42nd Annual Meeting Preview: Revving Up for the Future at #AAMD2017

By Madison Fletcher, CMD, and Rick Scherer, CMD
2017 Annual Conference Committee Co-Chairs

On behalf of the 2017 Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the AAMD Board of Directors, we are excited to invite you to attend the AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, June 11-15, 2017, with pre-conference workshops June on 9 and 10 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis Hotel.

The ACC has been working hard to put together an educational program to help dosimetrists advance to the top of their profession and earn over 30 continuing education credits while also having the opportunity to network with over 400 fellow dosimetrists and see the latest radiation oncology products in our exhibit hall. The MDCB credits are not only applicable to CMDs but also to radiation therapist and radiologic technologist as well. In addition, we are offering CAMPEP credits this year for medical physicists.

We invite you to participate in our pre-conference workshop program, which includes a CMD Review, Billing and Coding Workshop, Varian Eclipse Workshop(s) and a Giving Scientific Presentations Workshop. The CMD Review is a two-day course beginning Friday, June 9. On Saturday, June 10, there is an in-depth radiation oncology billing and coding workshop. The presentation workshop, also on Saturday, will be an interactive workshop that will include presentation/public speaking tips and techniques with small group breakout sessions for discussion and brainstorming exercises.

After a full day of education on Sunday, join us for the Welcome Reception to network and relax with good food and company. This will take place in the exhibit hall, where you will have time to visit with our corporate partners and possibly win some prizes!

Back again this year will be one full day of concurrent sessions (Wednesday) and also Image Registration (Tuesday) and Treatment Planning System (TPS) Workshops (Saturday-Wednesday). These workshops are FREE (with full meeting registration), but space is limited, so you will want to register early to guarantee your spot. See the Workshops page on the AAMD website for more details.

We are happy to announce that the AAMD’s Corporate Partners will once again be offering BONUS credits through sponsored lunch symposia (Sunday through Wednesday). Proknow, Elekta, Philips, and Accuray are sponsoring the lunches. 125 box lunches will be provided as part of the sponsorship, but space will be available for additional people to attend. These are excellent opportunities to earn extra credits while in Indianapolis! Be sure to pre-register for these events when you register for the meeting.

Come stay with us at our meeting hotel, the JW Marriott Indianapolis. It’s a luxurious, award winning hotel in the heart of downtown Indianapolis with innovative hospitality that inspire you to work, play
With Spring finally here to stay (I hope), it’s time for the blooming of trees and flowers and the sprucing up of our homes and yards. It’s a time of “renewal.” So how can we think about that concept of “renewal” and apply it to our professional lives? Renewal can lead us to think about renewing our passion for medical dosimetry and patient care or perhaps focusing on renewing our professional credentials.

AAMD is here to help with both of those “renewal” items. We have two upcoming meetings that offer you fresh insights into treatment planning, with a focus on new approaches and tips for maximizing your own performance on the job. First up is the Region V Meeting in Nashville, TN, April 7 and 8. In just two days, you can earn up to 15 CE credits while “talking shop” with fellow dosimetrists from around the country.

Next will be our flagship event, the AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting, June 11 – 15, in Indianapolis, IN. This event offers a wide range of activities (and 30+ CE credits) from hands-on workshops to educational sessions that will give you information and training that you can use in your daily work. Plus, you’ll have the opportunity to share experiences with treatment planning professionals from around the world – we already have registrants from Nigeria, New Zealand, Canada, and the United Kingdom. There will be plenty of time to see what’s new with our exhibitors and sponsors too, as you can schedule demos of new products and get your questions answered for the products you’re currently using. If you come to the Annual Meeting, you’ll definitely leave with a renewed energy for medical dosimetry – and some new friends too!

If you don’t have time to attend a meeting, AAMD also has expanded CE opportunities in our online CE Center. See the article in this issue to learn about what’s new and available to you – without even leaving your clinic.

Finally, I want to encourage you to vote in the 2017 AAMD Election. This is your opportunity to look toward the future of AAMD and the medical dosimetry profession to elect motivated leaders who will ensure that our profession remains at the forefront of radiation oncology and focused on the best possible patient outcomes. I want to thank the members who are running for election, as well as those who continue to serve AAMD in volunteer roles. Your interest in supporting AAMD and the medical dosimetry profession is impressive and appreciated. I also want to invite others to consider a volunteer role in the near future. There are opportunities for everyone, no matter what your interests or time limitations are. Contact me or any current AAMD Board Members or Committee Co-Chairs to learn more.

I hope you’ll take time to renew your passion for our profession this Spring. I look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis!

Best wishes,

Craig McKenzie, BSRT, CMD
AAMD President

cmckenzie@medicaldosimetry.org
The AAMD 2017 Board of Directors and Regional Representatives Election is underway! We are thrilled to have some great nominees willing to serve to help lead our society. The positions up for election in 2017 are:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Member at Large I
- Regional Representative III
- Regional Representative IV

All Full CMD Members will be asked to vote on the position of President-Elect and Member at Large I. The regional representatives will only be voted on by the members in their respective regions.

This year’s election will use a third-party company, Survey and Ballot Systems, to handle the election process. Members received emails with election details from “AAMD Election Coordinator” on March 6 and March 20. Use the secure link in those emails to vote by April 1.

To help with your ballot decisions, get to know the candidates by reading their personal statements.

**President-Elect**

**Lee Hales**

Position Statement - I am honored to accept the nomination for AAMD President Elect. Over the last 16 years, I have gained extensive professional and volunteer experience that allows me to understand the issues currently facing the AAMD. Significant changes in the technology that we employ and the health care field itself challenge our profession. We must understand these changes and adapt to them so that we can remain an invaluable part of the team providing care to our patients.

