

## **Environmental Radiation: What Do We Know and What Should We Know for Assessing Risks**

Special Session Jointly Sponsored by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Health Physics Society (HPS) and International Union of Radioecology (IUR)

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**Co-Chairs:** Igor Linkov (SETAC), Ed Maher (HPS), and Kathy Higley (IUR)

As the eyes of the world watched the explosions at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, and as initial fears of nuclear meltdown and the release of radioactive steam and water into the environment became a reality, public dialogue turned naturally to the risk-management challenges that catastrophic risks like these pose for modern technological societies. Not surprisingly, this heightened international public scrutiny has led some to question whether the ways in which we assess nuclear risks are sufficient and whether the underpinnings of the framework for regulating risks is adequate. The questions of environmental impacts associated with radiologically-contaminated ecosystems, conservatism associated with risk benchmarks that are currently used, as well as possible deficiency in risk assessment processes and risk communication will be discussed in this special session. The questions of environmental impacts associated with radiologically-contaminated ecosystems, the need, potential and limitations of remedial measures, conservatism associated with risk benchmarks that are currently used, as well as possible deficiency in risk assessment processes and risk communication will be discussed in this special session.