In memory of Prof. Lynn R. Anspaugh (1937 – 2026)



After a long and distinguished scientific career, Dr. Lynn R. Anspaugh passed away on Sept. 13th, 2026 at the age of 89 years.

Lynn was a prominent health physicist and biophysicist known for his work in radiation dose reconstruction, nuclear fallout assessment and dose reconstruction, and environmental health risk analysis. He received a B.A. from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1959 and M.S. and Ph.D degrees from the University of California in 1961 and 1963. He was a research scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) from 1963 to1992 and served as Division Leader for Environmental Sciences at LLNL from 1982 to 1992, leading research into radionuclide resuspension, fallout transportation, and environmental contamination models (including the widely referenced Anspaugh resuspension model). From 1997 to 2015 he served as Research Professor in the University of Utah Department of Radiology & Imaging Sciences Radiobiology Division. Beginning in 1980, Lynn-also operated his own consulting company to provide services to various law firms and governmental organizations. Over his career, Lynn was author or co-author of around 400 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Lynn served as a Member of the NCRP Council from 1989 to 2011, and in 2011 was elected Distinguished Emeritus Member for life. He served as Chairman of Scientific Committee 84 on Radionuclide Contamination, as Vice-Chairman of Scientific Committee 64 on Radionuclides in the Environment, as Member of Scientific Committee 87-5 on Risk Management and Analysis for Decommissioned Sites, and as Member of Scientific Committee 6-4 on Fundamental Principles of Dose Reconstruction. He was also Member of the Program Committee for the 1990, 1995, and 2001 annual NCRP meetings.

Among his major career achievements Lynn served as a Expert Consultant to international and federal bodies including the DOE, CDC, NCI, National Academies, and UNSCEAR, evaluating radiation exposures and thyroid dosimetry from nuclear weapons testing, the Chernobyl accident, and other nuclear events.

Lynn served as Scientific Director for the Off-Site Radiation Exposure Review Project (ORERP). Lynn and his co-investigators developed the methodology used to estimate radiation doses from both external and internal irradiation, and meticulously mapped out historical estimates of external gamma exposure stemming from different nuclear test series. Anspaugh's contributions to ORERP, spanning decades, were fundamental to the development of modern nuclear dose reconstruction and epidemiological studies.

Following the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, while still working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and later the University of Utah, Lynn analyzed Soviet data and worldwide radiation monitors to assess long-term fallout from radionuclides such as Cesium-137 and Strontium-90, and joined a small group of scientists, including Burton Bennett and Andre Bouville, working at the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) to complete its assessment of the Chernobyl accident.

For many years, Lynn worked as a principal investigator, alongside U.S. and Russian Federation Scientists, on the Joint Coordinating Committee for Radiation Efffects Research (JCCRER) health studies. This binational effort, which began in the late 1980's, coanalyzed historical Soviet data to understand how chronic radiation exposure affected workers and neighboring populations.

Lynn earned multiple professional and institutional honors throughout his career including the Michael T. Ryan Outstanding Paper of the Year Award (2022) awarded by the Health Physics Society to Lynn along with co-authors André Bouville, Kathleen M. Thiessen, F. Owen Hoffman, Harold Beck, Konstantin Gordeev, and Steven L. Simon, and the Alumni Achievement Award (2010) conferred by Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) in recognition of his significant career achievements and contributions to environmental health physics. He was elected as a Fellow of the Health Physics Society in recognition of his significant contributions to the field of radiation protection and health physics.

Lynn Anspaugh was a friend and colleague to us as well as an expert in the field of dose reconstruction that we mutually collaborated in. We were fortunate to have known him professionally and personally. He will be missed in all of the capacities above and we are grateful to have crossed paths with him in our lives and careers.

Harold Harold L. Beck (ret., DOE Environmental Measurements Laboratory).
Andre' Bouville (ret., National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health).
Steven L. Simon (ret., National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health).
F. Owen Hoffman (ret., Oak Ridge Center for Risk Analysis).

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