The 10th ICRU Gray Medal to Dr. Michael Fry

Gordon Whitmore

The ICRU is pleased to announce that the Gray Medal of the ICRU will be presented to Dr. Michael Fry during the 12th International Congress of Radiation Research in Brisbane, Australia in August 2003. As the tenth recipient of the Gray Medal Dr. Fry joins an illustrious group of predecessors who have been honored for their major contributions to basic and applied radiation science.

Michael Fry was born in Dublin, Ireland and attended the University of Dublin where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, a medical degree and a postgraduate M.D. During a ten year period as a teacher of physiology at the University of Dublin Dr. Fry spent two years as a research associate at Argonne National Laboratory and later joined the staff at Argonne. His early research interests at Argonne involved studies of cell kinetics in the intestine but his interests gradually moved toward radiation carcinogenesis. It was these latter interests which took him to Oak Ridge National Laboratory as leader of a major group involved in studies of radiation carcinogenesis. Although probably best known for his studies of radiation carcinogenesis in the Harderian gland his studies have also included a variety of other tissues. Largely because of his work with the Harderian gland this system now plays a key role in studies of the risk of high LET and space radiations. Dr. Fry has authored three books and more than one hundred papers related to radiobiology and radiation carcinogenesis.

In addition to his personal scientific contributions and because of his widely recognized expertise and wisdom coupled with a quiet but forceful manner and sense of humor Dr. Fry has been asked to serve in a wide variety of major roles related to radiation biology, carcinogenesis and protection. These roles include membership on the Radiation Study Section, NASA Life Sciences Committee and committees of the National Academy of Science. In the field of radiation protection Dr. Fry has played major roles on numerous committees of the NCRP and as Vice-chairman of ICRP’s Committee I and produced ICRP’s report on skin.

As well as his major roles on national and international committees Dr. Fry has played a major leadership role in the Radiation Research Society and for many years edited the Society’s journal Radiation Research. His contributions to the Society and as editor were recognized by the Society when it named one of its two major awards the Michael Fry Research Award.

Based on his outstanding contributions to radiation science the ICRU is proud and pleased to award the tenth Gray Medal to Dr. Fry.