



Radon Reporter

Fall 2012

Viva Las Vegas!

Reports & Photos from the 2012 Symposium

AWARDS



SPEAKERS



ELECTIONS





NATIONAL RADON PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

On September 25, 2012, NEHA and AARST released a statement that read in part:

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) have announced that as of October 1, 2012, the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP), a national professional certification program that has been jointly administered by both organizations in partnership since 2005, is solely operated and administered by AARST. AARST has assumed all legal responsibilities of the NRPP on that date.

The NRPP's underlying policies, procedures and process of credentialing radon professionals will not change, and the services provided to the program's participants, state radon programs and training partners will be sustained.

As of October 1, 2012, the certification program is known as the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) in the United States, and the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) in Canada.

Updating of all credential identification will occur over the next 12 months and for a limited time it is expected that some references to the NRPP will clearly state that a name change has occurred, ex: NRPP formerly known as NEHA-NRPP. AARST, as part of its annual compliance with its state of incorporation, New Jersey, officially registered and operated the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) as a d/b/a when it acquired the certification program from PCI in 2005.

In assuming full stewardship of the NRPP, AARST will be bringing additional resources to bear on continued development of American National Standards (ANSI) for radon professionals and the public. AARST points to ongoing, successful efforts to create consensus standards for multi-family housing, radon resistant new construction codes, device definition and calibration standards.

Bruce Snead will remain as Chair of the 15-member NRPP PAB, and the PAB, the NRPP Policy Manual and Procedures, the certification application, examinations, and renewal processes will remain basically unchanged. The PAB will retain its role of formulating and recommending policy and procedures for the program. Those recommendations will now be referred to an NRPP Steering Committee for outside legal review and approval.

Both the NEHA and AARST boards would like to thank Richard Manning and Bruce Snead for chairing the voluntary NRPP Policy Advisory Board since 2005, as well as all members of that board and members of the technical and education committees that have served in formulating policies and procedures since the program's inception. These volunteer members include qualified and dedicated public officials and private sector professionals representing a wide cross section of expertise in the radon and scientific and technical community.

For further information please contact Peter Hendrick, Executive Director, AARST: director@aarst.org (888-756-9259)



Officers, Board Members and Staff

AARST, the American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, mitigation and transfer of information for the benefit of members, consumers, and the public at large. AARST's leadership is democratically elected by the members.

AARST represents your voice as we meet the wide range of challenges facing radon professionals and the community. Your membership and participation provides you a voice in the changes to come, and allows you to gain updated information, discover new techniques, learn about new problems before they occur, and hone your professional skills.

AARST has several local chapters where you can meet other radon professionals and state and federal officials who work with the radon industry.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Shawn Price
AARST President

2012 Roller Coaster Ride Leads to 2013 Opportunities

While I look back on 2012, I feel a little light headed, as if I just set the marathon record for rides on Space Mountain. As soon as we thought the ride was over, another rise, drop, and twist seemed to catch us all off-guard. However, the AARST leadership was in the game all-in and clawing with all our might to hang on! 2012 goes down as a year that I learned more than any other year since I entered the radon world nearly 25 years ago.

I am left with a feeling of awe for many of our colleagues, inspired by others, and most of all, excited about our possibilities in 2013 and beyond.

Some of the successes include our Capitol Hill experience where the State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG) were salvaged for another year. The AARST Consortium on National Radon Standards has added our second ANSI-accredited standard, with 5 more committees closing in on a whole library of AARST/ANSI publications.

The National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) opened a Canadian version of the credentialing program (C-NRPP). As we strengthened our relationships with many State radon programs, EPA, and other non-governmental organizations such as the American Lung Association, National Center for Healthy Homes, and the State Conference of State Legislators, AARST local chapters and members assisting us in opening doors for new State legislation and rule revisions with States with licensing and certification programs requirements.

“I am left with a feeling of awe for many of our colleagues...”

With so many building blocks in place, we can now start compounding on the successes and open new doors to AARST and our members. Currently, we have about 550 members and my goal is to double that number in the next couple years. How do we do that you might ask? Member benefits!

I want to give every AARST member a raise in pay! I want the membership to allow you to obtain discounts on services and supplies, while also providing a market advantage that allows you to charge more for your services without the fear of being underbid by companies cutting corners. In order to pull this off, AARST and NRPP members must dedicate themselves to work hard on our compliance programs, and work with other entities to eliminate substandard work.

