

Radiation protection webinar

Organizers:



April 26, 2021, 15:00 (CET), webinar on

The Chernobyl Accident – what we have learnt, and what we still need to learn

Webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/8205066086>

Meeting ID: 820 506 6086



Prof Gerry Thomas, PhD; Professor of Molecular Pathology ICL, Director of Chernobyl Tissue Bank Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery & Cancer, Imperial College London

The 26th of April 2022 marks the 36th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in what is now Ukraine. It is known for being the worst nuclear accident in history, but it has also afforded us the opportunity to better understand the health effects of radiation at low doses. Only a small number of first responders received high doses (> 1 Sv) of radiation at the accident site, whereas many thousands of people received much lower doses. This talk will focus on what we understand of the health effects of radiation in general, and in particular the health effects on the general population resident in the areas of Belarus and Ukraine that lie closest to the reactor site. Despite what you might read in the popular press, thyroid cancer in those who were children at the time of the accident remains the only radiological effect as a direct result of exposure of the local population. The talk will dispel some of the myths propagated since accident, and seek to explain why our reaction to radiation exposure may result in greater health effects than exposure to the radiation itself.

Prof Gerry Thomas Bio

Gerry Thomas is Professor of Molecular Pathology at Imperial College London and has spent most of her research career on understanding the health effects of the Chernobyl accident. She established the Chernobyl Tissue Bank in 1998, and has published extensively on the molecular pathology of thyroid cancer in children and young people. Following the Fukushima accident, she was asked to explain the health risks of low dose radiation on both broadcast and written media in the UK and internationally. She has been involved in a number of expert groups for the IAEA, UNSCEAR and IARC, the most recent of these focusing on thyroid monitoring after nuclear accidents. She has also been asked to provide advice to governments on communication of radiation risk, as well as providing expert advice to government agencies with regard to the health risks of nuclear power. She is a member of the UK's Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to Science and Public Health.