



THE SOCIETY FOR RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The UK Associate Society Affiliated to 

The Society was formed in 1963 and received a Royal Charter in 2007. It has a range of Sector and Topic committees and a programme of scientific meetings plus outreach activities. It has over 1600 members plus some 500 IRPA Affiliated members from its Partner Societies.

A Remote Radiation Protection Training Initiative in the UK

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This poster describes the reasoning behind the launch of our webinar programme and the techniques developed to deliver it.

About SRP and AURPO



Founded in 1963 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 2007, **The Society for Radiological Protection (SRP)** is the UK's Professional and Learned Society for the field of Radiation Safety. The object of the Society is to "promote the science and art of radiation protection and allied fields for the public benefit" and it is the second largest professional body of its kind in the world.



The Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (AURPO) was founded in 1961 with the object of promoting safety and knowledge in the use of ionising and non-ionising radiations. Its membership primarily consists of radiation protection / safety professionals that work in higher education, research and teaching establishments with the principal aim of increasing knowledge and understanding of radiation protection through the promotion and interchange of information and best practice.

Origin of the Webinar Programme

Both SRP and AURPO run active events programmes. On average SRP runs 8 face to face events per year with attendance ranging from 20 – 100+ depending on the event, along with an Annual Conference attracting up to 350 attendees. AURPO also runs an Annual Conference along with ad-hoc workshops.

Following the first lockdown in the UK in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, concern was raised by both SRP and AURPO about how best to support the Continuing Professional Development of its membership.

A decision was made to enter a partnership and trial a webinar programme consisting of 8 one-hour lunch time learning sessions. The webinars were delivered by members of both organisations and were free to both members and non-members of the organisations. Microsoft Teams Live was chosen as the platform to deliver the webinars, and a recording of the webinar was placed on SRP's YouTube Channel following the event.

Given the success of the initial trial with between 207 – 320 attendees per webinar, including members from both organisations, the public and wider international radiation protection profession, in October a decision was made to continue the free webinar programme indefinitely and establish a working group tasked with the management of the programme.

To date 11 webinars have been run broadly covering two cohorts, (a) those persons requiring introductory or refresher training on a certain subject and (b) those who wish for more advanced treatment of a specialised area.

Programme to Date and Number of Attendees

Year	Date	Webinar Topic	No. of Attendees
2020	7th May	Internal Dosimetry - A Beginners Guide	320
	15th May	An Introduction to NIR - Safety Management	290
	19th June	An Introduction to Liquid Scintillation Counting	270
	2nd July	An Introduction to Decommissioning a Non-Nuclear Facility	207
	24th July	An Introduction to Gamma Spectroscopy	261
	11th Sept	How to Read Legislation	228
	9th Oct	Radioactive Decay Calculations	260
	21st Jan	Introduction to NORM	240
2021	4th Feb	Introduction to IR(ME)R	168
	12th Feb	Introduction to Proton Beam Therapy Design	167
	11th Mar	Introduction to Clearance	412
	25th Mar	Review of Radioactive Liquids	-
	1st April	Activity Assessment of Radioactive Waste	-
	6th April	TBC	-
	22nd April	Radiological Risk Assessment	-
	27th May	ONR Safeguard Role	-
	3rd June	Sealed Source Management and Security	-

Key Findings & Feedback

A survey is run after each webinar to collect feedback from the audience and is periodically assessed by the Webinar Working Group. To date the following feedback and observations have been raised:

- The webinars have provided access to Continuing Professional Development to a much wider audience than would be able to attend a face-to-face event. This is due to both affordability, logistics and time commitment.
- Remote training does not obviate the necessity for practical training in some areas, however, it is a valuable method and resource that is both convenient and cost effective.

Feedback Quotes include:

- "The webinar is a great format. It's great to be able to do CPD when I can't travel."
- "Loving these series of webinars ... I hope after COVID-19 you will continue to offer ... online webinars for those who can't travel easily ..."

Conclusions and Moving Forward:

The webinar programme run jointly by AURPO and SRP was first proposed in March 2020 as a result of the implementation of the first UK COVID-19 lockdown, recognising the need to provide ongoing opportunities for radiation protection / safety professionals to maintain competence during the lock down restrictions through Continuing Professional Development.

The programme began in May 2020 and so far 11 one-hour lunchtime webinars (i.e. more than one per month) have been run covering a range of subjects of interest to all sectors, with attendance from the UK and other countries. A further 6 webinars have been scheduled in the coming months. The average attendance at each webinar has been over 250, and the feedback from participants has been universally positive.

SRP and AURPO have established a 'Webinar Working Group' to ensure a continued programme of free webinars. The aspiration is to continue with these webinars even after the pandemic finally draws to a close because many organisations (such as universities) have been severely and adversely affected financially by the knock-on effects of the pandemic. As such they have next to no funds available to support continued training of their employees. It may take years for them to recover.

Whilst it is recognised that such webinars can't in themselves help to maintain practical competencies, in light of the successes to date and cost-effectiveness, it is intended for the programme to continue post-COVID restrictions and into the future "new normal" of the radiation protection / safety professional's working life.



