

Welcome to the Citizens Epidemiology Conference

It is a great honor for me introducing this Conference. First I want to thank the Northwestern's student hosting group SEED and like to invite Tiffany Grobelski to say a few words.

This Conference started in strong cooperation with Nuclear Energy Information Service-NEIS, from Evanston, Illinois, which focuses since 35 years on nuclear energy and on the other hand with Gewaltfreie Aktion Atomwaffen Abschaffen-GAAA, which is a Germanwide non-violant organization bringing attention to nuclear disarmament, weapons in space and uranium weapons. "*The next Step—Citizen Epidemiology*" is *literally* the "next step" in the process following the highly successful 2003 Hamburg World Uranium Weapons Conference recommendations, and the 2004 Chicago Nuclear Power and Children's Health low-level radiation conference: to enable and empower people in their own investigation into contamination and exposures from nuclear facilities and sources.

This German – USA connection is from a historical point of view very important. This month May 8th marked the 60 years anniversary of the end of World War II. It reminds us of the importance to learn about history: "a world war under no circumstances should happen again and war in general should be abolished". In August this year we will also have the 60th commemoration of the US nuclear bombing on the two Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These bombings opened a new historical area: the century of nuclear weapons and also: "a nuclear war should never happen again".

For these reasons I will go the next minutes a bit into history:

While Germany discovered radioactivity in 1895 and a year later X-ray, the first splitting of the atom took place here in Chicago based on a stunning publication by two German physicists in 1939. Nazi Germany, a strong industrialized country believed till the very end of World War II to archive Hitler's so called wonder weapons. Germany wanted to become the world leading country with own colonies to plunder for resources and to sell their goods on the world market. For this it wanted the power for new colonies which were already distributed between other leading nations. The German nuclear fissile material facility in occupied Norway got destroyed twice thanks to some Norwegian partisans during the war. I learned just this year that also Germany had it's own first nuclear test inside Germany not long before the war ended in 1945.

After the US showed the world in 1945 that they archived their "wonder weapon" by destroying Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the nuclear arms raise increased. The former Soviet Union had their first nuclear bomb in 1949. At the same time US open air nuclear testing in the Pacific and in Nevada took place, the British tested in the desert of Australia, the French in the desert in Algeria, China in Tibet etc. Hundred thousands of soldiers were exposed in all nuclear states together with citizens used as guinea pigs to investigate the health effects of possible future nuclear wars. Linus Pauling, winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize warned that weapons testing would produce millions of birth defects, embryonic

and neonatal death, and cancer. Protests increased; signatures from over 11,000 scientists demanded an end to testing, which were presented to the UN. These protests led to the 1963 moratorium on above-ground nuclear testing.

Some of you might remember the Cuban missile Crisis, where US president John F. Kennedy negotiated a way out of a very close nuclear war with the Soviet Union. Kennedy realized the real danger of the nuclear arms race, but through his killing, he was unable to guide his country out of it.

The International Commission on Radiation Protection- ICRP got established based on the Hiroshima/Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors. ICRP developed the calculation method only for external whole body radiation exposure, excluding internal long term contamination through low level radiation. This method is still in use today since ICRP advises the UN bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency- IAEA and governments. The ICRP paradigm was based on physics without medical experts and evolved before the discovery of DNA and the development on molecular biology. However, irreversible contamination of the environment and the gene pool has already occurred. By allowing technology to outdistance knowledge, mistakes have been made for all time. **At 9.30 on Saturday, tomorrow morning we will show the video “Nuclear Controversies” from Wladimir Tchertkoff, to give a deep inside view towards this discussion also within the official institutions.**

1970 the nuclear states were so much under world public pressure that they signed the Non Proliferation Treaty on nuclear weapons, but linked it with the idea of the “peaceful use of the atom” for nuclear energy. They knew, that their whole nuclear weapons production chain: uranium mining towards milling and the further process of the uranium in Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) would not be possible, if each of these links would have faced huge public resistance. In the interest of national security important information were kept out of the media, for example not informing that NPP’s are needed to produce nuclear weapons material and that a separation between peaceful use and military use is not possible. In fact nuclear energy were and is highly subsidized through tax payers money and their waste storage problem for future generations is not being taken into account. It is actually the most expensive energy choice possible.

But more important for our Conference today:

The nuclear elite in government, industry, and regulatory bodies continued to maintain that low-dose radiation posed no significant risk to human health, whether it emanated from bomb testing, reactors, or X-rays. They did not dispute the dangers of high-dose radiation, the kind that literally evaporated all life in its path.

Many important radiation experts lost their jobs for not following the official line and some are still today with us, **thanks also to Prof. Sternglass who will present this evening and teach us about the Tooth Fairy project.** In Great Britain it was Dr. Alice Stewart who did the early important work on epidemiological evidence on childhood leukemia and X-rays during pregnancy. She already died and we are thankful for her heritage. The well known epidemiologist Dr. Rosalie Bertell received in 1986 the prestigious \$25,000 Right Livelihood Award as a so called Rogue Scientist, along with Alice Stewart for their work on low level radiation. The “Alternative Nobel”, better

known in Europe than in North America, is conferred each year in Stockholm, one day before the Nobel Prize. Dr. Bertell would be with us today if her health would allow it. She founded the International Institute of Concern for Public Health based in Canada. It would provide scientific and technical assistance on environmental hazards to government agencies, citizens' groups, labor unions, and indigenous and Third World peoples. It is noteworthy that the focus had expanded from the hazards of nuclear radiation to "environmental hazards". Mary-Louise Engel quoted Dr. Bertell in her new book about her biography: "It was never easy. People don't realize how dependent scientists are; they have no idea. Who pays the scientist? Government, industry, the university—and they don't fund controversial projects. Scientists need grants, equipment, resources... Most of the time you are living on the edge, with barely enough to keep yourself going."

