the Government Accountability Office.

**Methods:** To study the decline in radiation professionals and potential national crisis, the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) sponsored a workshop in June 2013 in Arlington, Virginia to evaluate whether a sufficient number of radiation professionals exist now and into the future to support the various radiation disciplines essential to meet national needs. Attendance at this workshop included professionals from government, industry, academia, medicine, and professional societies.



## CC 2: Meeting the Needs of the Nation for Radiation Protection – WARP

- **Scope:** to continually assess, revise and renew the comprehensive plan initiated with WARP to replenish the nations' dwindling number of radiation professionals in all areas: government, medicine, private sector, industry, biology, epidemiology, emergency response, risk modeling and assessment, regulations, environmental remediation, military, and associated fields.
- **Specific activity:** development of a Commentary on ***Guidance on the Professional Radiation Workforce.***



W.D. Newhauser (Med Phys), *Co-Chair*  
J.P. Williams (Rad Bio), *Co-Chair*



### *Preparing Commentary*

#### *Writing Team Leaders:*

Edward I. Bluth (Med)  
Michael A. Noska (HP)  
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Lawrence Townsend (N Engr)  
Lydia Zablotska (Epi)



## CC 2: Meeting the Needs of the Nation for Radiation Protection – WARP

- **New Challenge:** Increase Diversity, Inclusion, Equity
- **Some Approaches:** (from IRPA session in February 2022)
  - Increasing awareness of need for diversity
  - Seeking participation of younger, more diverse individuals
  - Building a pipeline
- Need more innovative approaches





# THANK YOU!

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