above ambient.<sup>6</sup> This evidence is being ignored because of antinuclear political activity by prominent scientists<sup>7</sup> and other nonscientific considerations. This is unfortunate because low doses of radiation can be used to treat a host of very serious illnesses by stimulating our damage-control biosystem.<sup>8-11</sup> The potential for helping many patients is enormous.

Two competent physicians subjected the article to double-blind peer review, and every comment and question was addressed to their satisfaction. Subject-matter specialists carried out additional reviews, and their comments were also incorporated into the final article.

#### W.L. Chen, Ph.D.

Director

Dept. of Medical Radiation Technology National Yang-Ming University 155 Li-Nong St., Sec. 2, Pei-tou, 112 Taipei Taiwan

### Y-C. Luan

Senior Scientist and Manager Radiation Protection Division Nuclear Science & Technology Association 8F, 182 Beisin Rd., Sec. 2, Sindian Taiwan

- Mitchel REJ, Boreham DR. Radiation protection in the world of modern radiobiology: a time for a new approach. Proceedings of 10th International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association, Hiroshima, Japan, May 2000, Plenary Session 1. Available at: http:// cnts.wpi.edu/RSH/Docs/Mitchel.html. Accessed May 3, 2004.
- <sup>2</sup> American Nuclear Society. Position Statement on Health Effects of Low Level Radiation. 2001. Available at: http://www.ans.org/pi/ps/docs/ps41.pdf. Accessed April 28, 2004.
- United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation. Adaptive responses to radiation in cells and organisms. UNSCEAR 1994 Report to the General Assembly with scientific annexes, Annex B.
- <sup>4</sup> Calabrese EJ, Baldwin LA. Radiation hormesis: origins, history, scientific foundations. *Hum Exp Toxicol* 2000;19(1):2-97. Available at: http://www.belleonline.com/ home82.html. Accessed April 28, 2004.

- Mitchel REJ. Low doses of radiation reduce risk in vivo. Proceedings of 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, Honolulu, March 21-25, 2004. Am Nucl Soc 2004;357-363.
- <sup>6</sup> Luckey TD. *Radiation Hormesis*. Boca Raton, Fl.: CRC Press; 1991:228.
- Jaffe S. Foundations | Pauling, Meselson, and Socrates. *The Scientist* 2003;17(20):11. (Ava Helen & Linus Pauling Papers at Oregon State University). Available at http://www.thescientist.com/yr2003/oct/upfront3 031020.html. Accessed April 28, 2004.
- Ina Y, Sakai K. Prolongation of life span associated with immunological modification by chronic low-dose-rate radiation in MRLlpr/lpr mice. *Radiat Res* 2004;161:168-173.
- <sup>9</sup> Liu S-Z. Nonlinear dose-response relationship in the immune system following exposure to ionizing radiation: mechanisms and implications. *Nonlinearity in Biology, Toxicology, and Medicine* 2003;1(1):71-92.
- <sup>10</sup> Liu S-Z. Cancer control related to stimulation of immunity by low dose radiation. Proceedings of 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, Honolulu, March 21-25, 2004. *Am Nucl Soc* 2004;368-372.
- <sup>11</sup> Pollycove M. Radiobiological Basis of Low Dose Irradiation in Prevention and Therapy of Cancer. Proceedings of 14th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, Honolulu, March 21-25, 2004, pp 647-653.

**Erratum:** The abscissa was incorrectly labeled in Fig. 2 in Chen et al., *J Am Phys Surg* 2004;9:9. The correct units are mGy/y:

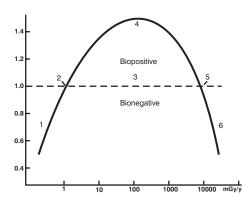


Figure 2. Idealized Dose-Response Curve. The ordinate indicates approximate responses compared with the controls. The abscissa suggests mammalian whole-body exposures as mGy/y. The numbered areas are (1) deficient, (2) ambient, (3) hormetic, (4) optimum, (5) zero equivalent point, and (6) harmful.

# THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IS UNDER ATTACK...

AAPS is fighting back!

Help us spread the word. After you've used your issue of JP&S...

Pass it along to a colleague... Clip an article and give to your patients... Feature it in your reception area...

Sponsor a subscription for your library or medical society...only \$45!

# ATHE AAPS MISSION

Since 1943, AAPS has been the only national association of physicians in all specialties dedicated to preserving and protecting the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship and promoting the practice of private medicine.

We're working to keep third parties — whether the government, insurance companies, or healthcare plans — out of the examining room and medical records.

## WHY WE'RE EFFECTIVE

- We're dues-supported.
- We accept no special interest money.
- We advise influential legislators. (Members in Congress!)
- The media listens to us.
- We mobilize public action.
- We defend individual doctors.

## **AAPS GETS RESULTS**

- ✓ Fights increased government control of the practice of medicine
- Opposes increased government prosecution of physicians
- ✓ Supports unrestricted private contracting with Medicare patients
- ✓ Opposes national provider ID & central patient database
- ✓ Sued the government to stop enforcement of HIPAA regulations
- Helps doctors win legal battles in court, admin hearings & peer review.

See our website for other ways to get the word out to the public and decision makers.

Or email, phone or fax with your ideas or to sponsor a JP&S subscription:

EMAIL: aaps@aapsonline.org www.aapsonline.org 800-635-1196 520-325-4230 Fax



Association of American Physicians & Surgeons The Voice for Private Physicians Since 1943