



FORWARD THROUGH THE REARVIEW MIRROR: REFLECTIONS ON ICRP PAST AND FUTURE

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The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) was established in Stockholm in 1928 during the second International Congress of Radiology with the initial title the 'International X-Ray and Radium Protection Committee'. The aim was to advance for the public benefit the science of radiological protection, and the early work focussed mainly on occupational exposure in medicine. The name International Commission on Radiological Protection was adopted in 1950 to reflect the wider and more diverse areas of work that were being undertaken.

ICRP has undergone structural and organisational change over the years and exists today as a registered charity in the UK with the Main Commission, five standing Committees and an administrative Scientific Secretariat. Since its establishment, ICRP has written well over 100 publications on all aspects of radiological protection. There have been 13 fundamental recommendations, which form the basis of radiation safety standards worldwide, the latest of these being Publication 103: 'The 2007 Recommendations'.

In recent years, ICRP has initiated developments to modernise the organisation including writing a strategic plan and a code of ethics, opening nominations for Committee membership, creating biennial symposia and establishing special liaison organisations.

In the future, ICRP is looking to review its legal basis and governing documents, to regularly revise its strategic plan, to strengthen engagement with the radiological protection community and to promote more open access to its publications. These activities will require financial resource and ICRP is also embarked on a fundraising campaign to support the efforts.

ICRP has a long tradition of providing recommendations and guidance on radiological protection and is a well-known and widely respected organisation. It can continue to be a leading authority in radiological protection and, by collaborating closely with other relevant organisations, will impact on evolving the system of radiological protection far into the future.