

The World Health Organization and Radiation Medicine

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By international definition Radiation Medicine comprises all applications of ionizing radiation and radionuclides for medical diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. In addition to X-ray Diagnosis and Radiotherapy, Nuclear Medicine forms one of the three branches of Radiation Medicine.

The World Health Organization with its goal of "Health for all by the Year 2000" is promoting the optimum use of Nuclear Medicine. This includes the development of appropriate technology; the training and education of physicians, scientists and technical staff in NM applications; and the determination of the efficacy of various NM methods and the efficiency of services. Particular attention is paid to the possibility of solving public health problems, e.g. with epidemiological research using NM, and to the stimulation of international cooperation in the field of maintenance and repair of equipment and the provision of radiopharmaceuticals.