

Message from the Director

Anthony C. James, *Ph.D.*



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year was my second with the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR), and my first as their director. I have had a lot to learn. However, the more I do learn about the Registries' comprehensive collection of human experience from occupational intakes of actinides, the greater my appreciation of this unique human knowledge base. My distinguished predecessors,¹ the former directors of the National Plutonium Registry (NPR), the U.S. Transuranium Registry (USTR), the U.S. Uranium Registry (USUR), and their many contributing colleagues, built this national and international resource over 37 y of Registries' research. My own aims are to (i) maintain the integrity of USTUR Registrant data, (ii) continue successful operation of the Registries, and (iii) further focus USTUR research to address contemporary problems and issues in actinide dose assessment, while (iv) broadening access to USTUR data and its utilization by the national and international scientific community. Our specific research goals are to apply both new and old USTUR data to:

- Validate practical field methodologies for actinide bioassay and internal dose assessment;
- contribute to the development of future, more realistic, actinide dosimetry and chelation treatment models; and

- quantify the variability of actinide biokinetics among individual workers, and the overall effect of this variability on tissue doses for defined intake conditions.

In support of these research goals, our primary operational goals are:

- streamlining USTUR's radiochemistry operations to ensure timely tissue analyses and publication of all donor case results.
- broader, web-based, publication of (de-identified) case data, including fully linked and indexed health physics, work-site and bioassay data; tissue analysis results; actinide intake characterization; and pathology findings.
- expanding USTUR's contribution to the academic and practical training of future internal dosimetrists and health physicists.

I hope that this, the first annual report of our renewed 5-y grant, marks substantial progress towards all of these goals.

For the second year running, USTUR worked within a substantially reduced budget. Along with retirements of senior staff, this necessitated thorough review and re-organization of staffing structure and laboratory facilities. Our Program Administrative Manager, Susan Ehrhart, has effected the required changes with the constant support of our WSU Pullman faculty administration. These administrative and facilities changes give USTUR greater flexibility to expand its research contributions; while also substantially enhancing radiochemistry and tissue analysis capacity.

¹The Registries' seven former Directors are:

- W. Daggett Norwood, MD; NPR 1969-1972, USTR 1969-1972, 1973-1976.
- John A. Norcross, MD; USTR 1972-1973.
- Bryce D. Breitenstein, MD; USTR 1976-1982.
- Robert H. Moore, MD; USUR 1978-1989.
- Margery J. Swint, MD; USTR/USUR 1982-1989.
- Ronald L. Kathren, CHP; USTR/USUR 1989-1992, USTUR 1992-1999.
- Ronald E. Filipy, PhD; USTUR 1999-2005.