

30 years of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association

Krajcar Bronić, Ines¹; Miljanić, Saveta¹; Ranogajec-Komor, Mária¹

¹ Rudjer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, CROATIA

Abstract

Croatian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA, www.hdzz.hr/) was founded in 1979 and in 1992 became a regular member of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). The 30th anniversary of CRPA is an opportunity to review the work of the society and to point out the main goals for the future. Seven national symposia of CRPA with international participation were organized after 1991. All presentations were published as full papers in printed Proceedings. In 2001 CRPA organized the IRPA Regional Congress in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Members of CRPA take part in organization of international IRPA congresses and in the work of IRPA General Assembly. CRPA has been actively involved in the meetings of the European radiation protection societies since 2004 and organized the 6th meeting in Zagreb in 2009. On the celebration of the 30th birthday of CRPA the first award for best work in the field of radiation protection was given to the young scientist.

Introduction

The Croatian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) was founded in 1979 in the frame of the Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association. Since 1991 CRPA has been an independent organization and in 1992 became a regular member of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). CRPA adopted the IRPA Code of Ethics. CRPA has today a membership of more than 150 scientists and specialists from Croatia from various areas of radiation science.

CRPA is a public organization with the purpose of promoting and developing scientific, educational and cultural activities in the field of radiation protection and related fields of science. The main activities are organisation of scientific and popular lectures, organisation of national symposia, co-organisation of regional meetings, and participation at international meetings and conferences.

The main goals of all these activities are stimulation and support of basic and applied scientific research; stimulation and support of the application of scientific results in commercial and non-commercial activities; initiatives and execution of improvement of education in schools, colleges and universities in Croatia; popularization of science, its results and their applications; and affirmation of the scientific method and manner of thought.

National symposia

Seven national symposia of the Croatian Radiation Protection Association with international participation were organized after 1991: in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, all in Zagreb, in 2003 and 2005 in a small resort nearby, Stubičke Toplice, and in 2008 in the North-Adriatic sea-side resort Opatija. The proceedings of all symposia were printed in Croatian with extended abstracts in English [CRPA, 1992; 1994; 1996; 1998, 2003, 2005, 2008]. The next, 8th Symposium of CRPA with international participation will be held in the Koralj Hotel, Krk, Island Krk, 13 – 15 April 2011.

The topics of interest for the the radiation protection community can be observed through the relative abundance of papers grouped in various research subjects (Fig. 1). All papers presented at the first four symposia (1992 – 1998) are grouped together and then compared with the papers of the 5th, 6th and 7th Symposia.

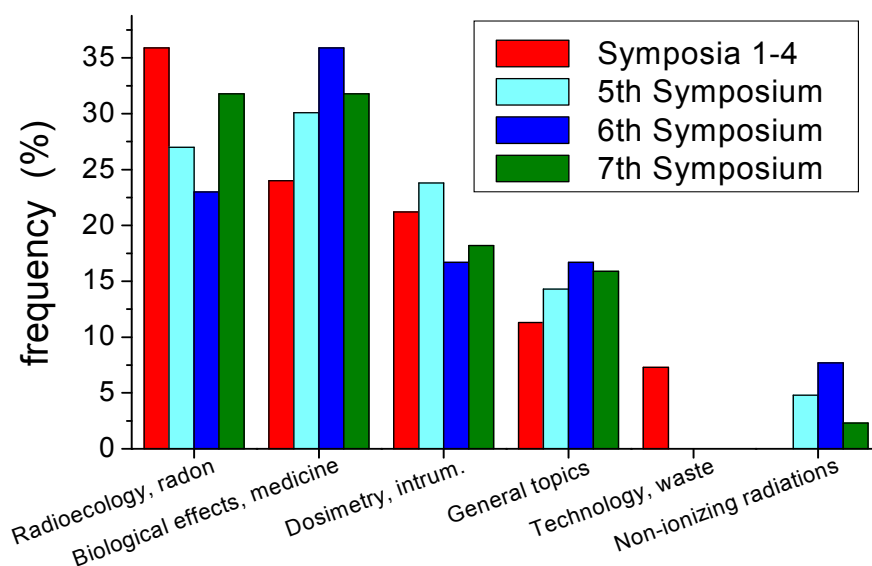


Fig. 1. Relative abundance of topics in CRPA proceedings

Radioecology (including radon and related topics) and biological effects of radiation and medicine are the most abundant subject areas, each representing about 30% (with slight variations, $\pm 5\%$) of all contributions. Dosimetry (including radiation physics and chemistry, methods and instrumentation) is represented by about 20% of the contributed papers, and general topics (including legislation, education, public awareness) by 15%.

