



TCU PLACE, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA | JULY 23-27, 2023

Reports on the 11th International Conference on Isotopes (11ICI)

Editorial Note

(by Meera Venkatesh, Chair for Publication, WCI)

July 2023 was an eventful month for the World Council of Isotopes, as the 11th International Conference on Isotopes was held at Saskatoon from July 22-27, 2023, and the WCI President's baton was passed on from Prof. Jeong Kyung Kim to Dr. Paul Dickman. 11ICI was a great success, as you would see from the highlights provided by the Conference Chairs, Dr. Lidia Matei and Prof. Chary Rangacharyulu.

As all of you, our readers are aware, the number of conferences held worldwide in areas of relevance to WCI are large and growing. Yet, the ICI events are unique in some ways. ICI covers a wide range of topics bringing professionals from various Isotope related specialties together in one platform, facilitating interactions, exchange of ideas, collaborations, and new directions. This is extremely useful in taking the research from labs to society. Although the researchers acknowledge the need and influence of supporting industries in carrying out their research, the topical conferences focusing on specific topics seldom address the critical issues related to other industries. In this aspect, the 11ICI stood out by bringing in topics of relevance and importance to the table through interesting panel discussions, fully aligning with the main mandate of the WCI to bring the fruits of isotope applications to the global society. Hence the Executive Committee of WCI felt it to be important, appropriate and timely to publish the major highlights of the 11ICI for the benefit of the WCI members who could not participate at the conference in person. It is also timely to 'listen' to the thoughts of the outgoing and incoming Presidents of the WCI, and on behalf of all the readers, I take this opportunity to thank Prof. Kim for the excellent leadership and guidance he provided during his tenure and welcome Dr. Paul Dickman, who has a proven impressive record of shouldering leadership positions and steering the organization to success.

Owing to the time constraints, the August issue of the Newsletter is merged with September issue and offered to the readers.

We hope you will find the information very useful, and we also hope that you will plan and participate at the 12 ICI to be held in Italy!

Part 1: Highlights of the Conference (by Lidia Matei and Chary Rangacharyulu, 11ICI Co-Chairs)



(Photo: 11ICI Welcome Reception, Sunday July 23, 2023)

The 11th International Conference on Isotopes (11ICI) organized by Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and Discover Saskatoon under the umbrella of the World Council on Isotopes, has been held on July 23 – 27th, 2023 at TCU Place, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada.

Organized as several sessions in five tracks concerned with various aspects of isotopes from production of isotopes, isotopes supply and demand, the impact of policies and regulations and the public perception about radiation, this conference was well received by 300 international participants from over 20 countries. 35 sponsors and exhibitors from the industry supported the conference. Themed “*Isotopes Around Us, their Applications and Beyond*”, The 11th International Conference on Isotopes brought a broad range of perspectives.

11ICI was opened by a blessing ceremony performed by Lyndon Linklater traditional Knowledge Keeper and storyteller. In his opening remarks Lyndon emphasized the importance of the diversity and community to make progress on key areas of scientific development. He pointed out the role of indigenous community in the development of traditional medicine and the significance of collaboration.



(Photo left to right: Baljit Singh and John Root).

Professor Baljit Singh, Vice President of Research, University of Saskatchewan and John Root, Executive Director, Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation welcomed the delegates on Sunday July 23, 2023.



Corey Tochor *(Photo)*, Member of Parliament, Saskatoon-University, Saskatchewan has addressed his welcoming remarks highlighting the important role of the nuclear industry for Canada.



In her opening remarks on Monday July 24th, Pam Damoff *(Photo)*, Member of Parliament, Government of Canada highlighted the importance of medical isotopes in our lives and affirmed the strong support from the Canadian Government for the development of new technologies to advance the production of isotopes. During her speech, Ms. Damoff announced federal funding of \$410,600 to Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation from Prairies Economic Development Canada (Prairies Canada) to develop three new compounds: sodium fluoride (Na^{18}F), ^{18}F -PSMA and ^{68}Ga chloride.

