

DELAWARE AUTHORITY ON RADIATION PROTECTION
SUMMARY OF MEETING
May 5, 2014
Harry Levin Center for Pharmacy History & Education
27 North Main Street
Smyrna, Delaware 19977

Members Present: (those with checks only)

R. Arm		F. Fisher-Tyler	√	K. Musto	√
F. Esposito	√	W. Holden	√	K. Neelans	√
L. Fox	√	I. Turner	√	D. Smith	√
E. De Whitt	√	T. May	√	D. Tilton	√
J. Dill	√	N. Melikechi	√	R. Wier, Jr.	√

Guests:

R. Brinsfield	√	D. Parker	√	K. Shaughnessy	√
L. Terry-Graham	√	P. Butler	√		

F. Esposito, Authority Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and initiated introductions of all present for the benefit of guest Priscilla Butler, American College of Radiology.

I. Agenda Adopted

R. Wier, Jr. introduced a motion to accept the agenda, N. Melikechi seconded and all voted to approve. The motion passed.

II. Chairman's Comments

R. Esposito thanked the members of the Authority for their continued public service, and contributions to radiation protection for all Delawareans. She stated that the work of the public education committee is central to the Authority's strategic plan this year, and expressed her gratitude to the speaker for traveling to make a presentation to the Authority on Radiation Protection.

III. New Business

D. Smith, Chairman of the Authority Public Education Committee, gave a brief overview of the committee activities. He reported that consistent with the Authority strategic plan, the committee has held several conference calls and opted to invite Ms. Priscilla Butler of the American College of Radiology to make a presentation on initiatives to reduce radiation dose within the practice community, as well as raise awareness of radiation dose issues among patients and their families. Ms. Butler indicated that she is a Medical Physicist by education and practice, having worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, George Washington University Hospital, and currently serves as Medical Physicist and Senior Director of Special Projects for the American College of Radiology.

She indicated her career practice areas included mammography and pediatrics, and stated that radiation dose to the average American has increased by approximately 6 times since the 1980's, which has been well documented by the National Council on Radiation Protection and multiple professional societies. She stated that the increase in average radiation dose from the healing arts primarily associated with computed tomography (CT) scans and nuclear medicine procedures has driven a number of initiatives intended to reduce radiation dose while optimizing medical practice.

Ms. Butler explained the concepts important to reducing radiation dose in the healing arts as justification and optimization. Justification means ordering the right exam for the correct medical purpose, and optimization means performing the ordered exam to the correct criteria (optimal image quality and radiation dose). She provided an overview of media coverage of medical events in recent years, particularly coverage of computed tomography (CT) overexposure incidents by the New York Times, and many other news outlets.

She indicated that the Image Gently™ alliance, began as “The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging” developed by a committee within the Society for Pediatric Radiology in late 2006. She reported that since that time, the number of alliance organizations has grown to over 80 international, national and state organizations and governmental agencies, including the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), the Health Physics Society (HPS), the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP), the Illinois State Radiologic Technologist Society, multiple professional societies such as the Radiological Society of North America, the American Board of Radiology, and such federal governmental partners as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Image Gently™ Founding Members:

- The Society for Pediatric Radiology
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine
- American College of Radiology.

Ms. Butler indicated that additional information presented at this meeting is available on the Image Gently™ website:

“The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging – the Image Gently™ Alliance - is a coalition of health care organizations dedicated to providing safe, high quality pediatric imaging worldwide. The primary objective of the Alliance is to raise awareness in the imaging community of the need to adjust radiation dose when imaging children. The ultimate goal of the Alliance is to change practice.

The Alliance chose to focus first on computed tomography (CT) scans. The dramatic increase in the number of pediatric CT scans performed in the United States in the past seven years and the rapid evolution, change, and availability of CT technology and equipment well justify this Alliance strategy.” The campaign has grown to include:

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| • Computed Tomography (CT) | Image Gently™ |
| • Fluoroscopy | “Pause and Pulse” |
| • Interventional Radiology | “Step Lightly” |

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| • Nuclear Medicine | “Go with the Guidelines” |
| • Digital Radiography | “Back to the Basics” |
| • Dental Radiography | In development |

Ms. Butler stated that each campaign roll-out is synchronized across all alliance organizations with email blasts, and that each organization agrees to promote alliance messages in their own web content. She indicated that the Alliance can provide public service announcements, and brochures for parents in 15 languages. She also indicated that there are short version brochures (4 pages) and longer version brochures (8 pages).

