

Optimizing the Scientific Regulatory and Societal Impact of the DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program

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This project is responsible for optimizing the impact of the research of the DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program through communication and outreach. The project operates and is responsible for the scientific content of a Website which follows the progress of low dose radiation research at <http://lowdose.tricity.wsu.edu>. This Site provides a vehicle for dissemination of the scientific advances derived from the DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program to the researchers in the Program as well as to the scientific community and the public.

Information for Program investigators and other scientists is readily available on this Website. Scientists doing or interested in conducting research for the Low Dose Program can find Program contact information, information about the DOE Low Dose Research Program, and abstracts of the Program projects. WebPages are provided for each Program principle investigator to present additional information about their research, both inside and outside of the DOE Program. Funding opportunities from the DOE are listed on the Site, as well as links to other agencies and societies supporting radiation-related research. A calendar of upcoming scientific meetings related to research in the Program is provided on the Website, in addition to many helpful links and a large resource of low dose radiation references. A new database search was developed this year to allow users to perform keyword and topic searches to quickly retrieve bibliographic citations and research project information that fit the user's search criteria.

To facilitate a major scientific communication goal of the Optimization Project, Dr. Brooks has served on editorial, scientific and review committees and panels for DOE, NASA, NCRP, ICRU, and EPA. During the past year, Dr. Brooks has organized scientific sessions in national and international meetings of societies with interest in the effects of low doses of radiation. These sessions provided a means to relate research conducted by the DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program to the interests and needs of these societies. Dr. Brooks has also made scientific presentations at numerous meetings sharing scientific research results and trends from DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program with leading scientists in other related fields.

Another major goal of the Optimization Project is to communicate low dose radiation information from the scientists to the public. Scientific jargon has been translated to presentations and information on the Website so that it can be more clearly understood by those without a strong science background. The Low Dose Research Website stimulates questions from the public regarding health effects of low dose radiation. The Website and Optimization teams continue to provide a resource to address these queries. In an "Image Gallery," the Site provides links to interesting pictures illustrating some of the research in the program. Short slide shows give overviews of radiation topics at a student level. A timeline of the history of radiation biology, a glossary of radiation terms and many radiation-related links to help students and educators are also included on the Website.

Through the Website and other communication efforts, this Optimization Project disseminates information about the low dose radiation research of the DOE Low Dose Radiation Research Program.