

# **FINAL REPORT**

## **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION IN MEDICINE II BINATIONAL MEETING ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION (CHILE-PERU) VII PERUVIAN CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION**

**20-24 August 2017, Arequipa, Peru**

The INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION IN MEDICINE was held in Arequipa Region, southwestern Peru, at the National University of San Agustin (UNSA). The event counted on 221 participants from 15 different countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, the United States of America, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Symposium was organized by the Peruvian Society, as part of the celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its permanent commitment to improve Radiological Protection actions at national and international levels. This important event was organized in collaboration with the National University of San Agustin (UNSA) of Arequipa and supported by the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Latin American Network for Education and Training in Nuclear Technology (LANENT) (FORO), the Latin American Medical Physics Association (ALFIM), the Chilean Society for Radiological Protection (SOCHIPRA) and the National University Alas Peruanas - Arequipa Branch.

The opening ceremony began with speeches by Eduardo Medina Gironzini (President of the Symposium Organizing Committee), Dr. Pablo Jimenez (Pan American Health Organization) and Dr. Simone Kodlulovich (Chairman of the Symposium Scientific Committee). The event was inaugurated by Dr. Horacio Barreda Tamayo, Research Vice-President of UNSA.

The aim of the INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION IN MEDICINE was to bring together representative stakeholders to present, discuss and identify the main problems in the field, as well as to propose solutions for Latin America according to the Bonn Call for Action (2012), where there were established 10 priority actions to be implemented in 10 years. The issue has been discussed in several international events. We emphasize the Ibero-American Conference on Radiological Protection in Medicine – CIPRAM, held in Madrid in October 2016 and attended by health professionals, regulatory bodies, sanitary authorities, radiological protection societies, medical equipment manufacturers, universities and stakeholders.

Therefore, the Symposium focused on technical discussions held in different sessions, each one counting on a moderator, an exhibitor and a table purposely organized with international experts. Each session brought CIPRAM's conclusions and the speaker's contributions, followed by the experts' discussions. The success of each session was reflected by the maximum interaction among presenters and also with attendees, in analyzing existing problems and discussing innovative solutions.

## Program

The event counted on the following sessions:

- Radiological protection of patients including radiodiagnosis, interventional radiology procedures, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy
- The role of medical health technologists, technicians and nurses
- The role of health authorities and radiological protection
- The role of universities and the training and research centers
- The role of specialists in radiological protection and the medical physics

During the Symposium, there were given the following conferences:

- International Actions for the Improvement of Radiological Protection in Medicine  
Pablo Jimenez (PAHO / WHO)
- Main Achievements of the IAEA Project RLA9075 and Challenges for the Next Cycle  
Simone Kodlulovich (Brazil)
- Guide to the FORUM on Safety Culture: A Resource to Support Radiological Protection in Medicine  
Renán Ramirez Quijada (Peru)
- Contribution of the FORUM in Knowledge Management  
Eduardo Medina Gironzini (Peru)
- Regulation of Radiological Protection in medical practices: experiences in Spanish and European contexts  
Rosario Velasco (Nuclear Safety Council, Spain)
- Recommendations of the World Health Organization for risks communication in pediatric imaging  
Ileana Fleitas (PAHO / WHO)

Furthermore, the program included 5 refresher courses, with great audience support:

- Radiological protection in computed tomography in pregnant and pediatric patients  
Simone Kodlulovich (Brasil) and Ileana Fleitas (OPS)  
150 attendees
- Justification in medical radiology practices  
Juan Cardenas Herrera (Cuba)  
113 attendees
- Radiological protection in digital radiology  
Ileana Fleitas (OPS)  
120 attendees
- Radiological protection in interventional radiology procedures  
Carlos Úbeda de la Cerda (Chile)  
124 attendees
- Radiological protection in nuclear medicine  
Omar Arias (Venezuela)  
119 attendees

Moreover, the symposium counted on 70 papers accepted for oral presentation in 4 sessions.

Beyond the activities above, there was held the II Binational Meeting on Radiological Protection, which counted on the participation of colleagues from Chile and Peru. The aim of this meeting was to provide an international forum for information and experience exchange in the medical field, as well as to consolidate joint actions to improve the conditions of radiation protection in these countries.

Also, coffee-breaks and social activities proved to be good opportunities for informal discussion groups. Social activities included show and dinner and a city tour, both offered by the organizing committee. In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to enjoy Arequipa folkloric music and dances at the end of the closing ceremony.

For the final day of the Symposium, there was organized the Roundtable entitled: "How to improve radiological protection in medicine in Latin America?" This session counted on representatives of the several sessions presented during the Symposium:

- Simone Kodlulovich (Brazil)
- Pablo Jimenez (OPS)
- Ileana Fleitas (OPS)
- José Luis Rodríguez (Chile)
- Juan Cardenas Herrera (Cuba)
- Carlos Ubeda de la Cerda (Chile)
- Gustavo Sarria (Peru)
- Eduardo Medina Gironzini (Peru) moderator

The discussion followed the topics discussed during the Symposium, highlighting the decisions made in other previous events (Bonn and Madrid). The experts concluded that it is essential to disseminate international agreements and promote their application with the support and collaboration of the Professional Societies and all those involved in the processes. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to create a Regional Commission on Radiological Protection in Medicine, initially integrated by the members of this round table who, in a near future, will also be responsible for monitoring the agreements and activities in Latin America, regarding the implementation of the Bonn Call for Action and the ICRAM agreements. Furthermore, this group will coordinate and support the realization of the next regional meetings on the subject, among other functions.

The details of this successful Symposium can be seen at: [www.sprperu.org/simposio2017](http://www.sprperu.org/simposio2017) and on social networks: [www.facebook.com/Proteccion.Radiologica.Oficial](https://www.facebook.com/Proteccion.Radiologica.Oficial)

## **Acknowledgments**

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