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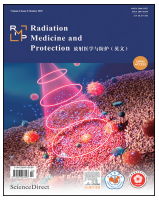

Editorial

Radiation Medicine and Protection – contributions to the UN SDGs

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda), adopted by all Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) complemented by 169 Targets as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Radiation medicine plays a significant role in several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. It contributes to disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment, and improving access to healthcare, especially in developing countries. The use of nuclear technology in medicine, particularly to fight cancer and to diagnose diseases, has become one of the most widespread uses of nuclear energy. It is essential to ensure all people obtain the good quality, affordable health services that they need.

Radiation has numerous industrial applications, including quality control, material analysis, and sterilization. Radiation has useful applications in areas such as agriculture, archaeology (carbon dating), space exploration, geology (including mining), and many others. In addition to human-made radiation, naturally occurring radioactive materials are around us everywhere in varying concentrations.

Radiation is an indispensable tool in medicine and industry. However, if not justified and safe, its use can impair the health of people and the environment. Therefore, radiation protection in medicine, in workplaces and in the environment also plays a significant role in several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in SDG 3: Good health and well-being, SDG 14: Life below water, and SDG 15: Life on land.

Since radiation medicine and radiological protection play such significant role in several SDGs, this special issue aims to demonstrate how radiation medicine and radiation protection contribute to the achievement of these SDGs through a collection of original and/or summary works carried out in various institutions.

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