Figure 1 - Example Social Media Adverts for the SRP / AURPO Webinars

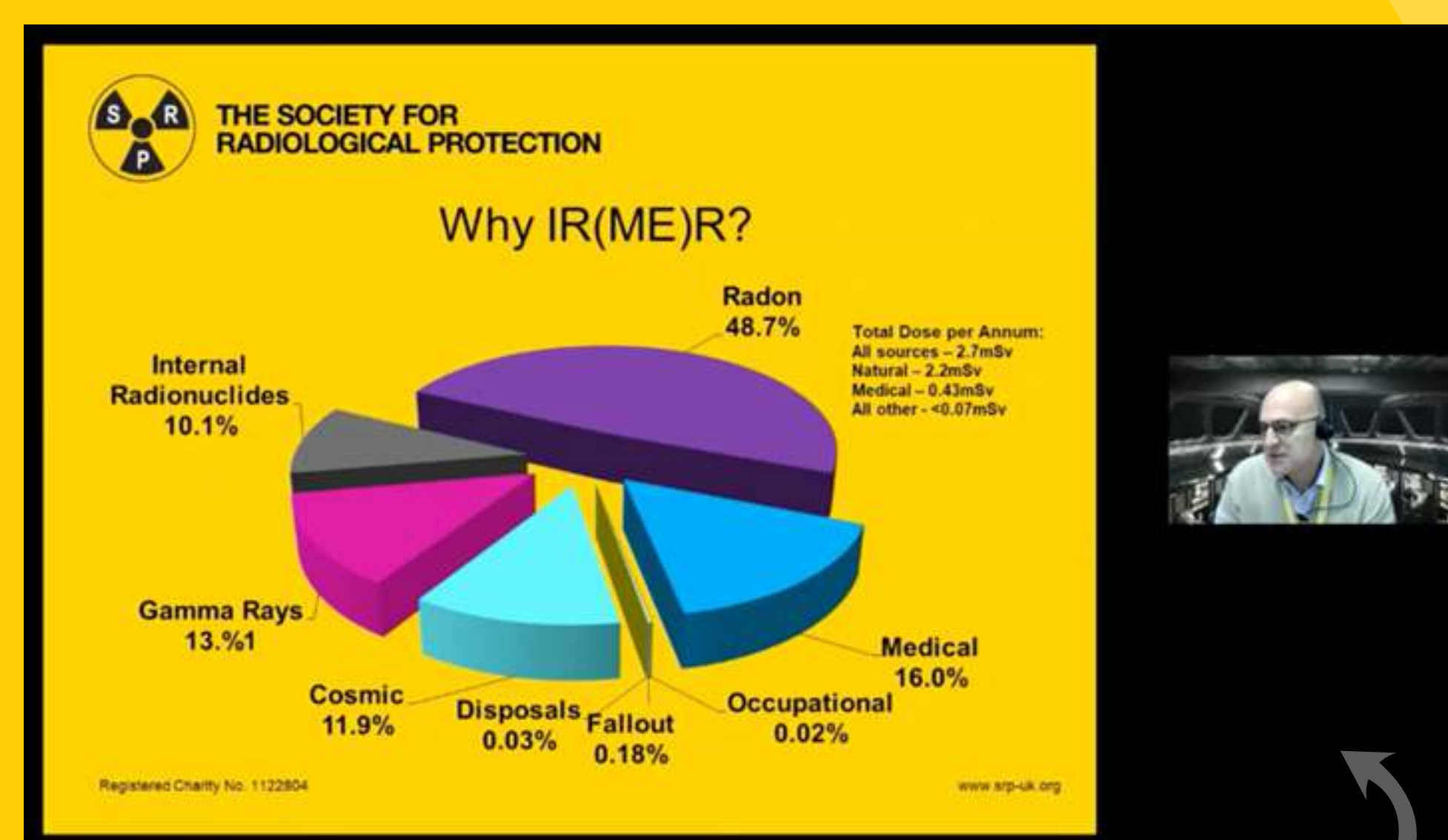


Figure 2 - Example Webinar Screen Shot

Methods

- The webinars are hosted on an MS Teams Live Events platform.
- It was aspired to run on average one webinar per month for the duration of the pandemic.
- Format is a talk (45-60 minutes) to a specific topic by an expert in that field followed by a live Q+A session (15-20 minutes)
- Attendees can 'register' for a webinar with SRP.
- Attendees can send a code back to SRP in order to formally claim a CPD point for that particular webinar.
- Most webinars are recorded for SRP's [YouTube channel](#) and all questions are captured in a document posted on the [SRP website](#)

¹ CMS-I Jacobs, Warrington, UK; and Society for Radiological Protection. ² EDF Energy, Bristol, UK; and the Society of Radiological Protection. ³ Medical Physics, Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester, Dorset, UK; and the Society for Radiological Protection. ⁴ Radiation Protection Office, the University of Liverpool, UK; and the Association of University Radiation Protection Officers.