



Potential Health Effects of Low Dose Radiation and The Role of Radiation Protection Professionals

Why is This Important?

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A MUSING COLUMNTUNE

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THOSE LINEAR NO-THRESHOLD BLUES

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President



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*Since the human data left us
Without any low-dose facts
We're lost on how to deal with
The less than 10-rad whacks.*



*We've got those linear ... those
linear no-threshold blues.*



*The theories all have key flaws
The experiments often vary
The explanations are not solid
And the science is quite hairy*

*We've got those low-down
linear ... those low-down linear
no-threshold blues.*

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*Some people cry hormesis
Some people yell repair
Most people moan we don't know
So let's pretend it's there*



*We've got those very-low-down
linear ... those very-low-down
linear no-threshold blues.*



*The profession gets more vocal
The government more staid
What should we really do about
Millirads in which we bathe*

*We've got those linear ... those
linear no-threshold blues.*

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*The Council and Commission
Sound caution and constraint
But folks are spending big bucks
On risks for which there ain't.*



*We've got those low-down linear
... those low-down linear no-
threshold blues.*



*Science and perception
May forever disagree
Even if it's clarified
By mi.cro.do.sim.e.try.*

*We've got those very-low-down
linear ... those very-low-down
linear no-threshold blues.*

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*A dialogue has started up
Opinions are prolific
Everyone has got the chance
To claim they're scientific*



*We've got those linear ... those
linear no-threshold blues.*



*That discourse is ongoing
A debate that's fully staged
Day by day and year by year
The question stays engaged.*

*We've got those low-down
linear ... those low-down linear
no-threshold blues.*

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*Those “for” have a point of view
Those “not for” have another
A magic link is needed
To join one to the other.*



*We’ve got those very-low-down
linear ... those very-low-down
linear no-threshold blues.*



Those low-down blues.



Approach to Today's Session

- What does the science tell us?
 - Epidemiology, biology, and integration of the two.
- What are current and future research needs?
- How do regulatory agencies apply the science we know (and the awareness of what we don't know!) to radiation protection?
- What is our role as radiation protection specialists?