Grassroots Preparedness, a Radiation Risk Scale & Marketing of Health Physics

Guest Speaker: Armin Ansari, PhD, CHP - HPS President-Elect

This presentation has three distinct segments. The first segment discusses the significant impact that radiation professionals (health and medical physicists, nuclear medicine professionals, radiologic technologists, nuclear engineers, and others) can make toward better preparing their local communities for response to a radiation emergency. An available funding opportunity to facilitate recruitment and training of local radiation professionals into existing local volunteer registries is described. In the second segment, a Radiation Risk Scale is proposed as a simple tool for communicating radiation risk to the public, leaders, and decision makers. This scaling system offers several distinct advantages: a) It is simple; 2) It conveys meaning and provides a frame of reference immediately; c) It does not require any understanding or use of radiation units or any mention of radiation dose rates or radioactivity levels; d) It is not affected by differences in specific national or international radiation dose limits, concentration limits, or other regulatory standards; and e) it can be used during an emergency situation or in its aftermath to promote responsible action by the public. The third and final segment of the presentation addresses the need to market the profession of health physics. An idea is presented and audience opinion and feedback is solicited using an anonymous multiple choice form.

Armin is a health physicist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serving as subject matter expert in CDC’s radiation emergency preparedness and response activities. Armin received both his BS and PhD degrees in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas, starting his career as a radiation biologist, and did his postdoctoral research at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos National Laboratories. He was a senior scientist with the radiological consulting firm of Auxier & Associates before joining CDC in 2002.

Armin was the lead author of the CDC guide for state and local public health planners on population monitoring, and a contributing author to the federal Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation. He was the 2009 recipient of Excellence in Public Health Practice Award from the National Center for Environmental Health, and a 2011 recipient of Outstanding Achievement Award from Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Armin is also an adjunct associate professor of nuclear and radiological engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, a member of Georgia East Metro Medical Reserve Corps, and a member of Gwinnett County Community Emergency Response Team. He recently published the text book Radiation Threats and Your Safety: A Guide to Preparation and Response for Professionals and Community.

Armin had served on the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society (HPS), and was recently elected by its membership to serve as President-Elect.
2011 RGC HPS Fall Dinner Meeting
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____________________________________________________

Guest Name(s): ______________________________________________

Company/Affiliation: _________________________________________

Preferred Mailing Address: _____________________________________

____________________________________

City, State and Zip Code: _______________________________________

Phone Number: __________________ Email: _______________________

Membership:

Member HPS? YES NO
CHP? YES NO

Menu Preference (indicate number needed for each entrée):

_______ Classic Chicken La Fonda
Breast of chicken filled with bacon, red onion, green chile, Jack and cheddar cheese, lightly
breaded, flash fried, and oven baked. Accompanied by mild green chile cream sauce and
garlic mashed potatoes

_______ Pork Tenderloin
Pan seared medallions accompanied by roasted piñon-saffron couscous and
tomatillo chicken demi-glace

_______ Salmon
Char-grilled Shetland salmon served with sweet potato and pear hash and roasted yellow pepper
vinaigrette

RGC HPS would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of UniTech Services Group. Make checks
($30/person) payable to “Rio Grande Chapter HPS”. Note that this also includes 2012 membership dues for
RGC HPS for eligible individuals. Please forward this registration form and payment to:

Pat Roach, RCGHPS President-Elect
AFRL/RDLA (West Side)
Bldg. 416, Rm 208
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Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5776
505-853-1994
William.Roach@kirtland.af.mil

Registration deadline is SEPTEMBER 1, 2011.
Our venue for the 2011 RGC HPS Fall Dinner Meeting is the La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza. The reputation as Santa Fe’s landmark hotel certainly carries some expectations. Reports of an inn on this corner stretch back nearly 200 years, or twice as long by some accounts. Famed Santa Fe architect John Gaw Meem and celebrated Southwest designer Mary Jane Colter collaborated on the hotel’s distinctive appearance, creating the friendly ambiance that has made La Fonda on the Plaza a beloved landmark for generations. But that’s not to say that we take ourselves too seriously. Like Santa Fe itself, La Fonda enjoys a long history of quirky characters and local legends, international renown and community spirit. Santa Fe’s favorite spot for reunions, weddings, coffee clubs, and annual pilgrimages, La Fonda meets the highest contemporary standards of hospitality while exuding the Old World charm that makes Santa Fe unique among New World destinations.

La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza is located at 100 E. San Francisco St., Santa Fe, NM 87501. Telephone number is 1-800-523-5002.

DIRECTIONS: Take Exit #284 (Old Pecos Trail) off I-25. At the stop sign at the top of the hill, turn left. Proceed north to the third traffic light and bear right to stay on Old Pecos Trail into town. Old Pecos Trail becomes Old Santa Fe Trail which dead ends into La Fonda at Water Street. Go around the hotel by turning left on Water, then making an immediate right. At the traffic light at San Francisco Street, turn right again – away from the Plaza and toward the St. Francis Cathedral Basilica. Proceed to the hotel’s parking garage at the end of the block, on the right side of the street.

Accommodations: La Fonda is more than capable of meeting your lodging needs. In addition, there are numerous hotels in and around the plaza, including the Hilton, El Dorado, and Hotel Plaza Real.
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Affiliate Membership

Affiliate membership is open to all organizations involved in an aspect of radiological protection. Affiliate membership is available at $300 per annum. Affiliates get mentioned in all meeting notices during that time. In addition, affiliates are provide a table at the annual technical meeting in May, the ability to provide a short presentation at that meeting, and meeting registration for two individuals. If you would like to enroll for Affiliate Membership contact one of the RGC HPS Officers.

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