

Biography: Dr. Richard V. Osborne

Dr Richard V. Osborne
President, Ranasara Consultants Inc.



Richard Osborne received his B.A. with Honours in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University in 1959, after which he undertook post-graduate research with Professor W.V. Mayneord at the Institute of Cancer Research, London, gaining his Ph.D. in biophysics from London University in 1962. He then accepted a research fellowship with Dr M. Eisenbud at the Institute of Environmental Medicine in the New York Medical Center.

In 1963 he joined AECL at Chalk River as a research officer in the Health Physics Branch. He was appointed Manager of the Environmental Research Branch at Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) in 1981 and in July, 1988 accepted a special assignment as Executive Assistant to the President of the AECL Research Company in Ottawa. He returned to CRL in November 1989 as Director of Health & Environmental Sciences Division. From 1991–1994 he had responsibility for all the programs in occupational safety and health protection in AECL Research in addition to the responsibility for directing the research program in health sciences. From 1994 until he retired from AECL in 1998 he directed the AECL research programs in radiation biology, health physics and environmental research. He chaired the AECL Health and Environment Working Group and also served on AECL's Safety Review Committee, and the AECL Environmental Panel. He is now President of Ranasara Consultants Inc., working in the general area of radiological protection. Clients have included Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, SENES Consultants Limited, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD), Natural Resources Canada, SRB Technologies, Ecometrix Incorporated, and the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council.

Dr Osborne received the Elda E. Anderson Award of the Health Physics Society in 1975, was a member of the Society's Board of Directors from 1976–1979, was the Society's G. William Morgan Lecturer in 1992 and the Robert S. Landauer Lecturer in 2004, and was elected a Fellow of the Society in 2005. He founded and was first President of the Canadian Radiation Protection Association in 1979. He was Vice-President of the International Radiation Protection Association from 1992–1996.

He served on Committee 4 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection from 1980 to 1993 and from 1997 to 2001 when he was Vice-Chairman of that Committee. In 1989, he chaired the ICRP Task Group on Radon in Buildings and from 1997 to 2001 chaired the ICRP Working Party on controllable dose. Dr Osborne has worked with committees and advisory groups of the Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD) in Paris, the NCRP in the USA, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna (including the Radiation Safety Standards Advisory Committee), and various Canadian Agencies, including the Advisory Committee on Radiological Protection of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. He was a member of the US National Research Council's Committee on Radiological Safety in the Marshall Islands. He was the Canadian Representative to UNSCEAR in 1996 and 1997, and in 1997 was the Task Leader for Tritium Safety and Environmental Effects for the IEA Implementing Agreement on Environmental, Safety and Economic Aspects of Fusion Power. In the late 1990s, he served as a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Japan.

Dr Osborne's early research and papers were on the behaviour and measurement of natural radioactivity in the biosphere. Later he led an R&D program on tritium health physics which resulted in many papers on topics ranging from biokinetics through instrumentation to operational protection. In his work for various

agencies he has been responsible for writing and editing many reports on the practical application of radiological protection principles.