At the first four symposia problems concerning radioactive waste technology and disposal were represented by 5% of the papers, but no papers on these topics are presented at the last three symposia. Instead, papers dealing with non-ionizing radiations represent about 5% of contributions. Non-ionizing radiations, their effects and medical/health implications became more abundant mostly due to huge expansion of cellular telephony and other applications of non-ionizing radiations (ultra sound, microwave, photo-therapy, etc), as well as due to our ever increasing awareness of their possible damage.

IRPA congresses

Members of CRPA regularly participate at regional, European and world IRPA congresses. Seven regional IRPA congresses for Central and Eastern Europe were held in the period 1992 – 2008 and the average number of Croatian participants (excluding the one in Dubrovnik 2001) is 10, as well as the number of contributed abstracts. The average number of Croatian participants at the four world IRPA congresses since 1996 (IRPA-9 through IRPA-12) and two European IRPA congresses is 15 with 16 presentations on the average.

CRPA organized the IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection in Central Europe with the theme "Radiation Protection and Health" in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in 2001, with 180 presentations and 229 participants from 29 countries [CRPA, 2001]. Full papers were published as proceedings on CD-ROM [CRPA, 2002].

International cooperation

CRPA has been actively involved in the meetings of the European radiation protection societies since 2004 and organized the 6th meeting of this kind in Zagreb, October 26, 2009 with participation of 23 representatives of 13 European radiation protection societies. The topics included reports on current IRPA activities and IRPA-12 Congress (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2008), status of the Radiation Protection Culture initiative, announcements of several training courses and workshops, current status of organization of 3rd European IRPA Congress and IRPA-13 Congress (Glasgow, 2012), as well as the status of national awards for young scientist and professionals in the field of radiation protection and radiation science.

30th Anniversary of CRPA

The main celebration of the 30th birthday of CRPA was held on October 27, 2010. The program included presentations of activities of the CRPA and a very interesting lecture on the early days of radiation protection in Croatia. All former president of the CRPA were awarded and Prof. dr. Božo Metzger has been elected as the first Honorary member of CRPA. The first award for the best paper of a young scientist published in 2008 – 2009 was officially given to Martina Rožmarić-Mačefat who is going to compete for the first European award for young scientists at the 3rd European IRPA Congress. Exhibition of scientific equipment and publications related to radiation protection was also organized.

Concluding remarks

In future CRPA will continue to organize regular national symposia and encourage its members to participate at IRPA congresses. It will increase the efforts in organization of lectures for both scientific community and general population. It will also keep its presence in various international activities of radiation protection societies with emphasis on improvement of cooperation with the societies in the neighbouring countries.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to all members of CRPA who actively participate in the activities of the society.

References

- CRPA, Proceedings of the First Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, November 24-26, 1992; Zagreb, Croatia. Editorial Committee: Despotović, R., Kubelka, D., Obelić, B., Osmak, M., Picak, V., Ranogajec-Komor, M., Salaj-Obelić, I. Zagreb: 1992.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Second Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, November 23-25, 1994; Zagreb, Croatia. Eds: Franić, Z., Kubelka, D. Zagreb: 1994.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Third Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, November 20-22, 1996; Zagreb, Croatia. Eds: Kubelka, D., Kovač, J. Zagreb: 1996.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, November 11-13, 1998; Zagreb, Croatia. Eds: Obelić, B., Franić, Z. Zagreb: 1998.
- CRPA, Book of Abstracts, IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection in Central Europe: Radiation Protection and Health, May 20-25, 2001; Dubrovnik, Croatia. Eds: Obelić, B., Ranogajec-Komor, M., Miljanić, S., Krajcar Bronić, I., Zagreb: 2001.
- CRPA, Proceedings of IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection in Central Europe: Radiation Protection and Health, May 20-25, 2001; Dubrovnik, Croatia. Eds: Obelić, B., Ranogajec-Komor, M., Miljanić, S., Krajcar Bronić, I. Zagreb: 2002.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, April 9-11, 2003; Stubičke Toplice, Croatia. Eds: Krajcar Bronić, I., Obelić, B., Miljanić, S. Zagreb: 2003.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, April 18-20, 2005; Stubičke Toplice, Croatia. Eds: Garaj-Vrhovac, V., Kopjar, N., Miljanić, S. Zagreb: 2003.
- CRPA, Proceedings of the Seventh Symposium of Croatian Radiation Protection Association, May 29-31, 2008; Opatija, Croatia. Editors: Barišić, D., Grahek, Ž., Krajcar Bronić, I., Miljanić, S. Zagreb: 2008.