Joe McBrearty, President and CEO of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) announced a [new agreement](#) between CNL and Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Nuclear Innovation to increase production of ^{225}Ac via irradiation of ^{226}Ra .

Paul Schaffer, Associate Laboratory Director, TRIUMF and Professor Syed Qaim, Forschungszentrum Julich, set the tone of the technical sessions of 11ICI through their impressive, invited talks on the ongoing innovative works of production of medical isotopes for therapy and diagnostics as well as the global endeavors of innovative methodologies of production of isotopes.



(Photo left to right: Daniel B. Poneman, Rumina Velshi, Amy Gottschling,, Mohammad Khaleel and Paul T. Dickman)

At the Panel Discussion Session on 'Policy Perspectives' moderated by Paul T. Dickman, Senior Policy Fellow, Argonne National Laboratories, incoming President of WCI, Rumina Velshi, President Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Amy Gottschling Vice President, Science, Technology & Commercial Oversight at Atomic Energy of Canada, Mohammad Khaleel, Associate Laboratory Director,

National Security Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Daniel B. Poneman, President and CEO, Centrus Energy Corporation examined critical areas on safety regulations, non-proliferation measures, sustainable production methods, international cooperation, and public perception.

During the Radioisotopes Production plenary sessions key experts have presented the latest advancements in the production technologies worldwide. Bernard Ponsard (SCK CEN – BR2 Reactor, Belgium), Renata Mikolajczak (Polatom, Poland), Mark Harfensteller (ITM, Germany), Richard Wiens (Nordion, Canada) and Michiel Van de Voorde (SCK CEN, Belgium) outlined the activities and progress on the production of radioisotopes. Hiroki Oigawa of Japanese Atomic Energy Agency presented the resumed activities of isotope production in Japan post-Fukushima incident.

For the first time in the history of ICI events, a session was dedicated exclusively to the Radiation Metrology and Standards. Moderated by Dr. Raphael Galea from the Ionizing Radiation Standards Group at the National Research Council, Canada, the session highlighted the latest work in the area of activity standardization and production of ultrapure isotopes as well as studies on decay data.

Another novel technical session on the topic of Nuclear Forensics, chaired by Ike Dimayuga, Senior Researcher, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, brought together Canadian experts who presented the capabilities and developments at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, new investigative methodologies in the area of radiochronometry and determination of signatures of nuclear materials and

radioactive sources. Dr. John Duke from the University of Alberta presented his work on the analysis of low-grade uranium ore by instrumental neutron activation analysis using a medical isotopes cyclotron.

A special panel session of Marie Curie, Harriett Brooks and Sylvia Fedoruk was held to acknowledge the prominent roles of women nuclear scientists internationally and locally.



(Photo from left to right: Kirsten Laurin-Kovitz, Kaylyn Olshanoski, Amy Gottschling, Melissa Denecke, Amber Doney)

In a conversation moderated by Amber Doney, Chair of the Board of the local chapter Women in Mining/Women in Nuclear-SK (WiM/WiN-SK) esteemed specialists in the field talked about the influence of women in the scientific world and their role in returning the knowledge to the society and giving back

to the community. Melissa Denecke, Director of the IAEA Physical and Chemical Sciences Division, Amy Gottschling, Vice President, AECL, Kirsten Laurin-Kovitz, Associate Director for Nuclear Technologies and National Security at Argonne National Laboratory, US have shared their thoughts with the Kaylyn Olshanoski, a graduate student in Physics and Engineering Physics at the University of Saskatchewan. The discussion focused on the challenges faced by young professionals in accessing the scientific environment.

The participants were reminded of ubiquitous presence of isotopes and their influence in scientific research in a session on isotopes in Cosmos and Astrophysics chaired by Professor Chary Rangacharyulu from the University of Saskatchewan, 11ICI Co-Chair.