Ms. Butler gave an overview of the alliance to reduce radiation dose in adults, called Image Wisely™, which includes many alliance partners involved in Image Gently™, as well as major vendors of radiation machines through the Manufacturers Imaging Technology Association (MITA) – including but not limited to General Electric, Hitachi, Hologic, Phillips, Siemens, and Toshiba. She encouraged the Authority to consider “Taking the Pledge” to join the Alliance in its effort to reduce radiation dose in adults. She indicated that there are 3 levels: Level 1 is the basic pledge available to all, Level 2 requires earning accreditation of facility from the American College of Radiology (ACR) or other organization, and Level 3 requires facility participation in a dose index registry, used to develop benchmarks for quality improvement. She indicated that the Authority could consider the Level 1 basic pledge to Image Wisely™.

Ms. Butler described an additional resource developed in partnership with the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), providing written brochures and videos targeted to the 8th grade level, introducing people to the fundamentals of various medical procedures. The intent of these resources is to explain how various procedures are used in the healing arts, for example CT scans, nuclear medicine procedures, and radiation therapy for cancer. These resources are available at www.RadiologyInfo.org

R. Wier asked about science curriculum and careers, and F. Fisher-Tyler indicated that there are some resources available on the EPA webpage, and others that may be of some utility.

Action Item: Explore resources regarding science curriculum and career info related to radiation protection, F. Fisher-Tyler.

Action Item: Public Education Committee to meet and prepare proposal for next Authority meeting (Sept 15), D. Smith & F. Fisher-Tyler.

Action Item: Send Letter of Appreciation to P. Butler, D. Smith & F. Fisher-Tyler.

IV. Minutes

R. Wier introduced a motion to approve the February 24, 2014 meeting minutes, K. Neelans seconded and all voted to approve. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

F. Esposito reported on the status of the Regulatory Review, stating that Phase 2 regulations (4465 Parts A & B, and 4466) were published on May 1, 2014, became effective May 11, 2014, and are available via the state and ORC webpages. She indicated that the Authority Regulations Taskforce will schedule a meeting to lay out a work plan for the Phase 3 Review.

VI. Informational Updates

F. Fisher-Tyler reported on status of several Office of Radiation Control (ORC) objectives for 2014. She reported that resources advocated by the Authority leadership had been authorized by Division of Public Health (DPH), and Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) management.

- Three blocked (permanently assigned) fleet vehicles were put into service in September 2013 for ORC field staff,
- Specialized training/travel have consistently been approved for field staff since mid-2013, including one senior staff attending the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) meeting in Dec 2013 – this is a first for the program and highly valuable, since it provides an opportunity to see new equipment recently FDA-approved and not yet in use in Delaware, allowing ORC to prepare inspection protocols in a proactive way. All field staff attended a regional Mid-Atlantic States Radiation Control Conference in March 2014, and three field staff were scheduled to attend fluoroscopy or mammography continuing education courses at the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors annual meeting in May 2014.
- Phase 2 application to reclassify field staff from outdated job classifications to a career ladder (Radiation Scientist 1, 2, 3), more consistent with their current duties is underway. ORC is working with the division and the department to move the reclassification forward.

R. Brinsfield reviewed the ORC Monitoring Report for the period January 1 – December 31, 2013. He briefly reviewed New X-Ray Facility, X-Ray Facility Inspection Summary, X-Ray Inspection Violation and Radiation Technologist/Technician Summary Reports. He fielded questions and collected comments. He stated that inspection frequencies were changed in regulations amended in 2013, to annual, biennial and quadrennial, and that only mammography facilities are in the annual category now, as required by FDA contract.

VII. Items for Vote or Adoption

There were no decision-making items requiring vote or adoption.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no public attendees, and no public comments.

IX. Adjournment

K. Musto introduced a motion to adjourn. J. Dill seconded and all voted to approve. The motion passed. The Authority meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Remaining meetings of the Authority in 2014 are scheduled for 6 pm at the Harry Levin Center for Pharmacy History & Education in Smyrna, on: September 15, and November 17, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Fisher-Tyler, MHS, CIH
Administrative Agent,
Authority on Radiation Protection
Radiation Control Program Director
Division of Public Health