***Applicability of Radiation-Response Models to Low Dose Protection Standards****:*

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**Public Perceptions Of Radiation Risk And Recommendations For Getting the Public Back To Supporting Nuclear Based On Reality**

Public perception of radiation risk has been strongly influenced since 1945 by use of nuclear weapons, tremendous build up of nuclear weapon arsenals, accidents at commercial nuclear power plants, efforts by anti-nuclear organizations, key anti-nuclear scientists, individual anti-nuclear advocates, film stars, and incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information from TV, radio, newspapers, and the Internet. The Atoms for Peace Program in the 1950s, 60s and 70s gave nuclear energy and nuclear medicine a tremendous positive start with public acceptance. Medical professionals, scientists, engineers, and technicians mastered peaceful use of nuclear energy, production of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine and the practice of diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine. Starting in the late 1960s and continuing to the present, the public perception among many has deteriorated. A large percentage of the less outspoken sector has steadily supported these nuclear technologies. They understand that radiation from nuclear power and nuclear medicine is extremely low, safe, and that nuclear power and nuclear medicine have countless benefits. Fear mongers and the public who focus on irrational fear have significantly contributed to stopping very important advanced nuclear power technologies and plans to replace aging commercial nuclear power, amazingly even in countries with long term outstanding nuclear power programs. The authors have extensive experience in studying low dose radiation or in academic and public education about low dose radiation, nuclear energy and nuclear medicine. They present recommendations for urgently needed, large scale new directions for education of the public and students. This includes reaching out with more direct contact everywhere, not just presenting information from behind the confines of nuclear societies, professional organizations, and utilities.