

Low Dose Radiation Path Forward

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I think that it was clear to most conference attendees that there will be no progress unless the major international guidance organizations move together with a common vision. Equally clear, at least to me, are the barriers that have prevented them from doing that in the past and will certainly prevent them from cooperating in the future - absent some major change in perception on the part of the organizations' members. That change in perception will require both a scientifically solid basis, and significant emotional impact.

Wade Allison provided the key in his abstract. Unfortunately, his presentation did not even resemble his abstract. The next conflict between superpowers will be between Russia and China. Western nations will be bit players if they do not continue the development of nuclear power needed to maintain economic strength. The international organizations that need to cooperate are fundamentally Western institutions that China and Russia can ignore. These organizations are likely to become irrelevant if the Eastern countries become the dominant nuclear powers driven by economic competition that gives them the strength to ignore Western opinion.

Currently, it seems to me that the guidance organizations have a vested interest in keeping radiation protection complex and mysterious; only to be understood by the most sophisticated scientific minds. For example, the relationship between Greys and Sieverts should be simple enough for anyone to understand. Instead it is extremely complex and shrouded in mystery. This is good for people who need to publish papers, but not so good for everyone else. This can change only if their organizational status is challenged. A shift from West to East would do that. But how to make them see that?