Preface

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Third National Conference on Radiation Awareness and Detection in Natural Environment (RADNET-III) was organised by the Departments of Physics, HNB Garhwal University, Badshahi Thaul Campus, Tehri Garhwal & Govt. P.G. College, New Tehri, Tehri Garhwal during March 18–20, 2021. All sessions and meetings during the conference were conducted online because of COVID-19 pandemic.

This conference attracted more than one hundred participants both from India and abroad. Distinguished scientists from 11 countries attended the conference, including Canada, Japan, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Taiwan, Cameroon, and India. The conference featured 102 scientific papers covering almost all important aspects of radiation awareness and detection Methodologies. The three day symposium was divided into eleven technical sessions comprising one keynote address, twenty three invited talks and seventy eight oral presentations. Among them, we received 57 full papers for publication. Following peer review, 30 complete papers were accepted for publication in JRNC. Some work-in-progress presentations are intended to lead to independent publications in the future.

The aim of the conference was to bring together the researchers from all over the world, to share their knowledge on Radiation awareness and detection; to identify the importance, challenges and issues in the field of natural radioactivity and its measurement techniques; and to collaborate to discover feasible solutions for the associated problems from various perspectives such as improvements in measurement techniques, dosimetry, its impact on radon epidemiology and/or regulations. The conference included

all of the major issues of natural radioactivity, with a specific emphasis on the awareness, detection, and effects of radiation in the human environment. Special emphasis was placed on new techniques, radon and thoron decay product measurements, soil radioactivity, radon in drinking water, heavy metals in river basins, High Natural Background Radiation areas, building material characterization, inhalation dosimetry, the importance of thoron and its decay product measurements, and so on.

The conference was scheduled to take place in June 2020, however it was postponed owing to the outbreak of COVID-19. The organising committee worked hard to overcome challenges such as time differences between participants' locations and network concerns, resulting in a highly successful conference. It was a wonderful forum for RADNET team and students who were exhausted and disappointed by the COVID-19 restrictions on academic sharing of research experiences and results. The organisers sincerely hope that the RADNET-III conference provided a platform for researchers to establish direct contact with potential future collaborators in this field.

We thank the organisers and members of the scientific committee for their efforts in making this RADNET-III conference a reality. A special thanks also goes to the Chairpersons for their cooperation during the conference sessions. We wish to express our sincere thanks to all the reviewers and authors for completing the task within a very short time in order to bring this issue in time. We are grateful to the Editor-in-Chief and other members of the editorial board of JRNC for their great help in the publication of selected papers.

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