Recent Advances in Planning & Response to Radiation Emergencies

This is the fifth, and last, in a series of articles on the HPS’ upcoming 2009 Midyear Meeting being held in San Antonio, Texas, January 31 – February 3, 2009. See the September thru December issues of Health Physics News for the first four articles. Important Note: Due to the availability of hotels and convention facilities, the meeting will start one day earlier than usual (e.g., PEP sessions will be held Saturday, January 31, 2009).

From our previous articles you should be convinced the Midyear is being held at a great venue and it’s presenting a great technical program. Let’s talk about two fascinating technical tours.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND
Southwest Research Institute
12:30-5:00 pm Pre Reg: $15/On Site: $20
The Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) is offering presentations with selected tours concerning: Aerospace Electronics and Information Technology, Applied Physics, Automation and Data Systems, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Engine, Emissions and Vehicle Research, Fuels and Lubricant Research, Geosciences and Engineering, Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Signal Exploitation and Geolocation, Space Science and Engineering, Training, Simulation, and Performance Improvement and Sealed Source Activities. For more information you can look at the SWRI web site at http://www.swri.org. You must be a US Citizen to take this tour, and you must have a photo ID, like a driver’s license, in order to tour the High-Level Radiation Effects Facility (Hot Lab).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Research Imaging Center
2:30-4:30 pm Pre Reg: $15/On Site: $20
The University of Texas Health Science Center Research Imaging Center is home to two Cyclotrons used for the advancement of PET imaging research. The facility is the first academic facility to house both an unshielded 17 MeV cyclotron as well as a self-shielded 11 MeV cyclotron. The self-shielded 11 MeV cyclotron is part of the brand new state-of-the-art imaging facility commissioned in 2008. These cyclotrons are used for the production of F-18 and O-15 radiopharmaceuticals essential to the complex PET imaging research required to help further the understanding of the human anatomy, metabolic activity, and organ function.

Please remember to sign-up for these tours early, during pre-registration. Sometimes excellent tours are cancelled when too many people wait until the last minute to register. A minimum number of participants must sign-up for tours during pre-registration to cover HPS costs.

So you’re coming? GREAT!!! One last thing: anybody coming to San Antonio would be well advised to commit to memory the lyrics of one of the best songs ever written (okay, we’re biased). But there is certainly a chance you’re going to hear this song sometime while you’re in San Antonio and it’d be great fun to be able to sing along. Famous for his Texas Swing style, Bob Wills wrote San Antonio Rose in 1938. A catchy tune with romantic lyrics, you can practice it by singing along with Dwight Yoakam and Asleep At The Wheel as they sing their version of the song: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOGdMEemqWQ.

San Antonio Rose (Bob Wills, 1938)
Deep within my heart lies a melody
A song of old San Antone
Where in dreams I live with a memory
Beneath the stars all alone

It was there I found beside the Alamo
Enchantment strange as the blue up above
A moonlit path that only she would know
Still hears my broken song of love

Moon in all your splendor know only my heart
Call back my Rose, Rose of San Antone
Lips so sweet and tender like petals fallin’ apart
Speak once again of my love, my own

A broken song, empty words I know
Still live in my heart all alone
For that moonlit pass beside the Alamo
And Rose, my Rose of San Antone

Another link sure to get you in the mood for your trip to San Antonio provides a gentle electric guitar rendition of the tune by John Abbott and nice photographs of Texas, including San Antonio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TLnqsnDg5I&feature=related. Please come join us in "old San Antone." You'll find personal enchantment and create your own wonderful memories … we're all looking forward to seeing y'all soon!!