



## Image Gently™ – Step Lightly

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging launched the next phase of the Image Gently™ Campaign: *Step Lightly: Safety in Pediatric Interventional Radiology* ([www.imagegently.org](http://www.imagegently.org)). This phase is designed to help providers use the lowest dose necessary to perform interventional procedures on children and maintain the quality of patient care. AAPM is a proud co-founder of Image Gently™. Phase III, with its *Image Gently Step Lightly* theme, extends to interventional providers, reminding them that children are more sensitive to radiation than adults. When

interventional radiology (IR) procedures are the correct treatment, providers are, where appropriate, urged to:

Treat kids with care:

- Take time out: stop and child size the technique
- Step lightly on the fluoroscopy pedal and limit fluoroscopic time as much as possible
- Consider ultrasound or, when applicable, MRI guidance

See related article by Keith Strauss in this issue.

**2009 Associations Advance America Honor Roll.** The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging was named to the 2009 Associations Advance America Honor Roll in recognition of its Image Gently™ campaign. Only eight programs were selected for the 2009 Associations Advance America Honor Roll. The Image Gently™ campaign was identified as an example of the vital role associations play in making America a better place to live. The Associations Advance America Awards are presented by the American Society of Association Executives to recognize associations that propel America forward--with innovative projects in skills training and development; ethical, technical or professional standards; economic development; business and social innovation; information and knowledge creation; public education and information; civic and community volunteer activities; and citizenship and democracy enhancement. AAPM is a proud co-founder of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging.

**NRC Requests Comment on Impact of Lack of Disposal Capacity on Radioactive Materials Used in Research (74 FR 39716, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-18947.pdf>)**

NRC is holding a public meeting October 7th in Rockville, MD to gather information to assess the effect of a lack of access to low-level waste (LLW) disposal facilities on those who use radioactive sources or materials in conducting research such as universities and hospitals. The purpose of this information gathering is to identify important research that has been impacted and/or stopped because of a lack of disposal options for radioactive sources or materials. Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2009. Because of anticipated interest, the meeting will be Web cast. Please check the NRC public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index> for the meeting and Web cast details.

The staff is requesting that persons consider and address the following 13 questions as they develop and provide their remarks.

- 1. Are you involved in research involving the use of radioactive sources or materials, and if so, in what specific area (medical, academic, medical administration, etc.)**
- 2. If you answered yes to question no. 1, please describe the research procedure(s) that is performed, or was performed prior to disposal access limitations.**
- 3. Have alternative technologies taken the place of radioactive materials because of LLW disposal access, and if so, what have been the impacts, both positive and negative?**
- 4. In what State and LLW Compact is the research facility that you're addressing located?**
- 5. What kind of licensee uses the radioactive sources or materials that are being addressed (university, hospital, private research, other)?**
- 6. How do you or did you disposition the spent sources or radioactive materials?**
  - a. LLW disposal facility**
  - b. Store onsite**
  - c. Return to manufacturer**
  - d. Other, explain**
- 7. Have you historically disposed of spent sources or radioactive materials at a low-level waste disposal facility?**
- 8. If your answer to question no. 7 was yes, has your research been affected by the lack of access to a low-level waste disposal facility for either spent radioactive sources or radioactive materials? If so, please explain.**
- 9. Are you currently storing onsite radioactive sources or materials that would have been disposed of offsite had disposal access been available?**
- 10. Has the lack of disposal access for either radioactive sources or materials caused you to re-evaluate research needs and techniques?**
- 11. What adaptations have you made to reduce waste volume and improve the management of low-level radioactive waste disposal?**
  - a. Increased onsite storage capacity**
  - b. Increased use of nonradioactive sources**
  - c. Limit number of authorized users**
  - d. Reduce volume of waste shipped**
- 12. Has the cost of low-level radioactive waste disposal affected your research? If so, describe how.**
- 13. Provide any additional comments.**

If you have comments you would like AAPM to consider, please send them to Lynne Fairbent, Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at [lynne@aapm.org](mailto:lynne@aapm.org) **before October 5, 2009.**

**NRC Announces Selection of Susan Langhorst, Ph.D. to the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI).**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced selection of Susan M. Langhorst, Ph.D., as the radiation safety officer representative on the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI). The ACMUI was established in 1958 and advises the NRC on policy and technical issues related to the regulation of the medical use of radioactive material. Dr. Langhorst currently serves as the radiation safety officer for Washington University and Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo., and is on the faculty at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. She has nearly 10 years experience managing NRC licenses, which involve medical research and the clinical use of radioactive material as well as radiation-producing machines in nuclear medicine and radiation oncology. She has worked with physician residency programs in radiology, including nuclear medicine, cardiology and radiation oncology, and the medical physics residency program in radiation oncology. Langhorst holds a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and she earned her master's degree and doctorate of philosophy in nuclear engineering and health physics at the University of Missouri-Columbia.