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President's Letter

I am pleased to invite you to attend the 13th Annual Meeting of the Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS) to be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology from October 25–27, 2004. This year’s theme is “Biological Dosimetry Measurements and Standards.” In light of the many advances that have taken place in this arena over the last decade, it seems an appropriate time to visit the topic, with particular regard to the measurements and standards needed biological dosimetry presents. The meeting is designed to address the concerns of the industries and communities using medical, environmental, and occupational radiation and radioactive activity standards. I invite you to check our Web site, www.cirms.org, for updates on the evolving program.

CIRMS is an organization made up of leaders from the academic, government, and industrial sectors who are dedicated to identifying the needs for new measurement technologies and the development of new standards in the field of ionization radiation. These goals are accomplished by gathering leading experts in four subcommittee areas (Medical Applications; Radiation Protection; Industrial Applications and Material Effects; and Homeland Security) to present and discuss existing technologies and the need for new technologies and standards in their respective areas.

In addition to plenary presentations on measurements and standards in industry, this year’s meeting will incorporate four parallel sessions of the subcommittees mentioned above that will concentrate on standards development, coordination of international standards, and review the progress made to address standards requirements for homeland security. We will continue the Student Travel Grant Program, as it has been a huge success in recent years.

There will be an opportunity for attendees to view poster presentations, and presentations from foreign organizations and standards laboratories on the measurements and standards activities in their respective countries are planned. As always, there will be ample opportunity to network with colleagues during the meeting, and at the dinner planned for Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Jim Dye
CIRMS President

Meeting Focus

The 13th annual meeting of the CIRMS will focus on the measurement and standards needs presented by current biological radiation dosimetry. In the past thirteen years, CIRMS has played an important role in serving as a public forum for discussion of radiation measurements and standards issues. The technical program this year will consist of oral and poster presentations and four breakout sessions.

Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions of this year’s meeting include talks on the current status of biological dosimetry, the need for such measurements from the standpoint of federal agencies and industry and an assessment of the relationship of biological and physical dosimetry methods and concepts.

Breakout Sessions

Homeland Security: These sessions will present updates on the role of the NIST and the National Labs in providing standards and measurement methods that directly support needs in radiation/nuclear detection for homeland security applications. There will also be a combined session with the radiation protection subcommittee where talks will be presented on DHS interest in establishing REAL Net—Radiological Emergency Analytical Laboratory Network—that could be tapped in the aftermath of an RDD or IND. DHS and CIRMS will conduct a focused workshop* on the development of REAL Net immediately following the CIRMS meeting.

Industrial Applications and Materials Effects: This year the IAME subcommittee breakout sessions will focus on the following topics: computer simulations and dosimetry, food irradiation, low energy applications and standards, mail and luggage irradiation and discussion of the CIRMS 4th Needs Report.

Medical Applications: The medical subcommittee will continue work on these themes in its breakout sessions: calibration needs for therapy level; liquid, low-energy photon emitters and beta emitters; calibration needs for Y90-labeled microspheres; an update on beta brachytherapy calibrations; and discussion of the CIRMS medical MPDs.

Radiation Protection: In addition to its joint sessions with the homeland security subcommittee, the issues before the committee include: environmental management, geophysical applications, human protection, radiation detectors and dosimeters, and laboratory traceability and accreditation.

*DHS/CIRMS Workshop on REAL Net:
Immediately following the conclusion of the CIRMS annual meeting, DHS and CIRMS will host a focused workshop on the development of REAL Net. This workshop will take place on Wednesday afternoon, October 27, at NIST. Input is sought on the organizational and operational structure, standards needed and the capability and capacity of REAL Net. Everyone is invited to participate in this workshop.

Registration

The registration fee of $205 per person includes conference materials, coffee breaks, lunches, and a dinner. Please complete and return the attached interest card by, July 1, 2004. Further agenda and registration information will be forwarded in early August to all who respond. Due to increased security, no onsite registrations will be accepted, and all attendees must be preregistered.

Electronic registration is available at: http://rproxy.nist.gov/CRS

Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg, (301) 977-8900, at a special rate of $109 single or double, plus 12% tax. Reservations must be received by October 1, 2004.

Technical Information

Lisa Karam, NIST, Telephone: (301) 975-5561, Fax: (301) 869-7682, E-mail: lisa.karam@nist.gov

Registration Information

Teresa Vicente, NIST, Phone: (301) 975-3883, Fax: (301) 948-2067, E-mail: teresa.vicente@nist.gov

Presentations

A limited number of contributed presentations will be considered. Abstracts of contributed oral presentations and poster papers should be submitted for consideration before July 31, 2004 to: Katy Nardi, Telephone/Fax: 770-622-0026, E-mail: knardi@cirms.org

Interest Card

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