The inclusion of the track "*Isotopes and Nuclear Physics*", dealing with fundamental data for production and application of radioisotopes, was unique and welcomed by many participants. A Plenary lecture, two oral sessions (one on nuclear data and the other on radiation metrology), and the display of about 15 posters attracted

considerable attention. An interesting talk was presented by Jose Alonso (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Nuclear Physics and Isotopes Production II session on Thursday, July 27th on a new family of high current cyclotrons with mA currents. Such cyclotrons, originally designed for neutrino physics studies, offer possibilities for use in isotope production, and is an example of a basic nuclear science project finding uses in applications.



(Photo from left to right: Pam Damoff, Ram Mullur, Ira Goldman, Jim Harvey, Todd Asmuth, Bernard Ponsard, Travis Besanger and Lidia Matei, 11ICI Co-Chair).

Continuing the tradition of the International Conference on Isotopes, the 11ICI hosted the Isotopes Demand and Supply panel discussion. Moderated by Bernard Ponsard, Stakeholder Manager Radioisotopes at the BR2 Reactor operated by the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK CEN, and member of the WCI Executive Committee, the panel brought together key representatives from operators of

technologies of the isotopes industry at the table. Pam Damoff, Member of Parliament, Government of Canada highlighted the Canadian key role on the development of isotopes technologies as a contributor to a reliable supply chain for medical isotopes. The discussion between representatives of the industry, Ira Goldman, Lantheus, Ram Mullur, CNL, Todd Asmuth, SHINE, Jim Harvey, Northstar and Travis Besanger, Kinectrics was focused on highlighting once more the need to strengthen the supply of most demanded isotopes worldwide particularly for therapy.

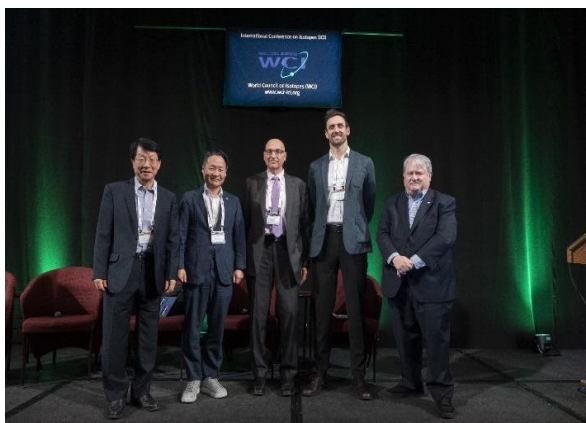
The Isotopes and Nuclear Power panel moderated by the *Andrew Thiele*, Executive Director, Canadian Nuclear Isotopes Council (CNIC) brought together specialists in the



(Photo from left to right: John Takala (CAMECO), Kebbi Hughes (ORANO), William Cooper (ARC), Terry Campkin (OPG) and Kris Pasebo (Westinghouse); moderator Andrew Thiele (CNIC))

isotopes extraction and mining and representatives of the nuclear power industry to discuss their role in production of key isotopes with applications in medicine and clean energy. John Takala Director SHEQ Systems, Cameco presented aspects related to the role of isotopes in the uranium extraction. Kebbi Hughes, Senior Geo-environmental Scientist ORANO opened the

discussion about the proactive environmental management of uranium milling waste presenting the progress on the site rehabilitation at the Orano site, McClean Lake, Northern Saskatchewan. The conversation continued with the participation of William Cooper Vice President of Engineering ARC and Terry Campkin OPG who touched upon to pics related to the production of isotopes using nuclear power reactors and the role of SMRs in production of isotopes of interest.



(Photo from left to right: Jong Kyung Kim, Keon Wook Kang, Paul Locke, Jon-Michael Murray, and Paul Dickman)

The WCI Presidents' Forum, panel discussion on 'Public perceptions about Radiation' was a unique and different theme touching upon the society, communication and soft aspects of radiation related information. A detailed report on this panel is provided later.

