

REPORT OF SEMINAR ON "RADIATION SAFETY IN DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY"

A one day Seminar on "Radiation Safety in Diagnostic Radiology", was organized by the Directorate of Radiation Safety, State Health Society Bihar. The Seminar was held at Platinum Jubilee Auditorium, Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna (PMCH) on 21st January, 2013 from 8.30AM to 4.30PM.

Registration was started at 8.30AM and was closed by about 11.00AM, within which about 100 participants registered. After closing the registration, about 10 participants turned out and joined the scientific session.

The inaugural session was made glorious by the luminous presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey and also the Secretary of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Shri R.Bhattacharya. The Director of Radiation Safety extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey and Secretary of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Shri R.Bhattacharya, faculty and delegates. The Secretary of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Shri R.Bhattacharya presided the inaugural session and delivered the presidential address, highlighting the regulatory aspects of X-ray equipments, the safety requirements and the decision of AERB to decentralize the regulatory work by signing MoU with the State Governments for forming Directorate of Radiation Safety in all the States. The Hon'ble Minister for Health, Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey, delivered a thought provoking and inspiring inaugural speech, persuading every participant to imbibe the lessons of safety from the Seminar and bring them to practice in their day-to-day activities and urged the youth to join hand in nation building.

The Scientific Session went as per schedule, which was made very lively and vibrant by eminent resource persons, who came from prestigious institutions all over India. The first presentation on "Radiation Safety Status in Bihar & Role of DRS" was by Mr.P.J.Joseph, Director of Radiation Safety, State Health Society, Government of Bihar. Second session on "Evolution of Diagnostic Imaging Science" was by Sri.S.Panneer Selvam, Associate Professor of Radiation Physics of Sree Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai. After the second session refreshments were liberally served. Third session on "Interaction of Radiation & Biological Effects" was by Dr.Alok Kumar, Ph.D, Head of Radiation Physics, Mahavir Cancer Institute, Patna. Forth session on "Planning of X-ray & Regulatory Requirements" was given by Dr.Sankar Dayal Sharma, Ph.D, Scientific Officer (F), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. The fifth session on "Quality Assurance in Diagnostic Imaging" was taken by Dr.Pratik Kumar, Ph.D, Professor, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Session break for lunch was given at 1.30PM and participants rejoined for post lunch session by 2.00PM. After lunch, the topic on "Medical Exposure & Method of Dose Reduction" was presented by Dr.Sankar Dayal Sharma, Ph.D, Scientific Officer (F), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. The next session on "Radiation Units & Personnel Monitoring Devices" was covered by Sri.S.Panneer Selvam, Associate Professor of Radiation Physics, Sree Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai and the last session on "Radiation Safety in Diagnostic Imaging" was presented by Dr.Mithilesh Pratap, MD, DMRD, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Radiology, NMCH & Secretary, IRIA (Bihar).

Refreshments, cool drinks, biscuits and tea were served during the sessions. After the interactive session, Dr. Anand Murarka, Associate Professor of Radiology, JLNMC, Bhagalpur concluded the sessions with summary and a word of appreciation. The Seminar was closed after reciting National Anthem, lead by the Postgraduate students of PMCH.

The august presence and inspiring message of the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey would stand illustrious to mark the beginning of the Directorate of Radiation Safety in Bihar. Hon'ble Minister's concern over mushrooming unsafe X-ray installations and call for adherence to safety was taken with due respect by the participants.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board being the regulatory agency of the Government of India for radiation safety, the presence of the AERB Secretary, Shri R. Bhattacharya, gave the Seminar special impetus. The nationally eminent resource personnel made the scientific sessions enlightening and educative. The delegates consisted of doctors from all over Bihar and few postgraduate students from PMCH. The feedback expressed by the delegates, in the form provided, revealed that the sessions were well appreciated and highly useful. Many a participant have requested for more such Seminars for doctors of all specialties, nurses and radiographers.

The Secretary Health-cum-Executive Director of the State Health Society Bihar, Shri Sanjay Kumar, IAS could not participate in the inaugural ceremony due to unexpected urgent official commitments. However, he remained in constant touch with the staff at site reviewing the progress of the Seminar from time-to-time and provided all support and encouragement insistently. The success of the Seminar was credited to his vision and mission by one and all.

As Director of DRS and Convener of the Seminar, I do express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey and the Secretary of AERB, Shri R. Bhattacharya for blessing the inaugural ceremony with their august presence. I thank the resource persons who have come from across the country and the delegates who have come from all over Bihar. The formation of DRS and this Seminar are the brain child of the Secretary Health-cum-Executive Director of the State Health Society Bihar, Shri Sanjay Kumar, IAS. His untiring enthusiasm and inspiring support made it possible and successful. I am deeply indebted to him, beyond words. I thank Sri. Ashok Kumar Singh, Administrative Officer for the inordinate help rendered for the Seminar. I also thank Er. Alok Ranjan, Consultant-cum-I/C Housekeeping, who worked round the clock with his team in organizing and conducting the Seminar from registration to closing down. I thank all who worked behind the screen to make this Seminar successful. The timely assistance provided by Dr. A. K. Shahi, State Programme Officer and his team and Dr. Jayati Srivastava, Deputy Director, Training are acknowledged gratefully. Finally I thank God for everything including the wonderful weather.

[P.J. Joseph]
Convener & Director,
DRS, SHSB.