

Sean M. Austin, MS, CHP, RSO

**Director of Training
Senior Health Physicist**

EDUCATION

M.S. Radiation Science, 1993, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

B.S. Health Physics, 1986, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

CERTIFICATIONS and TRAINING

Certified Health Physicist, American Board of Health Physics, 1997
re-certified: 2001, 2005

DOT & NRC Requirements for Shipping and Receiving RAM, June 2005

Nuclear Gauge Safety Training, Troxler Electronics, (included gauge transportation) June 2005

Authorized Users Review (on-line), National Institutes of Health, May 2004

Transportation of Radioactive Materials, Dangerous Goods International, November 2002

Radiation Safety for DOT, National Institutes of Health, March 1999

Radiation Safety in the Laboratory (1-day), National Institutes of Health, March 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2001 – Present Senior Health Physicist, Radiation Safety Academy

Provides consulting and training services to clients in the nuclear industry. Develops new training courses in health physics and operational radiation safety. Specializes in DOT & NRC requirements for shipping and receiving of radioactive material. Consulting projects include sealed source device registrations, license applications and amendments, safety plan development and revisions, radiation safety program audits, as well as conducting training at client facilities in radiation fundamentals, regulations, transportation of hazardous materials, low-level and mixed waste management, safety program inspections and audits, and other radiation safety related topics.

Is the RSO for the Academy's license authorizing the Academy to collect and analyze radiological samples as well as possess and use in training a variety of radioactive sources.

Served as an Alternate Project / QA manager (2001-2006) providing overall management of the functions for radiation safety and regulatory compliance support contract at the National Institutes of Health. The contract services include radiation safety inspections of over 9,000 research laboratories a year. Direct a staff of 4 health physicists to conduct daily on-site inspections, calibrate over 2,500 radiation survey instruments annually, inspect and leak test over 100 sealed sources and irradiators, inspect the cyclotrons quarterly, operate the hot lab, conduct environmental monitoring program, conduct weekly security inspections, provide incidence response services, prepare samples for analysis in the NIH radioanalytical laboratory, and prepare monthly performance and quality assurance reports to NIH. Manage subcontract with RSO, Inc to perform daily laboratory analyses of swipe samples, provide equipment and supplies, and provide backup staff for the Academy contract.

Assists with the recruitment, training, and coordination of Academy staffing, evaluation of staff performance, and overall contract liaison with the NIH Project Officer and NIH Contract Officer. Provides business management support for the contract, including contract modifications, licensing for radioactive materials, and office management. Also functions as the quality assurance officer for the contract with responsibilities for the quality of all aspects of contract performance.

**1994 – 2001 Chief, Radioactive Materials Control Section, (Supervisory Health Physicist)
Radiation Safety Branch, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD**

Responsible for overseeing the NIH program to manage the acquisition, inventory, and disposal of radioactive materials for approximately 3000 research laboratories. Supervised 5 government and 20-22 contract employees involved in these activities. This included preparation and review of reports summarizing activities related to the radioactive waste and radioactive materials acquisition, processing and delivery programs and ensures that these reports are technically correct and well documented. Oversaw the radioactive waste portion of a comprehensive laboratory waste contract that exceeded \$4 million, and the \$5 million per year radioactive materials acquisition program.

Served as the radioactive waste manager for the NIH Radiation Safety Branch since 1989. Acted as Assistant Project Officer for the Comprehensive Management Program for Chemical, Radioactive and Mixed Wastes contract. Assured NIH compliance with radioactive and mixed waste disposal regulations and policies, and maintained USNRC required radioactive waste disposal records for NIH. Reviewed radioactive and mixed waste manifests and inspected shipments of radioactive and mixed wastes to and from NIH. Developed the technical requirements for the chemical, radioactive and mixed waste service contract. Oversaw the establishment of a radioactive waste minimization program. Coordinated the development of NIH's computer database for all radioactive waste and radioactive materials management. Reviewed contractor invoices for radioactive waste services and audits contractor activities. Provided contract technical review for NIH Contracting Office. Conducted health and safety evaluations of new, proposed methods for processing radioactive waste to assure compliance with NRC license conditions.

