

## **A Proposal for Moving the Needle Forward on the Scientific Convergence of Understanding the Human Response to Low-Dose Radiation**

- I) Establish a Low Dose Evaluation Committee (LDEC) consisting of well-respected international radiation health scientists currently representing the three voices on the topic of low-level radiation:
  - a. Voice #1—LNT proponents
  - b. Voice #2—Threshold proponents
  - c. Voice #3—Adaptive Response (Hormesis) proponents
- II) Select two individuals for each voice, chosen because of their following attributes:
  - a. Well respected international scientific status in this field of study.
  - b. Recognized ability to respect the opinions of all three voices and be willing to change positions in response to careful evaluation of all scientifically relevant data in the low-dose region (low-dose defined as <100 mSv).
  - c. The selection of the individuals for these six positions shall be the responsibility of the Planning Committee of the ANS/HPS Joint Conference on the Applicability of Radiation-Response Modes to Low Dose Protection Standards (hereafter identified as the LOWDOSE Conference). This responsibility follows from the harmony achieved at the LOWDOSE Conference where radiation epidemiologists and radiation biologists met together to seek the best path forward for updating low-dose protection standards, based on solid science.
- III) Provide a two-year window, starting from formal initiation of the program (see Item V), for the LDEC to issue a report with the following deliverables:
  - a. Recommendations for structuring and coordinating a new global R&D approach focusing on the key elements of low-dose radiation that may be crucial in resolving the actual effects of whole-body radiation that may expose the general public in the event of a nuclear accident or dirty bomb incident.
  - b. Provide within this two-year window a recommendation for a replacement of their position by a young researcher less than 50 years of age (with only rare exceptions beyond this age, but in no case over 60 years old). This is to ensure a “passing of the leadership torch” to the next generation of international radiation health professionals.
- IV) Establish an International Low Dose Advisory Council (ILDAC) to oversee the work of the LDEC. This Council shall be coordinated by the OECD/NEA and chaired by the Director

General of this institution. The Council shall consist of the Head of each of the following affiliations:

- a. UNSCEAR
- b. ICRP
- c. IAEA (or delegate)
- d. NCRP
- e. NRC (or delegate)

Additional agencies providing funding for this effort shall also be allowed a delegate on the Council.

- V) Conduct an organizing meeting to formally launch this initiative. The suggested site of this meeting is the OECD/NEA in Paris, with a date to be determined, preferably prior to the end of March, 2019. The key agenda items for this meeting should include the following:
  - a. Solidifying the overall structure of this initiative.
  - b. Identify and seat the initial members of the ILDAC.
  - c. Determine the funding sources need for both short and long term success.
  - d. Identify the required funding sources.

## **NEAR TERM ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) Obtain endorsement of this proposal by the Planning Committee of the LOWDOSE Conference on November 3, 2018.
- 2) Establish an account within an augmented budget structure of the LOWDOSE Conference to reserve the funding needed to successfully launch the initiating meeting identified in Item V above. Consider an amount of approximately \$20,000 to be placed into this account, with funds derived from the profit of the LOWDOSE Conference.
- 3) Obtain concurrence of this approach from Bill Magwood, Director General of the OECD/NE by December 1, 2018.