

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE for

Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Radiation Health

The “Frédéric Joliot-Curie” National Research Institute for Radiobiology and Radiohygiene (NRIRR) of the “Fodor József” National Centre for Public Health has been designated as a WHO/CC in October 2004 following its active contribution to the objectives of the Radiation and Environmental Health Unit (RAD) of the WHO/HQ as a WHO/REMPAN Liaison Institute for two years. Particular interest has been demonstrated by NRIRR to the activities of the Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network (WHO/REMPAN) coordinated by WHO/RAD. Hence, NRIRR became one of the ten WHO/REMPAN CCs worldwide, the first WHO/REMPAN/CC in Central and Southern Europe.

Understanding that NRIRR has been actively involved in regional training activities related to medical response to radiation accidents coordinated by the WHO, EU or the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) for over two decades, the new Hungarian WHO/CC has primarily offered its contribution and expertise to the regular regional training activities of the WHO/RAD – and of WHO/EURO in Central and Southern Europe, in particular. It is to facilitate recognition and medical management of radiation injuries originated from radiological accidents (due to violation of safety precautions and unauthorized possession of radiation sources), nuclear emergencies and possible terrorist (malevolent) use of radioactive materials.

Thus, terms of reference of the WHO/CC in NRIRR for the next 4-year period include:

1. To collect and transfer information on public health aspects of radiological/nuclear accidents and threats (occurring in Hungary and in Central or Southern Europe);
2. To conduct regional training courses for health personnel involved in medical response to radiation victims;
3. To assess and advise on population burden to ionizing radiation in case of radiological/nuclear emergencies and terrorists threats (performing monitoring of the environment and human for contamination with radioactive materials and biodosimetry assays);
4. To advise national and regional health authorities on the required public health actions to mitigate health consequences of accidental or deliberate radiation exposure;
5. To assist WHO/REMPAN in the elaboration of medical emergency plans for major nuclear accidents;
6. To participate in the WHO/RAD radon measurement and assessment project,
7. To contribute to the WHO’s ultraviolet radiation programme and International EMF project,

8. To contribute to the preparation and review of relevant public health documents and guidelines for regional and/or general use by WHO/REMPAN.