

## **DoseNet: building scientific literacy through a network of radiation detection devices**

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### **Content**

After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident in March 2011, there was a great deal of misinformation and fear on the western coast of the United States regarding radiation from the damaged power plant in Japan reaching US residents. This fear reflects the general public's lack of understanding of radioactivity in our environment and how to assess risks associated with radiation exposure. More generally, this response exposed a lack of scientific literacy in our community. The RadWatch outreach organization was formed to address these concerns by providing transparent, relevant measurements of radioactivity in our environment. The newest component of this ongoing effort is the DoseNet project, a multidisciplinary undertaking to educate the next generation about radiation science, improve scientific literacy, and improve our communication of technical concepts to our communities. We are actively building a network of radiation measurement devices (dosimeters) deployed at schools around the Bay Area and at several international locations, with the data collated and displayed through our website ([radwatch.berkeley.edu/dosenet](http://radwatch.berkeley.edu/dosenet)). Our network provides students with access to real-world background radiation data and the tools to analyze this data. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved in hands-on work with these radiation detection devices, as well as future developments such as the addition of new types of sensors (CO<sub>2</sub>, UV, etc.). This project will therefore engage students at all levels and allow them to "see" and learn what is normal in our world by applying fundamental science and engineering concepts.

### **About the Presenter**

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