

Welcome address to SEAMP

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Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate all of you with the new professional society we just opened. There is a great hope that it will help connect many American Medical Physicists with the European and East European heritage and provide new opportunities for collaboration. SEAMP will allow Medical Physicists from Europe to engage in more scientific, clinical and personal communication and information exchange with American colleagues.



Now a few words about my professional life and what brought me to America's East coast. I was born in Riga, Latvia, part of the Soviet Union at that time, that is located on Baltic Sea. Here I found a lot of similarities between the two places - the beaches of very fine sand, white dunes and pine trees overlooking murky waters.



I received my MSc degree in Solid State Physics in 1977. The Medical Physics was not a formal degree available in our profession at the time.



In 1981 I started as a Junior Research Engineer in the Thermoluminescent Dosimetry Research Department at Riga Medical School. Our Department was located in one of the old buildings that were part of Paula Stradina Republican Hospital (now Medical University Hospital). On leaving the department in 1991, I was Senior Research Scientist and awarded Best Young Inventor, had numerous published papers and most importantly was the creator of the anthropomorphic pediatric dosimetry phantoms of different age groups.



The first anthropomorphic dosimetry phantom was a newborn without skeleton and was developed in 1986.

It included tissue equivalent lungs.

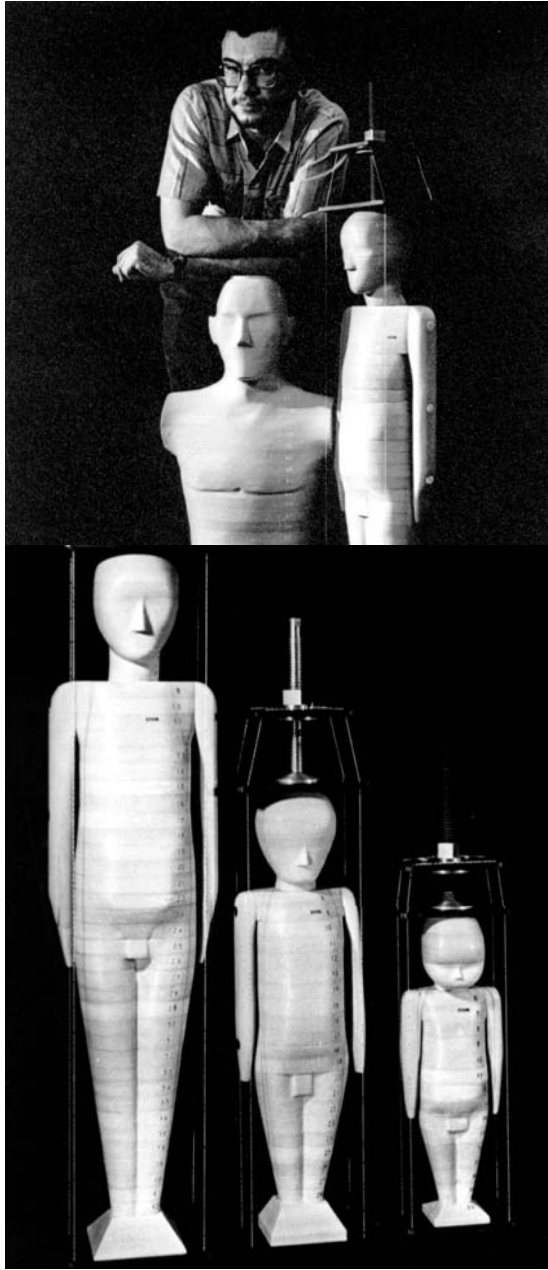


The second phantom contained natural skeleton.

Newborn, 1 and 5 year old phantoms were completed by 1988.

All made with natural skeletons.

TLD locations were optimized for internal radiosensitive organs.



In 1988 I founded ATOM Ltd., a development Company in the field of Medical Physics with the goal to commercialize existing phantoms and design more.

In 1991– ATOM Family was created:

Newborn

1 year old

5 year old

10 year old

15 year old

Male

Female

All phantoms contained artificial skeletons and lungs. Positions of 19 sensitive organs were based on extensive anatomical research. TLD locations were optimized for all organs.

In 1997 my family and I moved to Toronto, Canada and two years later to Virginia Beach, Virginia.



CIRS

www.cirsinc.com

I was employed by CIRS Inc in 1999. Soon the ATOM Family was reborn:

Newborn
1 year old
5 year old
10 year old
Male
Female

All phantoms contain tissue equivalent anthropomorphic skeletons and lungs. Pediatric bone equivalent materials depend on the phantoms' age groups.

And finally, for the last 10 years I have been developing new phantoms and tissue equivalent materials that were successfully used for QA in Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Therapy including 4D CT, CB CT, IMRT and IGRT. My hope is to keep going for many more years to come and keep enjoying the sandy beaches and beloved Atlantic Ocean.