The several topical sessions (www.11ici.org) covered varied diverse topics related to Isotopes and their uses, specifically having invited talks on current developments, exciting prospects and future directions.

11ICI was prefaced by a hands-on summer school organized by the University of Saskatchewan and Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, on July 20-23rd, 2023. For three days 14 students, have attended lectures and assisted to practical experiments conducted by experts in the field. Students were engaged in the measurements of gamma ray attenuation and range of alpha particles to recognize the distinct energy/intensity loss mechanisms of these radiations and their roles in medical imaging and radiation therapy. Furthermore, they witnessed PET imaging and targetry at the cyclotron of Fedoruk Centre.

Valery Radchenko, Researcher, TRIUMF Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia *Ekaterina Dadachova*, Professor of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Fedoruk Centre Chair, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, *Andrea Armstrong*, Research Scientist, Nuclear Operations and Facilities, McMaster University, Canada, *Michael Bradley*, Professor, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, University of Saskatchewan and *Chary Rangacharyulu*, Professor, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, University of Saskatchewan held lectures and guided the hands-on experiments on physical sciences, radiation physics and biomedical sciences.



(Photo: 11ICI Summer School group, courtesy of Elaheh Khozeimeh, Research Officer, TRIUMF)

Neil Quigley, Global Product Manager, Isotope Technologies Munich and *Stephen Happel*, R&D Director, TrisKem International, have discussed about the challenges and opportunities of the industry operating in the isotopes landscape.

The summer school was very well received by the isotopes community, building the framework for other similar initiatives to pre-face the ICI events in the future.

As an appreciation and encouragement to the young scientists, the presentations (more than 90) of young researchers were reviewed by a judging panel of four experts and the outstanding contribution was awarded the Best Poster Award (award

kindly granted by the Journal of Nuclear Engineering), and four other high-quality papers close to the best one were also acknowledged with Honorary Mentions of Best Abstracts for oral presentations.

Many thanks to the members of the judging panel: Professor Flavia Groppi, (University of Milan, Italy), Meera Venkatesh (retired, IAEA), Renata Mikołajczak (POLATOM) and Ingo Spahn, (Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH, Germany) for their time and effort to review and select the best contributions to the conference.



Bryce Nelson (*Photo right*), PhD. Student at the University of Alberta received the Best Abstract Award sponsored by the Journal of Nuclear Engineering for his paper titled: First In Vivo And Phantom Imaging of Cyclotron-Produced ^{133}La as a Theranostic Radionuclide for ^{225}Ac and ^{135}La . The award was presented by David Buckingham (*photo left*), Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, during the Gala Dinner held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.



(Photo: WCI - ICI flag handoff; left to right: Lidia Matei, 11ICI Co-chair, Professor Flavia Groppi (University of Milan, Italy) and Gaia Pupillo (INFN Legnaro, Italy), 12ICI Hosts)

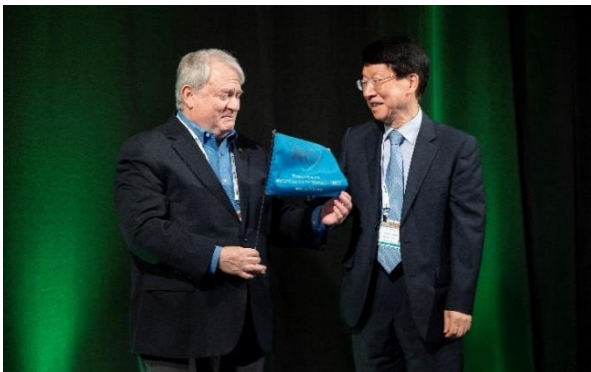
The Gala Dinner provided the opportunity to acknowledge everyone's contribution to the success of the International Conference on Isotopes. 11ICI Chair's awards have been presented to Dr. Lidia Matei, Corporate Business Officer, Fedoruk Centre, 11ICI Co-Chair and Peter D'Amico, Director Business Development, member of the 11ICI Advisory Committee.

