



U.S. NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

Perspectives from the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

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Developing a Long-Term Strategy for
Low-Dose Radiation Research in the U.S.

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Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS)



Goal of ISCORS

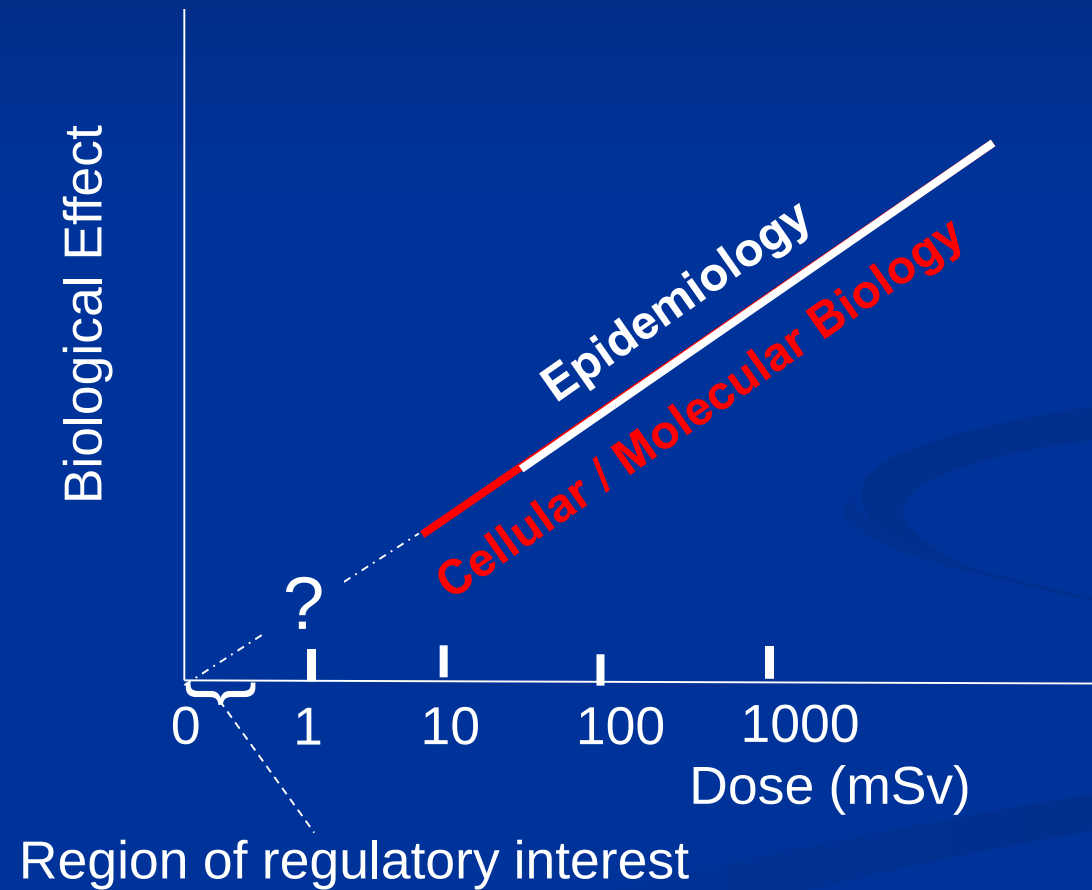
The goal of ISCORS is to improve consistency in Federal radiation protection programs. Specific objectives include:

- Facilitating consensus on acceptable levels of radiation risk;
- Promoting consistent risk-assessment and risk-management approaches in setting and implementing standards for protection from ionizing radiation;
- Promoting completeness and coherence of Federal standards for radiation protection;
- Identifying interagency issues and coordinating their resolution.

ISCORS Program of Work

- ISCORS members have an interest in, and responsibilities for, **radiation protection** of workers, members of the public, and the environment.
- Quarterly teleconferences and meetings amongst ISCORS members; one public meeting each year
- Establishment of subcommittees to address topics of interest
 - Risk Harmonization
 - Federal Guidance
 - NORM
 - MARSSIM

Science and Radiation Protection



Technical Basis for Regulatory Change

- The NRC's radiation protection regulations, policies, and guidance are informed by operational experience, the findings and recommendations of national and international authoritative scientific advisory bodies, academic and government research, and its own professional and technical judgment.
- The authoritative scientific advisory bodies include:
 - Internationally: UNSCEAR, ICRP and IAEA
 - Domestically: National Academies and NCRP

Process for Changing Regulations

- The NRC initiates a new rule or a change to an existing rule when there is a need to do so to protect the public health and safety. Rulemaking may be initiated:
 - by the Commission at its own instance,
 - recommendation by another agency of the United States, or
 - on the petition of any interested person.
- Section 2.802 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), “Petition for rulemaking—requirements for filing,” provides an opportunity for any interested person to petition the Commission to issue, amend, or rescind any regulation in 10 CFR chapter I.

Views on high priority research

- Most NRC-sponsored research is confirmatory in nature.
- Interest in epidemiology studies amongst occupational workers exposed to low dose, low dose rate external and internal radiation (e.g., million-man study; INWORKS)
- NRC is a sponsor of NAS and NCRP reports and commentaries