New documents from the Consortium leads to opportunities in the NRPP world to strengthen current credentials as well as introducing new certifications in the measurement and mitigation fields that go beyond single family homes and reaches schools, large building and multifamily residences. The possibilities are endless and will ultimately include radon in water testing and mitigation.

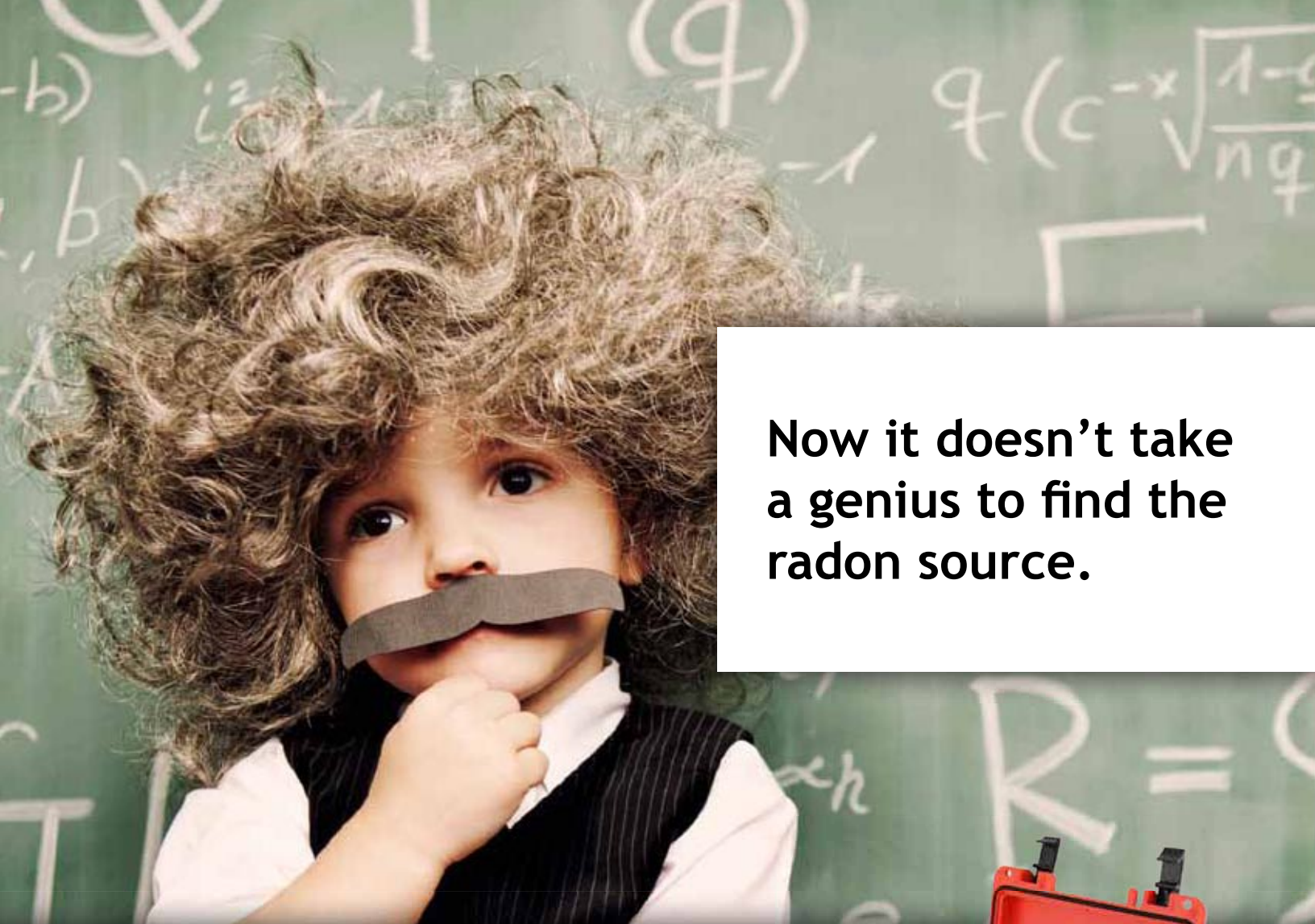
All of the opportunities lead us straight to Capitol Hill. Additional revenue from the increased membership, new NRPP credentials, Standard sales, etc. will allow us to maintain a presence in the House and Senate Buildings to expand the relationships that we established in 2012.