We are glad to have Dr. Judith Johnsrud, who is the director of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and Cindy Folkers from Nuclear Energy Research Service here tonight, to present the newest finding in Radiation Research after my introduction.

Some people refer to the period of the Cold War as evidence that nuclear deterrence worked because no war took place. But many wars took place against so called Third World countries, most obvious in the war against Vietnam. Nuclear weapons are more a weapon of deterrence between the big nuclear weapons states to not interfere into each other wars in their regions of interests. Till today the US is still working on the nuclear first strike option by developing a missile defense system in space. But who speaks today about all the death at home and the global cancer epidemic through emissions and waste of the nuclear weapons production. **We will have the honor to hear Dr. Chris Busby tomorrow morning on Saturday at 10.30 a.m. He calculated 65 million extra cancer death worldwide only till 1989 through nuclear weapons fallout, nuclear power plant operations and accidents. Dr. Busby founded the Low Level Radiation Campaign-LLRC in which over 40 scientist united showing the mistake in the official calculation method on low level radiation by 300 to 1000 times. He also conducted epidemiological questionnaires in Great Britian and will explain enable us to conduct such questionnaires as well. Dr. Busby also envisioned the idea of "Free University", which is more and more needed in a time where Universities don't enable students to investigate the huge environmental problems in a holistic way. We will have this workshop on Sunday at 10 a.m.**

I just arrived from New York where at the United Nations the Non-Proliferation Treaty negotiations on nuclear weapons take place. This treaty is in its 35th year. Over 1700 NGO representatives, more than 1000 Hibakushas (these are nuclear bomb survivors from Japan) together with 70 mayors presenting more than 1000 mayors from cities and towns around the world participate in this important event. Japanese organizations who work on the depleted uranium weapons issue handed 136 000 signatures from Japan to the UN to give attention to indiscriminate and illegal radioactive uranium weapons. They all give world citizens a voice that nuclear weapons and uranium weapons have to be abolished.

Besides all this wonderful technological progress in modern history, we still have the old way of “Empirium building thinking” and “slavery behavior” towards weaker states. It goes so far that low-level radioactive waste has evidently been used in a big amount in South Iraq by the US and British government in 1991 and also in the other recent wars against former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq in 2003. Besides the citizens of these countries, also US soldiers are used again as cannon fodder by exposing them to radiation in war regions without their knowledge. Many of them will be most likely to develop cancer in 20-30 years after service, if not far earlier. **Dr. Jawad Al-Ali is since 35 years an oncologist working in the hospital in Basra, the main city in Southern Iraq. He would have loved to be here with us and to present his findings about the health situation in South Iraq what he believes is mostly connected due to depleted uranium used in 1991. In both US embassies, in Jordan and London, the authorities were not able to give him an interview for his visa before six weeks from now. Normally it should be four days and even with the support of a US congressperson changes were not possible. Dr. Al-Ali got great support last February at an epidemiological conference in Amman, organized by a German professor, for the preparation of conducting an own independent epidemiological study in Southern Iraq. Till today there is no study planned by official institutions. We will present Dr. Al-Ali’s work tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. and also will show his presentation he gave at the Hamburg Conference. We have developed an idea how we can support this work financially. At least Dr. Al-Ali can be with his patients now where he is also needed so much. Tomorrow evening at 7 p.m., thanks to Traprock Peace Center, we will show the video “The Doctor and the Dying Children in Basra” which received the Ecomedia European Documentary Award in 2004.**

Over the last decades the international community took the effort to establish international laws to make a peaceful living between all nations possible. But as long as the biggest power on earth, the USA believes, that it’s binding to these international treaties is voluntary for them, we will have to unite worldwide to overcome this globally destructive military economy. 50% of the world’s military expenditure is spent by the US. 25% of the world military expenditure would be enough to cover all world citizens basic needs for health care, education, housing, clean energy, clean water etc. Terror wouldn’t exist in a world where there is not such a gap of a few being extremely rich, many other extremely poor and the others somewhere in the middle. This has to change for all living beings and the future generation. This conference shall be one small step in this global struggle for peace and justice.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoon we will have workshops where we intensely can debate and learn united with the experts how we can conduct our studies. We will also focus on how we can organize future communication around this important work.

We hope to accomplish in this Conference:

1. presentations of new findings in the studies about low-level radiation and learn about new standards under discussion done by Dr. Judith Johnsrud and Cindy Folkers
2. to hear and learn about previous Citizen Epidemiology initiatives, Prof. Sternglass speaking about the Tooth Fairy Project; and Dr. Chris Busby speaking about his

epidemiological questionnaires—how they conducted their work, how they were received, what they are currently doing

3. to learn about the need for such study in Iraq and how we can support it

4. to form working group sessions on Saturday afternoon, to discuss the usefulness of such work in our own communities; how to do this work; what is needed; and how to plan out such a successful campaign

5. on Sunday to discuss the need for a free and independent institute or university, to train others in work like this, and make these resources available to others worldwide and plan steps to archive this goal

6. we will present three important videos relating to these topics of low-level radiation exposure and institutions which are broken and not protecting the public

7. and last but not least on Sunday afternoon to organize our future communication

Thank you

Marion Kuepker, Moderator
GAAA