The WCI President, Professor Jong Kyung Kim, announced the decision of the WCI Executive Committee regarding the selection of the host for the 12ICI. Chaired by Professor Flavia Groppi, University of Milan, the 12ICI will be held in Florence, Italy in 2026.



Three main events marked the last day of the conference. Professors Steven Biegalski, Georgia Institute of Technology and Andrew Grosvenor, University of Saskatchewan moderated the panel discussion on Isotopes in the Environment among specialists from the industry. Jeff Zimmer (Photo) Laboratory Manager at the Saskatchewan

Research Council, pointed out the role of SRC in the assessment of the isotopes contaminants on the environment.



(Photo left to right: Paul T. Dickman WCI incoming President receives the WCI flag from Professor Jong Kyung Kim, WCI outgoing President)

During the closing ceremony, Professor Jong Kyung Kim passed on the role of WCI President to Mr. Paul T. Dickman, symbolically by handing over the WCI flag. Lidia Matei and Chary Rangacharyulu, 11ICI Co-chairs highlighted the most significant aspects of the conference and acknowledged the remarkable contributions to the conference and presented honorary mentions

to Best Poster and Best Abstracts at the recommendation of the scientific judging committee. Congratulations to all recipients!

More than 150 delegates attended the technical tours at the Canadian Light Source, Saskatchewan Cyclotron Facility and Alard Roozen Imaging Suite at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on the Usask campus.

Although impacted by various factors such as travel and other events shifted to 2023 due to COVID, through a continuous effort marked by three pre-conference webinars held on April 28, 2022, September 28, 2022 and January 26, 2023 with themes within the topics of the conference: *Demand and Supply of Isotopes, Isotopes and their Applications in Life Sciences and Isotopes and Nuclear Power*, the 11ICI brought new elements to the ICI structure.

Despite numerous challenges in the conference planning, the success of the 11ICI proved the collaborative, strong and powerful character of our community. The organizers are hopeful that the new sessions, series of webinars and summer school will become integral part of the ICI for the benefit of the members of industry, academia, future professionals and society at large.

Part 2: Highlights from the Conference Sessions - Forum on “Public Perception about Radiation” (Report by the moderators Jong Kyung Kim and Paul Dickman)

The WCI President’s Forum which was held on the third day of the Conference aimed to address the public perception of radiation risks and the efforts of decision-makers/radiation experts on "how to overcome the fear of radiation exposure felt by the general public."

A total of three panelists, one from each field of science, medicine, and social science, were invited. Each panelist presented their perspectives from their respective areas of expertise.

Dr. Keon Wook Kang, a professor from the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Seoul National University Hospital, presented a talk entitled "Radiation Phobia in Korea Provoked by the Fukushima Accident." He emphasized that the Fukushima nuclear accident has provoked fear of low dose radiation (LDR), even among medical professionals. Some radiologists, who conduct ultrasonography, refused to examine patients who received PET/CT exams on the same day. Despite the estimated dose being well below 1 mSv per year, they declined to treat the patient, citing ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable). This is more of an emotional reaction than a response based on scientific reasoning. Although people often believe that medical doctors are experts in radiation safety, this is not necessarily the case. As such, education on radiation safety should be reinforced in the medical school curriculum.

Dr. Kang also addressed the fear surrounding seafood consumption in Korea, triggered

by the plan to release treated water from Fukushima NPPs. Even though the estimated radiation dose from such seafood is negligible, public trust is undermined, in part, by experts who exaggerate the risk from such trivial doses. Governments, authorities, and radiation safety experts should consistently communicate with the public to debunk the myths and phobias that have been deeply entrenched by decades of media gaslighting.

