

Be a part of the “next step”...

March 1, 2005

Dear Anti-Nuclear Colleagues, Independent Scientists, Peace Activists, and Friends,

We are writing to invite you to a special educational, organizing conference occurring in late May in Chicago, Illinois USA. “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.

Two of the Recommendations of the 2003 Hamburg Conference call for 1.) development of epidemiological survey tools, to be used in places of contamination like around nuclear testing sites and nuclear weapons production facilities at home, and abroad in affected war regions like Iraq and Afghanistan (countries which, due to the destruction of their economies, will need specific support by the international peace movement to be able to conduct epidemiological surveys), but also around other nuclear sites (e.g., nuclear and reprocessing plants), and among other potentially contaminated populations (e.g., Gulf War veterans, residents living near radioactive weapons manufacturing plants, aerospace workers); and 2.) establishment of an international research effort – the term “free university” was used -- to train people to accurately collect valid and reliable data “independent” of existing institutions being controlled, censored, or influenced by the nuclear industry and its allies in political power circles (e.g., WHO, NRC, IAEA, EPA).

The ability produce valid and reliable epidemiological data is not beyond the capability of the lay person. It does require a group of committed, properly supervised and trained people. This upcoming conference will teach people how to conduct their own scientific survey in support of independent scientists; and what effect these results will have. This Conference is set up to achieve these goals.

THE PROPOSED PROGRAM:

Over the course of 2-1/2 days, participants will hear detailed presentations from several noted, professionally trained international researchers who have actually conducted this kind of independent survey, who will share their methods, expertise, and results. Next, participants will engage in workshops with these researchers, who will assist in helping develop investigative plans for those attending the sessions. On the final day, discussion of furthering the goal of the “free university” concept will take place. Sessions will be supplemented by DVD, PowerPoint and video presentations; and copies of existing epidemiological tools used by the researchers will be made available.

INVITED SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS:

- Dr. Chris Busby, Wales, European Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR); director, Green Audit
- Dr. Ernest Sternglass, USA, co-founder of the “Tooth Fairy” Project
- Dr. Rosalie Bertell (video presentation), Canada and USA, professional epidemiologist
- Dr. Jawad Al-Ali, Iraq, Oncologist in Basra

WHAT THE CONFERENCE WILL AND WON'T DO:

Let’s be clear – attending this Conference will not make a professional epidemiologist out of anyone. The intent is rather:

- to provide people with successful examples of where and under what circumstances these techniques have worked already;
- to have trained professionals teach people the important and useful techniques to begin the process of collecting their own data for use and analysis;
- to provide useful, easily understood tools and materials to help with this data gathering, and guidance as to where and how these tools can or shouldn’t be used;
- to examine the role and use of so-called “anecdotal evidence,” and how it can contribute to a more thorough understanding of radiation exposure issues;
- to publicly announce the message that the credibility of existing institutions on the issue of radiation exposure is seriously in doubt, and possibly irreparable; and that, in the absence of believable public institutions and information, people have a right to protect themselves, their families and homes by collecting the data they need to get their legitimate questions answered to their own satisfaction and understanding.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- activists and organizers dealing with nuclear facilities and populations exposed to ionizing radiation
- citizens not satisfied with or denied health and exposure information from existing public health and regulatory institutions, who want to independently check their findings and statements
- public health professionals and practitioners dealing with populations potentially or actually exposed to ionizing radiation
- public officials responsible for the public health safety and welfare, looking to more critically examine existing health data
- people who want to know how to convert “anecdotal stories” about possible or actual radiation exposures into more credible facts and statements about them

Because we have come to this project somewhat late in the process, we would welcome the support of additional co-sponsors, endorsing groups, and financial contributors. In the US, all contributions would be tax deductible.

Noted Abolitionist Frederick Douglas accurately observed that, “*Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.*”

Knowledge IS power. The purpose of this Conference is to provide people with the ability to get the knowledge they need to take back their own power on nuclear and health issues; and to demand the kind of accountability from public health and regulatory institutions that is currently lacking.

We invite you and your organization to be a part of this process, and look forward to working with you in May and beyond.

Gratefully, for a less-nuclear world,

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NOTE: The following schedule is tentative, and is subject to change. Some speakers have not yet confirmed participation. For the most current information, contact the NEIS office in the USA, or visit our website at: <http://www.neis.org>

CITIZEN EPIDEMIOLOGY CONFERENCE -- MAY 20-22, 2005 (TENTATIVE!)					
Time	FRIDAY	Time	SATURDAY	Time	SUNDAY
4 p.m.	registration opens	8 a.m.	registration	9:30	registration
	Video: "The Doctor and the Dying Children of Basra" (requested donation \$2)	9:00	Dr. Jawad Al Ali	10 a.m.	Discussion: Towards A "Free University"
		10:30	Video: Citizen Epidemiology, Chris Busby	11:15	break
6:00	Welcome -- Dave Kraft, NEIS Introduction: Marion Kuepker, GAAA	11:00	Dr. Chris Busby	11:30	continued discussion; future communication; wrap-up
6:30	TBA	12:30	lunch	1:00	lunch
7:30	Dr. Ernest Sternglass	2:00	Breakout Session #1	2:00	informal wrap-up extra, open time
8:30	break	3:30	break	3:00	adjourn
8:45	Video: Dr. Rosalie Bertell	3:45	Breakout Session #2		
10:00	adjourn	5:00	Large group report		
		5:30	adjourn for the day		
		8p.m.	Fundraising Party location TBA in Chicago		

ver. 03/15/05

The proposed site for the Conference will be the Evanston Campus of Northwestern University; the building used will be announced at a later date. Evanston is the community immediately north of Chicago. It is easily reached through public Metra and CTA trains and buses (\$1.75-\$3.00), as well as by car and taxi from O'Hare Field Airport (cost: ~\$25.00).