Final report on:

Advances in Nuclear Particle Dosimetry for Radiation Protection and Medicine

Ninth Symposium on Neutron Dosimetry

Held at the Aula/Congress Centre of Delft University of Technology, September 28 – October 3, 2003

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NEUDOS

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The Symposium in Delft (NEUDOS9) continued the series of eight successful Symposia on Neutron Dosimetry. The first six Symposia were held at GSF-Forschungszentrum für Umwelt und Gesundheit in München-Neuherberg, Germany, in the period 1972 to 1987. The seventh and eighth Symposia took place in Berlin, Germany, in 1991 and in Paris, France, in 1995, respectively.

The Delft Symposium was jointly organised by Delft University of Technology, the Interfaculty Reactor Institute of Delft University of Technology and the European Radiation Dosimetry Group (EURADOS). The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France), the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB, Braunschweig, Germany), the US Department of Energy (DOE, German Town, MD, supported by the Office of Science (BER). US DOE, Grant No. DE-FG02-03ER63525), the European Commission (EC, Brussels, Belgium, Contract Accompanying Measures –FIGH-CT2002-06023), the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW, Amsterdam, the Netherlands) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI, Bethesda, MD, USA). The location of the Conference Centre of Delft University of Technology near the old town centre of Delft, the in-house Congress Office of the Centre, the excellent technical facilities and the space available for posters contributed to the success of the meeting.

The Ninth Symposium on Neutron Dosimetry was organised on the initiative of EURADOS. EURADOS considered it timely to initiate the Ninth Symposium since the eighth one was held in 1995. Delft University of Technology was selected from three possible candidates to organise the Symposium. The Symposium was intended to provide an opportunity for considering developments in neutron dosimetry and its application in radiation protection and radiotherapy. It aimed to provide the possibility for presenting new information related to

future developments. The programme would include sessions covering various aspects of current research on neutron dosimetry, introduced by invited speakers. It was also foreseen to allow presentation of recent developments by international bodies such as the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The Symposium should bring together those involved in research, health physicists, regulators and representatives of international advisory bodies.

The web site of the Symposium, www.iri.tudelft/~neudos9, appeared very helpful. It contained sections on scope of the meeting, scientific committees, symposium secretariat, venue, deadlines, announcements, author instructions, information on proceedings, support of young scientists, registration and fee, scientific programme and, accommodation and travel. The web site was updated regularly, i.e. when new information became available. The prospective participants received e-mail alerts when new information was put on the web site or when deadlines were approaching, e.g. for submission of abstracts or for submitting a request for support of young scientists. Eventually 178 participants registered.

There were oral and poster sessions on the various topics. Time planning was such that all participants could attend all sessions (no parallel sessions). All poster sessions were introduced by a rapporteur. Rapporteurs showed two slides of each poster in a session, provided by the authors, generally, in advance of the meeting. These introductions were meant to be an appetiser to visit the posters during the rest of the session. All posters were on display during the whole Symposium.

It is noted that the number of young scientists participating in the present Symposium is remarkably large, indicating that there is a promising future. The rewarded number of

applications for support of young scientists was 19, i.e. more than 10 per cent of the participants. The number of applicants was even considerably larger. The number of young women among the young scientists seeking young scientist support was approximately 50 per cent. It is also noted that a considerable fraction of female (young) scientists appeared to be the presenting author of oral contributions. It was concluded that there need to be a next Symposium on neutron dosimetry in a time period of three to five years.

The Ninth Neutron Dosimetry Symposium was the first one organised upon the initiative of EURADOS. The venue and provisional dates of the next Neutron Dosimetry Symposium (NEUDOS10) were decided upon during a special meeting of the EURADOS council, the Executive Scientific Committee of NEUDOS9 and the Advisory Scientific Committee of NEUDOS9. Following the presentation of the four candidate organisers it was decided in a secrete ballot that Uppsala University should organise the Tenth Neutron Dosimetry Symposium, which is planned to take place in June 2006 in Uppsala, Sweden. At the end of NEUDOS9, Dr. Olsson invited the audience to participate also in NEUDOS10. As a stimulus he showed some nice views on Uppsala, when he presented this invitation on behalf of the local organisers in Uppsala.

The proceedings of the Ninth Symposium on Neutron Dosimetry appeared as a special issue of Radiation Protection Dosimetry, Volume 110, No 1-4, 2004.