Dr. Paul Locke, a professor from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, presented a talk entitled "Radiation Risk Communication from Science to Practice: Some Lessons Learned (and To Be Learned)." His talk sought to emphasize six major points and was focused on how research about risk communication can inform radiation risk communication in practice. The six points are:

1. Risk communication is an interdisciplinary field.
2. Lay perceptions classify radiation risk by source first and dose second.
3. Risk = 'hazard' + 'social context.'
4. Communication is a two-way street.
5. The deficit reduction model does not work.
6. Two ways to think about risk communication in the field.

Dr. Locke particularly emphasized the third point. It is essential to remember that communities and members of the public evaluate radiation risk based on both social factors and science. These social factors include things like whether the radiation exposure is voluntary, the level of control over the exposure, the entity causing the exposure, and perhaps most importantly whether there is a trust relationship between the risk communicator and the audience. He quoted the words of Dr. Vincent Covello, an international expert on risk communication: "People need to know that you care before they care what you know." Dr. Locke, as a technical expert, stated that "our natural tendency is to lead with the science – but that might not be the most

successful way to begin communications about radiation risk.”

Mr. Jon-Michael Murray, Nuclear Policy Manager of the Clean Air Task Force (CATF), presented on low dose radiation (LDR) from the perspective of a climate-focused non-profit. Low dose radiation standards are inextricably linked to the linear-no-threshold (LNT) dose response model. Most authoritative scientific bodies accept the continued use of the LNT model, but it is highly questionable at low doses. However, current low radiation standards based on LNT impose high costs on nuclear energy and society. Thus, CATF is concerned with low dose radiation standards to the extent that they may unnecessarily adversely impact public health, safety, and welfare by incurring various costs.

New low dose radiation research can lead to changing standards but will be time-consuming and challenging to implement. Standards could in theory also be changed now in lieu of new research, but any changing of standards will face entrenched fear. Regardless of formal changes in standards, public health, safety, and welfare should be emphasized.

During the Question-and-Answer session, the panel was challenged to consider how the nuclear industry can strike a balance between maintaining safety standards based on the LNT model while incorporating recent scientific findings and advancements in dose assessment and risk management. There was a diversity of views but generally agreed that regulatory frameworks and standards must address risk-informed approaches to radiation protection. Additional questions concerning the comparison of public perceived risk versus actual risk highlighted the difficulty in overcoming social and cultural barriers and reemphasizing that “People need to know that you care before they care what you know.”

The tradition of the WCI Presidents Forum is to provide thoughtful commentary to the delegates on current issues affecting the industry and advancement of technology. The Conference was fortunate to have three excellent speakers for this controversial topic.

Part 3: Views from WCI Presidents Thoughts on the Conference (by WCI's outgoing President, Jong Kyung Kim)

The global COVID-19 pandemic, declared by the WHO in January 2020, posed serious challenges to the 10ICI. At that time, many expected participants canceled their registrations at the last minute, and the decision to proceed with the event itself remained uncertain until the final moments. Around 40+ Chinese experts who were expected to be there ended up not being able to participate. No one could have anticipated that the global COVID-19 pandemic would persist for three years and four months. As a result, the 11ICI, which was initially scheduled for June 2022, had to be postponed for over a year. This led to increased concerns for the 11ICI Organizing Committee in addition to deliberations between committee members. The committee was forced to add a number of items to their agenda, where they had to make new decisions on everything. Therefore, it was no surprise that they had to modify the existing programs. It was also difficult for authors to accept that their submitted abstract papers had to be put on hold for a year. Some papers were already published in specialized academic journals, making it impossible to consider them as new information, which then resulted in cancellations of their submissions. Speakers who were invited to participate in the conference would have had to reschedule as the conference was postponed for over a year. Some of them might have faced difficulties in attending the event due to changes in their respective departments. Moreover, numerous measures had to be implemented, including extending the contract with the event PCO and reconfirming the venue arrangements. Because of all this, I extend my gratitude once again to the Conference Officials and members of the Technical Program Committee for their dedicated efforts in preparing an outstanding program for the 11ICI event until the end.

