

# The History of ICRP and the Evolution of its Policies

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**Abstract**—Within 12 months of the discovery of X rays in 1895, papers appeared in the literature reporting adverse effects from high exposure. In 1925, the first International Congress of Radiology, held in London, considered the need for a protection committee, which it established at its second congress in Stockholm in 1928. This paper celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICRP by tracing the history of the development of its policies, and identifying a few of the personalities involved from its inception up to the modern era. The paper follows the progress from the early controls on worker doses to avoid deterministic effects, through the identification of stochastic effects, to the concerns about public exposure and increasing stochastic risk estimates. The key features of the recommendations made by ICRP from 1928 up to the most recent in 2007 are identified.

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*Keywords:* Occupational exposure; Public exposure; Medical exposure; Stochastic; Deterministic



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