The 1999 Meeting of the ICRU

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The International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) met in Neuherberg, Germany, 8-14 August 1999. Through the good offices of Dr. Paretzke, the GSF Institut für Strahlenschutz extended their gracious hospitality to provide meeting rooms, accommodations and secretariat services and facilities for the meeting.

The meeting was planned to permit the Commission to
• act on two draft reports submitted to the Commission for review,
• examine the current status of efforts underway in ICRU subgroups,
• consider the immediate future course of the Commission's program and
• act on various other matters related to Commission operations.

The two draft reports that were before the Commission at the 1999 meeting were:
• Quantities, Units and Terms in Radioecology
• Dosimetry of Beta Rays and Low-Energy Photons for Brachytherapy with Sealed Sources

Commission review during the course of the meeting identified a number of questions and modifications that remain to be dealt with. As a result, the decision was taken to refer these matters to those responsible for the drafting work, with a subsequent review by each committee's Commission Sponsors and Critical Reviewers to determine if the report can be submitted to the Commission for action via a mail ballot.

As part of its examination of the current status of efforts presently underway, the Commission noted the status of the many projects which represent efforts aimed at the preparation of new ICRU Reports.

Recently Published
• ICRU Report 59, Clinical Proton Dosimetry -- Part I: Beam Production, Beam Delivery and Measurement of Absorbed Dose
• ICRU Report 60, Fundamental Quantities and Units for Ionizing Radiation
• ICRU Report 61, Tissue Substitutes, Phantoms and Computational Modeling in Clinical Ultrasound

In Press
• ICRU Report 62, Prescribing, Recording and Reporting Photon Beam Therapy (Supplement to ICRU Report 50)
• ICRU Report 63, Nuclear Data for Neutron and Proton Radiotherapy and for
Radiation Protection

Preparing Printer's Manuscript
• Absorbed Dose Standards for Photon Irradiation and Their Dissemination

Drafting Work Underway
• Assessment of Image Quality in Nuclear Medicine
• Bone Densitometry
• Chest Radiography -- Assessment of Image Quality
• Clinical Proton Dosimetry -- Part II: Dose Specification for Reporting
• Treatment Planning and Radiation Quality
• Determination of Body Burdens for Radionuclides
• Dose and Volume Specification for Reporting Electron Beam Therapy
• Dose Specification in Nuclear Medicine
• Dosimetric Procedures in Diagnostic Radiology
• Mammography -- Assessment of Image Quality
• Measurement of Operational Quantities for Neutrons
• Prescribing, Recording and Reporting Electron Beam Therapy
• Requirements for Radioecological Sampling
• Retrospective Assessment of Exposure to Ionizing Radiation
• ROC Analysis
• Stopping Power for Heavy Ions

Developing Plans for Report to be Prepared:
• Dose and Volume Specifications for Reporting Intracavitary Therapy in Gynecology

In focusing on areas where potential expansion of its program might be appropriate, the Commission found the well-presented seminars led by the individuals identified below extremely beneficial in formulating long-range plans:
Dosimetry in Industry -- Dr. Sharpe (National Physical Laboratory) and Dr. Miller (Risø National Laboratory)
Boron Neutron Capture Therapy -- Dr. Gahbauer (Ohio State University) and Dr. Hopewell (University of Oxford)
Computational Phantoms -- T. Rockwell Mackie (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

In the more immediate time frame, the examination of potential new programs resulted in the constitution of three new report committees:
• Dosimetry Systems for Radiation Processing
• Elastic Scattering of Electrons and Positrons
• Measurement Quality Assurance for Ionizing Radiation

It was also decided that the 2000 meeting will include a seminar on ultrasound
bubble technology to be led by Dr. Dawson.

For the 2000 meeting, the Commission was pleased to accept the gracious invitation, extended through the good offices of Dr. Jones of the National Accelerator Centre, to hold the meeting in South Africa.