

# REMPAN

# e-NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

May, 2010

## Editorial

### Introducing the first issue of the REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

It is a great honour for me to introduce the very first issue of the REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER today. The network has come a long way, expanded and matured in more than two decades of its existence. Nevertheless, we have a lot of work ahead of us and I hope this new e-communication tool will help us to stay connected and follow each other's news and developments, whereas the cost of this e-tool is maintained as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA approach).

The global role of REMPAN in building capacity in the WHO Member States is unique and is needed now more than ever as countries accepted the implementation plan for the International Health Regulations (2005). The recent Co-60 incident in India once again demonstrated the importance of REMPAN's work towards the health worker's alert and awareness of the symptoms of over-exposure to ionizing radiation, as well as the need of trained personnel capable to manage diagnosis and treatment of such patients.

**The 63rd World Health Assembly** is taking place in Geneva on May 17-21, 2010. The WHA agenda includes a number of important global health issues, including those of REMPAN network's potential interest - the review of the implementation by the member states of the **International Health Regulations** (see details at: [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA63/A63\\_5-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA63/A63_5-en.pdf)) and a provisional agenda item on **human organ and tissue transplantation** (see the report by Secretariat at: [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA63/A63\\_24-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA63/A63_24-en.pdf)).

We hope that launching our e-NEWSLETTER at the time of the World Health Assembly will become a good sign symbolizing our long-standing collaboration, our search of new synergistic ways of cooperation and our willingness to join our efforts for the common goal of making this world safer and better prepared to radiation emergencies.

More information about REMPAN can be found on our homepage, URL: [http://www.who.int/ionizing\\_radiation/a\\_e/rempan/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/a_e/rempan/en/index.html)



Looking forward to your future contributions and support of this new communication tool!

Dr. Zhanat Carr  
REMPAN Coordinator

## In this issue

Contents	1
Editorial	1
HQ News	2
Network News	2
Accidents	3
Workshops and Meetings	3
Workshops and Meetings	4
Publications	4
Upcoming training courses	5
Upcoming events	5
Disclosure	5

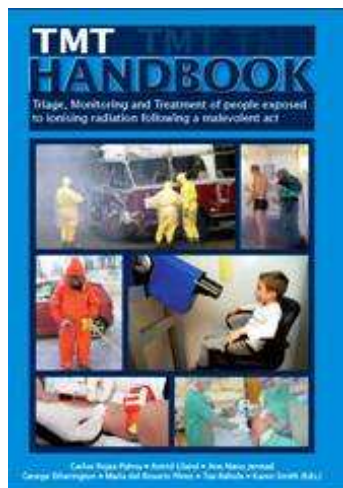


*World Health Assembly*

## HQ News

### TMT Handbook

Through the Euratom 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme the European Commission is co-sponsoring the specific targeted research project "Triage, Monitoring and Treatment-handbook for management of the public in the event of malevolent use of radiation" (**TMT handbook**). The project produced a handbook for the effective and timely triage, monitoring and treatment of people exposed to radiation following a malevolent act. WHO contributed to this project with development of guidelines on medical and public health response.



Cover TMT-Handbook

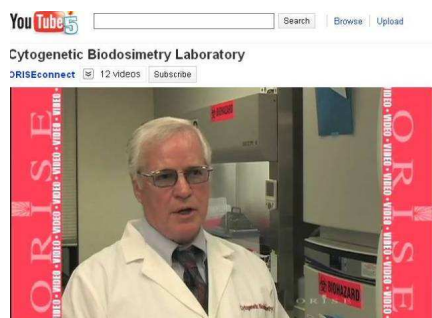
A training course based on the TMT handbook was developed. It will help to enhance national capacity for planning and response to acts involving the malevolent use of radiation. The course provided a platform to identify common challenges and discuss opportunities for harmonizing response strategies throughout the EU.

