

What is the current position of the HPS on the LNT model?

The HPS has a position statement regarding radiation risk. It has several important messages: First is that there is no consistent evidence of human health effects below about 10 rem (100 millisieverts). Second, we recognize that molecular radiation effects are typically nonlinear, such that the LNT model is oversimplified. Third, there are dose-rate effects. Effects from smaller doses over long periods of time have not been demonstrated in epidemiological studies.

The HPS continues to advocate for more research in this field and is excited that there may be funding for low-dose and low-dose-rate research programs supported by the federal government. For myself, I'm sure dose rate should be considered in health assessments because of the differences in effects at all levels between high- and low-dose rates.

How is the HPS handling COVID-19 concerns?

Like most other professional societies, we've moved from face-to-face meetings to virtual meetings and lots of online activities. Our annual meeting was scheduled for early July in the Washington, D.C., area, but instead we will have a series of virtual workshop sessions during September. We've already conducted most of the required business meeting in a virtual format that went very well and had great "attendance."

I'll close by encouraging ANS members to consider joining the HPS, since there is so much overlap in our objectives. ☒

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