Yes, our Legislative Action Committee will be pushing for your job security, but it will only be accomplished by focusing on risk reduction. The only way we can prevent the unnecessary consequence of radon-induced lung cancer is to halt the construction of building with elevated radon, and to test every home, every school, and every commercial building in the United States.

We're not going to get there in 2013, but we will be laying more foundation blocks, one at a time, and when we're done we'll finally have the opportunity to sit back and admire our accomplishments. Until then, we've got a lot of work to do and I need your help to get there. So please grab a shovel, a hammer, some nails, mortar or glue, and help AARST build the national radon program that our great country truly deserves!

I am truly excited about our future and honored to serve as your President for the next two years!

Shawn Price



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SAVING PRIVATE SIRG – AND AARST’S INTERNATIONAL RADON SYMPOSIUM 2012

This Was Not Radon’s Last Dance!

Peter Hendrick
AARST Executive Director

Let’s face it folks, EPA leadership set out last year to defund the state radon programs. Some believe it’s now the swan song for radon risk reduction in America. My answer to them is to repeat the one word spoken by General Anthony C. McAuliffe at the height of the Battle of the Bulge: “Nuts.” And the rank and file troops at AARST believed us: just look at the near record number of charged-up AARST attendees at the 2012 International Radon Symposium. The Symposium was a success at the end of a long year.

There were over 200 attendees at AARST’s annual International Radon Symposium held Las Vegas from October 14 to 17, held, as always, in conjunction with CRCPD’s National Radon Training meeting. State attendance was down slightly at the CRCPD meeting as state program managers struggled with the uncertainty of their FY2013 federal funding year, but in the end the CRCPD program was filled with dedicated public officials working hard to benefit radon risk reduction efforts.

Late in November 2011 AARST learned that EPA was planning cuts that would eliminate the State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG). No warning to the states, no pre-planning - don’t blame it on OMB, this is an EPA plan to walk away from radon. Gone, the most cost effective risk reduction program at the agency, eliminated. 21,000 annual deaths, 24 years, and no law on the books that requires testing for radon.

Monday’s joint-meeting day with state and federal officials saw important keynote presentation “Communicating Radon Risk to Health Care Professionals” by Dr. William Field, Ph.D., and Dr. Wallace Akerley, a medical doctor who also had an inspiring message about radon risk reduction and the importance of engaging the medical community in this effort.

Field, the nation’s leading radon epidemiologist, reminded attendees that not only is lung cancer the leading cancer killer in the United States but that radon induced lung cancer, when taken alone, should be considered the 7th leading cause of all annual cancer deaths in the United States.

What would EPA backing out of radon do to radon risk reduction in America? It would make our work less legitimate. We started writing letters, making phone calls and trying to raise the alarm. Some thought we were nuts. We were told we were misinformed. A small band of advocates went to Washington in February and March to try to save SIRG. It was like trying to save Private Ryan and it looked just as impossible.

Bill Field has been a leading and outspoken advocate for radon risk reduction in the United States and has actively put forth sound arguments for stronger radon policies both before the 2008 Presidents Cancer Panel and recently this year in a powerful Op Ed in the New York Times and an expose report through NBC’s *Rosen’s Reports* on the Today Show.

Thanks to the efforts of a small group of dedicated individuals from both AARST and CanSAR, most spending their own dollars to go to Washington in March, the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee reinstated the funding in the FY 2013 budget. The work of Liz Hoffman, Gloria Linnertz, Barb Sorgatz and Marlene MacEwan was heroic in getting the House Appropriations committee to reverse the EPA budgeting decision.

In our recovering economy, showing up and participating in what was probably the 24th International Radon Symposium was extremely important in showing a renewed commitment from the many radon professionals and radon companies who actively took part. Pre-symposium C.E. courses saw record numbers of attendees, and the Track II practical courses on Tuesday and Wednesday also were well attended. Track II practical courses included an OSHA approved course on confined space entry (safety), a Red Cross certified hands-only CPR course, and other important business courses. You work hard for your money and you attend these sessions, long days of tough subjects – Bravo AARST Professionals!

What happened throughout the summer with SIRG and Congress? Well, the Senate Appropriations committee eventually agreed with the House but we, along with the rest of the nation, learned that the federal budget would probably not be approved and that Congress would pass a Continuing Resolution to spend at FY 2012 levels.