Focussing on its medical and public health response aspects, the TMT handbook and its potential applicability is not only a practical guidance for end-users but also a useful tool for education and training. The handbook is downloadable at:

[www.tmthandbook.org](http://www.tmthandbook.org) ♦

### WHO BioDoseNet

As an effective global biodosimetry network is an important component in responding to nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies. WHO continuously supports enhancement of national biodosimetry capabilities and the further development of the network established. More information on our new network for biodosimetry - BioDoseNet at: [http://www.who.int/ionizing\\_radiation/a\\_e/biodosenet/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/a_e/biodosenet/en/index.html)



Watch the US WHO REMPAN Collaborating Center REAC/TS own Dr Gordon Livingstone in a 5-min video on Cytogenetic n Oak Ridge, Tennessee Laboratory introduction on

**YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CCuJY5RQQ0> ♦

### ShipEx-1 – a joint exercise of IAEA, WHO, and PAHO

Within the programme of the WHO Biodosimetry network (BiodoseNet) - established by WHO in 2008 - WHO, IAEA and PAHO jointly conducted the ShipEx-1 exercise in 2009. The objectives of this exercise were to develop shipment standard operation procedures (SOPs), to investigate the conditions of shipment (temperature, exposure to x-ray, time) and to identify major problems for the safe international transport of blood samples for biological dosimetry assessment. The tested blood samples were shipped from Peru – Instituto Peruano de Energia Nuclear, Biological Dosimetry Laboratory to participating laboratories in 13 countries within the Latin American Biological Dosimetry Network, to the IAEA Response Assistance Network (RANET) and the WHO Biodosimetry network members. ♦

## Network News

### Institute de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire - Paris, France, is in the process of finalizing their designation as WHO Collaborating Center for Radiation Health (<http://www.irsn.fr/>).

The scope of the collaboration includes areas of radiation emergency, biodosimetry, risk assessment, and safe use of radiation in medicine.

Welcome to the IRSN colleagues! ♦



More information on WHO Collaborating Centers policy and requirements for applications at: <http://www.who.int/collaboratingcentres> ♦

### The 8<sup>th</sup> Nagasaki Dr. Nagai Peace Memorial Prize

The 8<sup>th</sup> Nagasaki Dr. Nagai Peace Memorial Prize was awarded in 2009 to Prof. Dr. Chr. Reiners, Director of the Clinic of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital, and WHO REMPAN CC in Würzburg, Germany. The prize was set up as part of the activities at the Nagasaki Association for Hibakushas' Medical Care (NASHIM) established for the benefit of overseas atomic bomb survivors and for assisting victims of radiation-related incidents.

Prof. Dr. Chr. Reiners was awarded the prize in recognition of his work and scientific achievements as well as his contributions for developing and improving research of medical treatment of people affected by radiation exposure. ♦



Prof. Dr.  
Chr. Reiners



## Workshops and Meetings

On March 16-18, 2009 the WHO held the **Consultation on harmonization of medical countermeasures: for Acute Radiation Syndrome / Multiple Organ Dysfunction Management (ARS/MODS)** in Geneva, Switzerland.



*Meeting participants - Geneva, March 2009*

An international expert group was tasked by WHO with creating a harmonized approach to the medical management of ARS/MODS by ranking the evidence for medical countermeasures for management of acute radiation syndrome (ARS). To assess quality of evidence objectively, GRADE evidence profiles were prepared according to the WHO recommendations for guideline development. The meeting results and recommendations were summarized in the paper “Medical Management of Acute Radiation Syndrome: First International Consensus and Evidence Based Recommendations” is planned for publication by the end of 2010. ◆

**A Joint NSC/NIRS/WHO/IAEA workshop on medical response to nuclear accidents in Asia** was held on January 19-21, 2010 at the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) in Chiba, Japan. The workshop aimed at sharing the knowledge on radiation emergency medicine including internal contamination and its countermeasures, accident cases and their treatment.



