
Editorial

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The 9th LOWRAD International Conference on ‘The Effects of Low and Very Low Doses of Ionizing Radiation on Human Health and Biotopes’ was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 13–15 December 2010. This conference was organised by Prof. Dr. Jose Lopez Lopez from the Escola Universitària d’Enginyeria Tècnica Industrial de Barcelona, the World Council of Nuclear Workers (WONUC), WONUC-España and the Low Radiation International Network. The co-chairpersons of the Scientific Committee were Prof. Carmel Mothersill (Canada), Prof. Dimitri Bazyka (Ukraine) and myself. It was the occasion, like each year since 1999, of exchanges and discussions about the actual scientific, societal and economic issues raised by low doses of radiation. Some rewritten and expanded papers from the conference have been published in previous issues of this Volume of *IJLR*, and in this last issue of the Volume 8 we have chosen to publish the Abstracts selected by the Scientific Committee (see page 440).

In order to increase national security, notably in the airports, X-ray body scanners have been introduced in public places where the risk of terrorist attack is considered to be high. However, as usual when new equipment is developed, study of biological effects due to exposure to this equipment has not been anticipated. In this issue, *IJLR* is one of the first peer-reviewed journals to publish an article about the X-ray body scanners through a study by Correa et al. We hope that our journal will contribute significantly to the important debate about the public, occupational and professional exposure to X-rays.