ICRU Commissioners contribute to a very successful IDOS symposium

On the 5th October, more than 400 attendees were in the audience (with more than a thousand joining online) for the opening of the 2026 IDOS international symposium on dosimetry.



IDOS can be rightly considered the pre-eminent international meeting wholly dedicated to radiation dosimetry in medicine. It has been held every 7-10 years since 1987 and is therefore a “must” for many researchers in the field. A team of experts, including ICRU Commissioners have been involved with the IAEA since 2025 in developing the scientific program, identifying topics and speakers, and reviewing abstracts, leading to a conference featuring more than 100 oral presentations and close to 150 posters. Representatives from around 120 countries were present to showcase their work, share in panel discussions and engage (animatedly) during lunch and coffee breaks). Scientific tracks covered radiation therapy, diagnostic radiology, radiopharmaceutical therapy and radiation protection.



Pawel Olko (2nd right), incoming Chair of the ICRU, was invited to speak on behalf of the Commission during the official welcome and Thomas Otto had the honour of giving the first proffered presentation of the symposium, on applying ICRU 95 operational quantities to interventional radiology. ICRU was repeatedly featured through the week’s activities, with Malcolm McEwen giving an invited talk on the second day, on navigating one’s way through the different dosimetry protocols available to medical physicists, and Drs Olko and Otto presenting on microdosimetry and Monte Carlo radiation transport respectively.



It was clear from the comments provided, and the applause given in response, at the closing session on the 9th October that this had been a very successful meeting, and there was sadness as colleagues bade each other farewell and headed back to their respective institutions. Sometimes it can be assumed that radiation dosimetry is a solved problem, but this symposium showed that there remain multiple challenges to be addressed, both in current and emerging techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer using ionizing radiation.

We look forward to seeing updates on progress on these issues at the next IDOS meeting, sometime in the 2030s!