*Workshop participants and speakers - Chiba Japan, January 2010*

The workshop also focused on revising the system for radiological emergency preparedness and further developing skills of radiation emergency medical experts in Asian countries. The long-term aim was to establish a close network of radiation emergency medical preparedness in Asia for effective and timely cooperation in an accident. ◆

## Accidents

### **Co-60 incident, New Delhi, India, April 09, 2010**

Seven workers of scrap metal market in the outskirts of New Delhi were hospitalized with the symptoms of acute radiation syndrome. The investigation showed that workers came into possession of an unshielded Co-60 source at the scrap metal yard and kept it in the manager's office without knowing about its being radioactive. Not until three weeks later they became sick and sought medical treatment.



*Mayapuri scrap market in New Delhi. Photo: Sushil Kumar Verma, The Hindu*

National competent authorities were alerted and carried out the search and isolated several Co-60 sources. Further investigation revealed the origin of the source - a research laboratory at the University of Delhi that sold the source from an auction, which was a serious breach of national regulations on the management of radioactive waste.

WHO has offered technical assistance and consultation to the Ministry of Health via WHO Country and Regional Offices located in New Delhi in the areas of clinical management of radiation injuries, management of psychological impact, risk communication, biodosimetry, and an assessment of public health risk. Ministry of Health of India requested an assistance of WHO with regard to strengthening national capacity in radiation emergency management and organizing a training course for health care workers in the nearest in the nearest future. ◆

## Workshops and Meetings

### Training in Gremikha, Kola Peninsula, Russia

By Alicja Jaworska, Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA), Oesteraas, Norway

For several years the Norwegian Radiation protection Authority in Oesteraas (REMPAN LI) and the Burnazyan Federal Medical and Biophysical Centre of Federal Medical and Biological Agency in Moscow, Russia (REMPAN CC) collaborate on regulatory support projects within medical emergency preparedness at the facilities in Kola Peninsula, North West Russia.



In June 2009, within one of the collaboration projects, a two-day training course on radiological and medical emergency response was held for personnel of the spent nuclear fuel facility SEVRAO and the village population in Gremikha.

*Video conference at the hydrometeorology service branch, Murmansk, lead by the State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom Center in Moscow*

Training included exercises in communication and decision making processes for these remote places at the regional and national level, videoconferencing with federal and regional emergency institutions and performance of practical actions like radiation monitoring, decontamination, early phase countermeasures, and medical emergency response. ♦



*Drill - decontamination and treatment of an injured patient*

### May 10-14 2010 - IAEA Training course Vienna, Austria

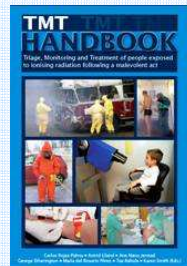
On May 10-14, 2010, a training course on medical response to malicious events with involvement of radioactive materials was held by IAEA in Vienna, Austria. A number of REMPAN experts (Drs. N. Valverde, M. Benderritter, H. Doerr, A. Whiley, M. Akashi) and a WHO representative, Dr Z. Carr, were invited by IAEA as lecturers and took part in this activity last week. ♦



*Dr. A. Wiley giving a lecture at the IAEA workshop in Vienna*

## Publications

Triage, Monitoring and Treatment - handbook for management of the public in the event of malevolent use of radiation" (TMT handbook) - 2009 ♦

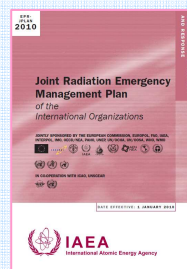


Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> WHO REMPAN Coordination and Planning Meeting in Buenos-Aires, Argentina - Oct 15-17, 2008



Health Physics Journal, Vol 98, N6, June 2010 ♦

Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations - IAEA, Vienna, Austria, 2010 - can be downloaded free of cost in pdf format



[http://wwwpub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/EPR-JPLAN\\_2010\\_web.pdf](http://wwwpub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/EPR-JPLAN_2010_web.pdf) ♦