Other duties and special projects included developing, implementing and overseeing the work to decommission a building at the NIH which formerly housed three medical waste incinerators. This work was performed in 1997 and the decommissioning plan was prepared in accordance with NRC NUREG CR-5849. In addition, he was responsible for developing and implementing a program to conduct an annual inventory of radioactive materials at the NIH. This was a new program and required extensive research to plan the activities of government staff, contract auditors and the computer programming specialists to create a method and procedure for conducting site visits and updating existing databases to reflect the actual radioactive items stored.

1987 – 1994 Health Physicist, Radiation Safety Branch, National Institutes of Health

Managed the NIH radioactive and mixed waste management operations for the Radiation Safety Branch (1989-1994). Provided health physics consultation and oversight for radioactive materials use in approximately 350 research laboratories. This required conducting surveys and safety evaluations of current and proposed uses of radiation and radioactive materials in biomedical research. Conducted evaluations of discharges of radioactive materials to the environment from activities such as waste incineration, sewer discharges, and releases due to routine operations. Served as the health physicist for the NIH cyclotron facility from 1988-1991. All work involved investigating internal and external radiation exposures to NIH and contractor personnel. Provided radiation safety training and consultation to researchers and routinely lectured in NIH radiation safety training courses. Reviewed protocols to use large amounts of radioactive materials in laboratories and in studies involving humans and animals. Performed inventories and leak tests of

sealed sources and irradiators. Conducted surveys and inspections of NIH laboratories and radiation producing equipment. Reviewed researcher application to order and use radioactive materials. Assisted in patient treatment involving the use of radioactive materials.

1987 Health Physics Technician, Bartlett Nuclear, Inc. Stationed at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Duties included conducting surveys of equipment and personnel, decontamination of equipment and personnel, and performing access checks to restricted areas.

PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Goldstein, D.S., Chang, P.C., Smith, C.B., Herscovitch, P., Austin, S.M., Eisenhofer, G., and Kopin, I.J., "Dosimetric Estimates for Clinical Positron Emission Tomographic Scanning After Injection of [18F]-6-Fluorodopamine", J Nucl Med. 32:102-110; 1991.

Austin, S.M., "A Study of the Volatilization of Iodine-125 During Flash Point Testing of Biomedical Mixed Waste Using Setaflash Closed-Cup Apparatus", thesis submitted to the Georgetown University Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, 1993.

Holcomb, W.H., Zoon, R.A., Austin, S.M., and Newman, N.E., "Radiation Safety Program at the National Institutes of Health", RSO Magazine, 4(4):17-28; 1999.

Rau, E. H., Alaimo, R.J., Ashbrook, P.C., Austin, S.M., Borenstein, N., Evans, M.R., Gilpin, R.W., Hummel, S.J., Jacobsohn, A.P., Lee, C., Merkle, S., Radzinski, T., Sloane, R., Wagner, K.D., and Weaner, L.E., "Minimization and Management of Wastes from Biomedical Research", Environ Health Perspect 108(suppl 6):953-977; 2000.

Austin, S.M., Rau, E.H., Holcomb, W.F., Zoon, R.A., "Reduction in Radioactive Material Use and Waste Generation at the National Institutes of Health", Health Phys. 83 (Supplement 5):S85-S95; 2002.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Plenary Member, Health Physics Society

Member, American Academy of Health Physics

Member, Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society

President, RSO Section of the Health Physics Society, 2000-2001

NIH representative, Appalachian Compact Users of Radioactive Isotopes (ACURI) Board of Directors

Assistant Executive Producer, Radiation Safety Branch Refresher Training video for 1992

Presented Professional Enrichment Program course, "Biomedical Radioactive Waste Management", at 1992 and 1993 National Health Physics Society annual meetings

Member, Montgomery County (MD) Solid Waste Advisory Committee, 2000-2004

Participated in "In-Depth Review" of USDA BARC Safety, Occupational Health & Environmental Staff program, June, 2000

NIH Office of Research Services Service Excellence for Teamwork Special Recognition Award, “Special Recognition for the exceptional use of teamwork to produce an award-winning radiation safety training video”, 1999

Winner, The 20th Annual Telly Awards as Assistant Executive Producer for NIH RSB training video production, “Waste Not”, 1999

NIH Office of Research Services Special Achievement Certificate, 1996

NIH Merit Award, 1993: “In recognition of exceptional contributions to the support of the National Institutes of Health research mission through expert management of radioactive and mixed waste”

NIH Division of Safety Special Achievement Certificate, 1993

NIH Merit Award, 1988: “For dedicated efforts in applying technical skills to a study of radioactive contamination in NIH Medical Pathological Waste”