

1st International Workshop on Space Radiation Research
and
11th Annual NASA Space Radiation Health Investigators' Workshop
Arona (Italy)
May 27 / 31 , 2000

The 1st International Workshop on Space Radiation Research and 11th Annual NASA Space Radiation Health Investigators' Workshop were held on May 27 - 31 , 2000 in Arona (Italy). The joint meeting was sponsored by the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) and NASA. The number of registered participants was 152; they originated in 14 countries, including the US and Italy, who contributed approximately 100 of the participants between them. The meeting was divided into 11 plenary sessions, which included 60 oral presentations, with an additional 52 contributed poster presentations.

The decision to hold a joint meeting originated at a NASA/ASI workshop held in Rome, for the purpose of developing international collaboration in radiation research. The Italian radiobiology community has had a long-term interest and participation in the US program. The Italian medical physics community has been involved in the design of a charged particle accelerator for cancer therapy, which could also simulate components of space radiation. The efforts of this community could make a useful contribution to the US radiation program, and therefore are being encouraged by NASA.

The opening session of the conference was held in the Arona church, and was attended by local and regional authorities. The President of Italy, Mr. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi sent a congratulatory telegram and Dr. Umberto Veronesi, the current Health Minister of Italy and a world-renowned radiation oncologist (cf. *Science* , **288**:791, 5 May 2000), wrote a letter of support. Results of the press conference and coverage of the conference were broadcast on Italian television.

The participants expressed great satisfaction with the scientific stimulation provided by the conference and the desire to have a further conference, possibly in 2002. The Japanese contingent also offered to host the next conference, possibly in Nara, Japan.