

An update from AIRRS, the Academic, Industrial and Research Radiation Safety Section of the Health Physics Society.

What have we been doing?

In July, at the Annual Health Physics Society Meeting in Madison, WI, we held a well attended roundtable special session that focused on current challenges facing health physicists in academic, industrial, and research radiation protection. The panel included eight seasoned AIRRS health physicists representing six different institutions. AIRRS also sponsored a refreshment break during the session to provide an opportunity to meet other radiation safety professionals.



2025 AIRRS Roundtable at the HPS Annual Meeting in Madison, WI. Panelists included (l to r): Steve Grimm; Ike Hall, Emory University; Rachel Pope Nichols, University of Missouri; Anthony Davila, Louisiana State University; T. Michael Martin, Texas A&M University; and Andrew Najjar, Boston Children's Hospital. Panelists not pictured were Ninni Jacob; and Robert Hayes, North Carolina State University.

The AIRRS Business meeting took place after the session. The newly elected positions were announced: Angela Meng was welcomed to AIRRS as a new Board Member, and current Board Member Danny McClung was announced as the new President-Elect of

AIRRS. Alex Bakken now starts his term as the AIRRS Treasurer. Gratitude was then given to the AIRRS Board Members who have now completed their term - Latha Vasudevan, the Past President of AIRRS who devoted much time and effort to keeping AIRRS running smoothly, and Michael Martin who helped AIRRS as a Board Member since 2022. All past and current Board Member's contribution to AIRRS is appreciated and is very important to the success of the Society.



Current AIRRS President, Steve Grimm, with AIRRS Past-President, Latha Vasudevan

The AIRRS Board then discussed several initiatives to provide benefits to AIRRS members and support for opportunities for information exchange and for young health physics professionals.

What's coming up?

The AIRRS Board set up a task force to explore the feasibility of the following initiatives:

- Holding periodic on-line sessions, perhaps quarterly, to discuss a specific topic and provide opportunities for discussion. These would be available to all AIRRS members and could even be used to provide CE credits or useful necessary training, such as DOT shipment training;
- Providing discounts to AIRRS members taking the CHP exam;
- Providing support to local HPS chapters doing events related to AIRRS or to current regional radiation safety roundtables; and
- Collaborative partnerships with other organizations, such as CSHEMA, that have overlapping interests shared with AIRRS.

Also coming up in 2026 AIRRS will be taking nominations for the third Outstanding Radiation Safety Program award! This award recognizes the hard work performed by radiation safety professionals in academic, industrial or research institutions. Past winners include the radiation safety programs for the University of Massachusetts Lowell and the University of Utah.

Want to get involved?

There's a lot of work to be done in the AIRRS section. If and you would like to help out with any of those initiatives or in any other way, please contact us!