The translations of the revised Inter-national Health Regulations (2005) in 6 UN Languages are now available:



### French

[Règlement sanitaire international \(2005\)](#)

### Spanish

[Reglamento sanitario internacional \(2005\)](#)

### Russian

[Международ.Медико-Санит Правила \(2005\)](#)

### Chinese

[International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#)

### Arabic

[International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#) ♦



## Upcoming Training Courses

- **19-21 May 2010, Stockholm, Sweden**  
Medical management of radiological and nuclear events  
[bodil.berggren@sodersjukhuset.se](mailto:bodil.berggren@sodersjukhuset.se)
- **14-17 Sept, 2010, Oak Ridge, TN, USA**  
Radiation emergency medicine training course
- **20-24 Sept, 2010, Oak Ridge, TN, USA**  
Advanced radiation medicine training course  
<http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/capabilities/continuing-medical-education/default.aspx>
- **31 Oct-13 Nov 2010 Hammamet, Tunisia**  
Public Health Pre-Deployment Course (PHPD) - PHPD-7 at the WHO Mediterranean Centre for Health Risk Reduction (WMC)  
<http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/training/predeployment/phpd/en/index.html>

## Upcoming Events

- **14-18 June 2010, Helsinki, Finland**  
3rd European IRPA-2010 congress  
<http://www.congrex.fi/irpa2010europe/>
- **27 June-1 July 2010, Salt Lake City, USA**  
55<sup>th</sup> HPS annual meeting  
<http://hpschapters.org/2010AM/abstracts>
- **25-29 September 2010, Maui, Hawaii, USA**  
The 56th Annual Radiation Research Society Meeting  
<http://www.radres.org/>
- **10-14 October 2010, Mandelieu-La-Napoule, France**  
EPRBioDose 2010  
[www.iss.infn.it/eprbiодose](http://www.iss.infn.it/eprbiодose)
- **9-11 November, 2010, Chelyabinsk, Russia**  
The 4th URCRM international conference "Chronic radiation exposure: low-dose effects"  
<http://conference2010.urcrm.chel.su>
- **02-03 December 2010, Wuerzburg, Germany**  
3rd International Seminar "Radiation Medicine in Research and Practice"  
[Schneider\\_R1@nuklearmedizin.uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:Schneider_R1@nuklearmedizin.uni-wuerzburg.de)

### The 13<sup>th</sup> WHO REMPAN meeting – mark your calendars!

On 16-18 February 2011, the 13<sup>th</sup> WHO REMPAN meeting hosted by the WHO Collaborating Center in Nagasaki, Japan, will take place at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, in Nagasaki, Japan. ◆



*Nagasaki city*

## Disclosure

The REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER is produced 2 times a year and circulated by WHO Secretariat to the network members to provide information about latest news on the network's activities, developments in radiation emergency preparedness and management.

The REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER was prepared by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance, Würzburg, Germany and the REMPAN Secretariat, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.

The designations employed and the presentation of the information in this Newsletter do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. The World Health Organization does not warrant that the information contained in the Newsletter is complete and correct and shall not be liable whatsoever for any damages incurred as a result of its use.

### Contacts / Feedback

We would like your opinions and suggestions on the 1<sup>st</sup> REMPAN e-NEWSLETTER.  
Please send it to:

Dr. Zhanat Carr  
REMPAN Secretariat  
Public Health and Environment  
Health Security and Environment  
World Health Organization  
Email: [carrz@who.int](mailto:carrz@who.int)

### Website

[http://www.who.int/ionizing\\_radiation/a/rempan/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/a/rempan/en/index.html)

### Editors

Dr. Zhanat Carr, WHO  
Dr. Rita Schneider, REMPAN CC  
Würzburg

### Design

Dr. Rita Schneider, REMPAN CC  
Würzburg

### Contributors to this issue

Zhanat Carr, Alicja Jaworska, Rita Schneider