Mid 2018 is an exceptionally busy period for IRPA, with four major Regional Congresses being held around the world. The Latin America Congress was held in Cuba 16-20 April, with over 500 participants. The Asia/Oceania region met in Melbourne, Australia, 20-24 May, with over 300 participants, and Europe is meeting in The Hague 4-8 June, expecting around 600 participants. There will be a smaller African Regional Congress in Tunis from 6-9 September. There is great engagement and support from the international organisations (including in particular IAEA and WHO/PAHO), with much emphasis on sharing key programmes, especially in the medical field – and with an emphasis on reviewing progress on the Bonn Call for Action. Broad conclusions from each congress will be available on the IRPA website in due course.

For some time IRPA has given emphasis to the active engagement of young persons in its activities, including a Young Scientists/Professionals prize competition at every congress. We are now building on this programme with the launch of the IRPA Young Generation Network, aiming to develop international links between young professionals, share ideas on key issues such as career development, support the development of Young Persons groups in each national RP Society and promote the active involvement of the next generation in all key activities of IRPA and the societies. This is part of a wider programme broadly addressing ‘The Future of our Profession’, which is recognised by almost all international organisations as one of our key challenges.

There is widespread interest in many of the issues raised in the IRPA Consultation on the System of Protection, published earlier in the year and shared with the international organisations. IRPA will continue to give particular focus on the need for a practical and broadly pragmatic approach to protection, applying the graded approach in regulation, placing emphasis on clarifying what is meant by Reasonable in ALARA, and exploring the balance between prudence and beneficence (‘Value for Money’ for society) in the way we take decisions with our traditional conservative mindset.

Roger Coates
IRPA President
2 June 2018