

Dr. John Harrison



Dr John Harrison was, until October 2015, Director of the Public Health England (PHE) Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) which has headquarters at Chilton, near Didcot, in Oxfordshire. He is now a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, and also retains an affiliation with PHE.

Dr. Harrison joined the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) in 1974 having gained a B.Sc. in Biochemistry at University College, Wales, and Ph.D. in Biochemistry at St. George's Hospital Medical School, University of London. His doctoral thesis dealt with the biological behaviour of indium and gallium radioisotopes and their use in radiopharmaceuticals.

For many years, he was Head of the Radionuclide Effects Group of Radiation Effects Department within NRPB. More recently, he has been Head of Dose Assessments Department and later Deputy Director for Research in the same institute which has a broadened remit as the Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE), first within the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and now part of Public Health England (PHE).

Dr. Harrison was a member of the UK Government Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters (CERRIE), which was set up to examine claims that radiation risks from internal emitters are being underestimated by orders of magnitude. He was coordinator of the European FP7 SOLO research project (full title: Epidemiological Studies of Exposed Southern Urals Populations), bringing together scientists from European member states and the Russian Federation. This project ran until 2015 and was concerned with establishing dose - response relationships for cancer and non-cancer disease induced by radionuclides and external radiation as a result of working at the Russian Mayak plutonium production plant or living near to the Techa River into which radioactive waste was discharged. Dr. Harrison was UK Representative of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) Kingdom from 2013 to 2015 and has since acted as a consultant to UNSCEAR.

Dr. Harrison has contributed substantially to the work of ICRP over many years and is currently chairman of ICRP Committee 2 and a member of Main Commission; he is also chairman of a Task Group on the use of Effective dose and contributes to the work of a number of other task groups. Current work with Oxford Brookes University and PHE is largely in support for ICRP and associated projects. Dr Harrison has also been appointed as a member of the UK Department of Health, Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Radiological Protection.