



Risk Assessment for Workplace Exposure to Natural Radioactivity

Guest Editor:

Dr. Burgehele Bety-Denissa

Center for Applied Environmental
Research, Babeş-Bolyai
University, Fântânele 30, 400294
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (13 August 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

We know that people are continuously being exposed to natural sources of ionizing radiation. Natural radiation may have numerous sources, including naturally occurring radioactive materials found in all environments. Every day, people inhale and ingest naturally occurring radionuclides from air, food, and water, which sums up 80% of the annual dose of background radiation that a person receives. Background radiation levels can vary widely due to geological differences. Radon, a naturally occurring gas emanating from rocks and soil is classified as the main source of natural radiation. Exposure to ionizing radiation, such as radon, which can occur under different circumstances, at home, at workplaces or in public places is considered existing exposure, and a decision on prevention and control should be taken. If the radiation dose is low and/or is delivered over a long period of time (low dose rate), the risk is substantially lower because there is a greater likelihood of repairing the damage. Although exposure to low doses is associated with low risk, there is still a risk of long-term effects such as cancer.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Sergio Ulgiati

1. Department of Science and
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2. State Key Joint Laboratory of
Environment Simulation and
Pollution Control, School of
Environment, Beijing Normal
University, No. 19 Xijiekouwai
Street, Beijing 100875, China

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Environments Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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