Despite the aforementioned challenges we faced, the 11ICI was indeed a genuine success. The programs were very well prepared, resulting in the session presentation rooms being packed with attendees. In particular, in the Plenary Sessions, the

expertise of the invited panelists led to engaging discussions and valuable information being exchanged, attracting a large number of attendees. At this conference, 11ICI, new activities were introduced, such as awarding prizes for the Best Abstract Paper Presentation and Outstanding Poster Presentation. Although the event had around 300 participants, it was considered as enriching and excellent as any previous ICIs. However, it is regrettable that some experts from certain countries couldn't attend due to visa issues, and the participation of many European experts was somewhat lower than expected, which was also unfortunate. We hope that there will be no recurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic which persisted from the time of 10ICI until just before the 11ICI. As we look forward to the 12ICI, we anticipate continued quantitative growth in the number of participants by holding well-prepared scientific and technical programs, as well as a continuous improvement in the quality of presentation materials.

It has been 15 years since the establishment of WCI. By persistently and successfully hosting the ICI, WCI has provided a gathering venue for isotopes professionals worldwide and has played a pivotal role in promoting the peaceful use of isotopes for the better quality of humanity. So far, the WCI Newsletter has served as a means for WCI members to easily share the latest information in the isotopes field. We look forward to ongoing efforts to improve the Newsletter's quality and provide timely access to its trailblazing insight. Furthermore, WCI will continue to cooperate with the IAEA to provide technical advice and educational programs for developing countries. With bigger workshops and other related events, WCI aims to cultivate experts in the production, distribution, and application of isotopes in countries where isotope-related technologies are lacking.

I hope that WCI will continue to grow and develop through the active participation of isotope professionals with diverse expertise from around the world. Let us all work together for the continuous growth of a new WCI.

Highlighting the role of Isotopes in Modern Society (by Incoming President Paul Dickman)

I am honored and excited to assume my role as the President of the World Council on Isotopes. I am committed to expanding the WCI's communications efforts and platforms and increase global awareness of the critical role isotopes play in modern society.

I am fortunate to have worked with my predecessors including my friend Chang Sun Kang who was the first WCI President. I hope to build upon the leadership of Myung Chul Lee, Van Zyl de Villers, Nigel Stevenson, and Jong Kyung Kim. I am very pleased that I will be joined on this journey by my colleague, Bernard Ponsard, the WCI President-elect.

The story WCI members should tell is important: Isotopes have become indispensable tools in modern society and industry from cutting-edge medical diagnostics and treatments to ensuring the safety of vital infrastructure. Yet, despite their far-reaching significance, the public's awareness of the benefits of isotopes remains limited.

My mission as President of the WCI is to change that narrative and shed light on the remarkable ways in which isotopes drive innovation and enhance human well-being. From pioneering cancer treatments that target malignant cells with precision, minimizing harm to healthy tissues, to radiography essential to guaranteeing the integrity of bridges, tunnels, aircraft, and power plants. Isotopes contribute to a safer and more resilient environment and improve the lives of billions every day.

We need to expand our communication efforts to raise global awareness about the transformative power of isotopes. WCI is positioned expand its engagement with audiences worldwide, from policymakers and industry leaders to students and the public. Through strategic collaborations, educational campaigns, and dynamic platforms, we aim to highlight the extraordinary applications of isotopes and inspire a new generation of innovators. BUT we need your support and participation. WCI belongs to its members, and we need you to join us to raise awareness about the role of isotopes in advancing human progress.

I look forward to working with the WCI Secretariat and my colleagues on the Executive Committee and to our members worldwide in our common goal to promote safe and environmentally sound isotope technologies for global wellbeing.