



June 26, 2018

Kathryn D. Held Selected as NCRP's Sixth President



The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is pleased to announce that Kathryn D. Held has been selected by the Board of Directors to serve as the Council's sixth President, effective January 1, 2019, when current President John D. Boice, Jr. steps down. Dr. Held will follow the distinguished careers of Presidents Boice, 2012 to 2018; Thomas T. Tenforde, 2002 to 2012; Charles B. Meinhold, 1991 to 2002; Warren K. Sinclair, 1977 to 1991; and the founding President Lauriston S. Taylor, 1929 to 1977.

Dr. Held has held the post of NCRP Executive Director and Chief Science Officer since 2016. She was elected to Council in 2006 and served on the Board of Directors from 2008 to 2014 and was Scientific Vice President and Co-Chair of Program Area Committee 1 on Basic Criteria, Epidemiology, Radiobiology, and Risk from 2011 to 2016. She also served as Chair of the Program Committee for the 2011 NCRP Annual Meeting on "Scientific and Policy Challenges of Particle Radiations in Medical Therapy and Space Missions." Dr. Held was a member of Scientific Committee (SC) 1-22 that prepared NCRP Commentary No. 23 on *Radiation Protection for Space Activities: Supplement to Previous Recommendations* and SC 1-24 that prepared NCRP Commentary No. 25 on the *Potential for Central Nervous System Effects from Radiation Exposure during Space Activities Phase I: Overview*.

Dr. Held is an Associate Radiation Biologist in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology (Radiation Biology) at Harvard Medical School (HMS) as well as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Gunma University, Japan. At MGH and Gunma, Dr. Held's teams conduct research on molecular mechanisms for the induction of bystander effects by high-energy particles in cells and tissues, characterization of charged particle beam-induced DNA damage responses and cell killing, with interest in effects on neural tissues, and mechanisms for regulation of DNA damage response by cell-cell communication. Dr. Held teaches radiation biology to radiation oncology medical and physics residents and graduate students at MGH/HMS and as a regular visiting lecturer at several other national and international institutions.

Dr. Held earned her BA in chemistry from Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania, and PhD in biology from the University of Texas, Austin. She has served on review panels for numerous federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and other organizations such as the Radiological Society of North America. She is on the Editorial Boards of *Radiation Research* and the *International Journal of Radiation Biology* and has served on committees for the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, NASA, and the American Society of Radiation Oncology. She was President of the Radiation Research Society from 2009 to 2010.

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