Continued on p. 8



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SYMPOSIUM NOTES

Gloria Linnertz
CanSAR Secretary

The 2012 International Radon Symposium was filled with energy and education as the professional radon community came together sharing their efforts in helping to save lives by preventing radioactive radon exposure and preventing lung cancer.

The Sunday evening reception in the exhibit hall was an opportunity to reconnect with our friends and colleagues and make new ones while enjoying some delicious food. Certainly the highlight of the meeting came with the keynote address of Dr. Bill Field and the follow-up presentation by Dr. Wally Akerley stressing the necessity for physicians' involvement in prevention.

The future holds many challenges for all of us; however, by combining our efforts and working together we will be able to meet them head-on--changing them into opportunities, making a difference, and saving lives. The overwhelming wealth of knowledge and vast experience of our radon professionals is such a goldmine that must be shared with young scientists and technologists.

There is a part for all of us to play in this life-saving effort. CanSAR appreciates greatly the support given by the Premier, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorships and hopes for continued participation as we continue to share the effects radioactive radon gas with all throughout the nation.

January, National Radon Action Month, will be the third annual "Capital Steps to Radon Action" for CanSAR. Please be involved with the organization of this event in your state which will hopefully capture media attention and bring the public's focus on prevention of radon-induced lung cancer.



Your communication with your customers about CanSAR's efforts has brought some outstanding radon-induced lung cancer advocates to our group. Please continue to help CanSAR connect with individuals that you encounter so we can make our voice even louder and stop this universal enemy.

Gloria

SAVING PRIVATE SIRG – AND SYMPOSIUM 2012

Continued from p. 5

The Symposium's Track I sessions led off on Tuesday morning with presentations from William Angell on his Meta-analysis of 25 years of Research on Radon Control in New Homes. This was followed by an update on Canada's National Radon Program from Health Canada's radon program director Jeff Whyte and technical director Deepti Bijlani. Symposium Track I sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday had a large group of world-class, peer-reviewed research accepted and presented that covered such areas as long and short term testing, geological mapping, radiological assessments, data collection activities and mitigation techniques (from cold climates to vapor barrier techniques.) These presentations will be available at both www.internationalradonsymposium and www.aarst.org

The only problem was the EPA told its grantees that they would not honor 2012 levels unless they were based on the administration's 2012 budget. In short, radon funding would be eliminated under a CR. AARST and CanSAR went back to the phones and back to Congress.

One of the peer-reviewed papers, entitled "Invisible Invaders," discussing radon as an environmental risk factor was presented by two high school students, Lizzie McGinnis and Desiree Hayes, from Big Piney, Wyoming. Their presentation was well received by the scientists in attendance, who were pleased that the young researchers were able to attend.

Well, on September 25, 2012, as state radon programs were wondering if they were going to have FY 2013 funds in place (note, the fiscal year 2013 started October 1, 2012), AARST received word from the House Appropriations committee that the EPA budget office had committed to funding radon at 2012 levels for the duration of the C.R. This came in the form of an email from EPA to the committee. It was AARST and CanSAR fighting for this right up until the last moment.

The Symposium Exhibition Hall was also a showcase for 21 exhibitors, including a display showing the tremendous progress made by the AARST National Consortium for National Radon Standards as well as poster presentations from six researchers and scientists.

Will we continue to fight for radon program funding? Yes! Do we receive any of this money? None. Why do we do it? It's the right thing to do. Is EPA still trying to defund radon? Yes. Is AARST's work complete? No 21,000 Americans die each year from the leading cause of all cancer deaths in the nation.

Will there be a 2013 International Radon Symposium and will the ranks of radon professionals there be just as charge up as they were in Vegas a few weeks ago?

Nuts! Of course there will. AARST is working on it.

Peter Hendrick

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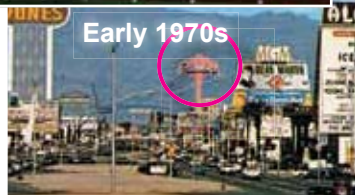


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SYMPOSIUM PHOTO ALBUM



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Early 1970s

October 14-17, 2012 Flamingo Las Vegas

At the Flamingo in Las Vegas, ironically the same place where the infamous mobster and killer Bugsy Siegel is memorialized, more than 200 professionals from 9 countries gathered to discuss a more insidious and prolific killer - radon.



