

SRP 2020+2021 Annual Conference, Bournemouth, 16-18 March 2021

'Towards a strong radiation safety culture in medicine' - an IAEA innovation and challenge

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Abstract accepted for poster presentation at the 2020 Annual Conference of the Society for Radiological Protection (SRP). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 annual conferences will be combined into a single event, to be held in Bournemouth in March 2021.

Conference Theme: Practical Radiation Protection: Innovation and Challenges

In an interesting innovation the IAEA Radiation Protection of Patients Unit set a practical challenge to the international medical radiation protection community in 2019, with a global competition to support its work in strengthening safety culture. Clinical staff and trainees working in diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy were invited to submit proposals to be included in an IAEA training programme aimed at improving radiation safety culture in healthcare.

The training programme is structured around ten safety traits:

1. Personal accountability
2. Questioning attitude
3. Effective safety communication
4. Leadership safety values and actions
5. Decision-making
6. Respectful work environment
7. Continuous learning
8. Problem identification and resolution
9. Environment for raising concerns
10. Work processes

103 radiation medical professionals and students from around the world entered the competition, which was entitled 'Towards a strong radiation safety culture in medicine'. Their challenge was to create a digital media presentation illustrating a successful, innovative and engaging project based on one of the safety traits. The winners of the competition were: Anastasia Sarchosoglou (Greece), Leah Kayomi Schubert (United States) and Darin Steven O'Keeffe (New Zealand), with proposals which focused respectively on effective communication, leadership and the importance of a questioning attitude. Their prizes were travel grants to present their projects at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna at the launch of this training in January 2020.

This talk will describe the competition and the training programme. Subject to IAEA permission, it will include one or more of the winning entries, or extracts thereof.