Flamingo - 2012



Siegel Memorial

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

PRE-SYMPOSIUM CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES, REGISTRATION, WELCOME RECEPTION

The 5 AARST CE courses were attended by a record number of participants. The courses were: Multi-Family Radon Mitigation, led by Bill Angell; Code Provisions Relevant to Mitigation, presented by Gary Hodgden; Radon Calculations: Workshop on Radon Math. conducted by Dr. Phil Jenkins; Advanced ASD Diagnostics and System Design, taught by Jack Bartholomew; and How to Start and Build a Radon Business, led by Dave Daniels.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

JOINT AARST AND CRCPD PROGRAM DAY & AWARDS LUNCHEON



Each year the AARST International Radon Symposium and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors National Radon Training Conference join together to present the Monday program of their respective meetings, including an annual awards luncheon. This year's speakers were: Keynote - William Field, Ph.D.; Physician's Perspective - Wallace Akerley, M.D.; Joint Leadership Update - David Rowson (EPA); SIRG Funding - Peter Hendrick; SIRG Funding Panel - Kyle Hoylman, Calvin Murphy, Gloria Linnertz, Patrick Daniels, Dale Dorschner; Radon Policy Report - Tobie Bernstein; Cooperative Agreement Partners - Bill Long, (EPA), Doug Farquhar (NCSL), Ruth McBurney (CRCPD), Bruce Snead (KSU). This year's award winners were: CRCPD - Bill Bell (MA) and AARST - Dale Dorschner (MN) and Kyle Hoylman.

Joint Program Speakers



Awards Luncheon



SYMPOSIUM PHOTO ALBUM

EXHIBIT HALL



AARST ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Award Winners: Calvin Murphy, Dr. Paul Kotrappa, Andreas George



SYMPOSIUM PHOTO ALBUM



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

AARST SESSIONS

For the second year, AARST divided its program into two sections: Track 1, which consisted primarily of scientific presentations, and Track 2 for business-related workshops and presentations.



Tuesday Track 1 Speakers

Tuesday's Track 1 included the following speakers: William Angell (U.S.), Deepti S. Bijlani and Jeff Whyte (Canada), Mathieu Brossard (Canada), Henry Schuver and Dan Steck (US), Alexandra Stieff and Frederick Stieff (U.S.), Paulo Norte Pinto (Portugal), Andre Poffijn (Belgium), Gloria Linnertz and Kyle Hoylman (U.S.), Fabio Barazza (Switzerland), Paul Kotrappa (U.S.), Dean Williams (U.K.), Michael Kitto (U.S.), Desiree Hayes and Lizzie McGinnis, (U.S.), and Luis E. Hernandez (Spain). Poster presenters were: Marcel Brascoupe (Canada), Shirvel Stanislaus (U.S.), Willard E Hobbs and Christopher K Hobbs (U.S.), Victor Nowicki (Canada), Tryggve Rönqvist (Sweden).



For Tuesday and Wednesday Track 2 speakers and Wednesday Track 1 speakers, see p. 15.

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SYMPOSIUM PHOTO ALBUM



TUESDAY- WEDNESDAY , OCTOBER 16-17

AARST SESSIONS

For the second year, AARST divided its program into two sections: Track 1, which consisted primarily of scientific presentations, and Track 2 for business-related workshops and presentations.



Tuesday Track 2

Tuesday's Track 2 included the following topics and presenters: Confined Space Awareness - Joy Flack, Las Vegas OSHA; Extreme Mitigation - Crawlspace - Scott Drennen; Sampling for Radon in Water - Michael Kitto; Basic First Aid and Hands-Only CPR - Willie Way, American Red Cross, Las Vegas Chapter



Wednesday Track 1 Speakers

Tuesday's Track 1 included the following speakers: Genelle Lamont and William Angell (U.S.), Guillermo Espinosa (Mexico), Ron Churchill (U.S.), Willard E. Hobbs (U.S.), Joshua Kerber (U.S.), Michael Lafontaine (Canada), Shawn Price and Gary Hodgden (U.S.). Poster presenters were: Paulo Norte Pinto (Portugal) and Michael Kitto (U.S.). As a grand finale, Bruce Snead led the group in singing "The SIRG Cheer".



Wednesday Track 2

Tuesday's Track 2 included the following topics and presenters: National Technical Program in Support of the Radon Industry - Bruce Snead; Profit Costing and Pricing for Services - Mike Strozza, SCORE.





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ABSTRACTS

PROCEEDINGS & PRESENTATIONS

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