**Treasurer**

**Brian Napolitano**

Position Statement - I have served as the interim Treasurer for 2016 and have enjoyed the experience. I have gained valuable knowledge of the organization’s financial operations, using this insight to assist in planning for the long-term development of the dosimetry profession with the Board of Directors. I wish to pursue election for the position of Treasurer for the AAMD as a way to continue to give back to the profession. I feel that my experience as both a clinical dosimetrist and a manager as well as my educational background are well suited to help assist in shaping the vision of the organization on behalf of the professionals that it serves.

**Member at Large I**

**Jessica Mudd Caselli**

Position Statement - I have been in the dosimetry field for 14 years, and I enjoy going to work every day. I started in dosimetry fairly young, in a time when OJT was pretty much the only option. I’ve seen our profession grow and change and I’ve seen amazing new technological advances. I love to continually grow, change, and learn along with the times, and to challenge myself to be better. It is for these reasons I am submitting my nomination for Member at Large on the AAMD Board of Directors. I would like to be a voice on the issues of today, such as the requirements for CE cycles, learning opportunities for some of the emerging treatment techniques, and the future of our profession. I would characterize myself as progressive yet realistic. I hope you will vote for me.

**Member at Large I**

**Lori Kasuske**

Position Statement – The AAMD’s mission is to promote and support the Medical Dosimetry profession. They do this in a number of ways but one of the most important to me is the educational opportunities they provide. I am a solo dosimetrist at a small community hospital. Conferences, networking, directed journal readings, workshops, webinars, etc. provided by the AAMD all play a vital role keeping me up to date in the rapidly changing world of medical dosimetry and radiation oncology. It is important to me that the AAMD works very hard to keep costs ALARA while providing high quality services to its members. My experience on the Board of Directors has given me an inside look at how the AAMD is proactive in meeting the needs of medical dosimetrists and the healthcare community. As your Member at Large I will continue to listen to your concerns and suggestions and I will work hard to ensure the AAMD supports your needs as a medical dosimetrist.

*Continued on page 4*
Region IV Representative

Jeffrey Antone

Position Statement - The AAMD has valuable asset to the Dosimetry community. However, I hear at times, “Why should we bother signing up?” or “I don’t feel like renewing my membership.” I feel that Dosimetrist aren’t fully exploring the website, exposing themselves to information that is beneficial. Here are a few ideas to make it appealing:

- Promote specialty meetings geared only for specific anatomic sites;
- Have a grid/message board that gears to specific anatomically sites and breaks down common problems planners face;
- Have a rotational mentor that has been in the field for at 7 years for specific treatment sites that can help new students or older Dosimetrists in the field;
- Have more of an incentive to sign up earlier for regional or annual meetings;
- New member division group/link for those entering the field;
- More workshops geared for presenting at other meetings (AAPM, ASTRO);
- Invite international speakers on their treatment planning techniques;
- Explore possibility of international meetings and reward those who have been an outstanding member for “x” amount of years to be eligible.

Region III Representative

Anna de Leon

Position Statement - As a representative of the AAMD, I will continue to adhere to the guidelines established by the organization while working to improve upon our existing member outreach methods. I’ll continue to research the best possible treatment planning methods and disseminate my findings amongst my fellow AAMD members. I believe the AAMD is extremely well organized and professional but there is always room to improve where member outreach is concerned. I’m grateful for the opportunity to help maintain and further our organization for my region and will do my best to fulfill the responsibilities given with the utmost professionalism and dedication.

Member at Large I

Mark Littell

Position Statement - The AAMD is OUR organization. In my experience after serving in various volunteer positions, I know AAMD is already a well-run organization. However, after spending time in leadership roles within several AAMD committees, I can see areas where the AAMD can further grow so more radiation oncology professionals worldwide can utilize the resources provided. Growing the membership globally will enable the AAMD to offer higher quality and more specialized services to all of us, and will further promote vendors to invest in the education of our organization’s members. My history of bringing together AAMD committees to work together to accomplish goals has and will continue to allow once small ideas to become a reality.
The AAMD CE Center Offers Expanded Learning Opportunities

By Nishele Lenards, CMD, and Greg White, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs

For the 2017 membership year, the AAMD Continuing Education Committee introduced some exciting updates to CE activities being offered to AAMD members. Here’s an overview of what’s available and how you can take full advantage of the offerings to keep your skills and knowledge up to date.

The AAMD is a professional organization which aims to offer a variety of continuing education (CE) opportunities for the medical dosimetry community. Please do not confuse the AAMD with the MDCB. The MDCB is a credentialing organization responsible for establishing certification and continuing education standards to enhance quality patient care.

The AAMD offers continuing education through a variety of activities designed to enhance your knowledge, improve your performance, and satisfy your re-certification requirements. The CE activities offered through the AAMD are available in a face-to-face or online educational environment. The terminology of CE activities offered are as follows:

- **Self-Assessment Module (SAM):** A SAM is a self-assessment activity that is prequalified for SAM credit by the MDCB, or by a RCEEM status provided.
  - Online SAM: developed to specifically meet a CE objective and organized as individual online self-paced modules with quizzes for CE credit(s).
  - Journal SAM: developed to specifically meet a CE journal article objective and organized as an individual online self-paced journal article with quiz for CE credit(s).

- **Live Webinar:** a live online education presentation during which participating viewers can submit questions and comments. Attendees must be present during a live webinar to receive credit. The quiz is available for 2-weeks post webinar. After the live webinar, a recording of the webinar will be archived to the Resource Database for general education purposes.

- **Virtual Meeting:** a recorded annual or regional meeting presentation offered for online viewing with a quiz for CE credit. Any attendee who was present at the actual live meeting presentation can view the ‘virtual meeting’ but will not receive additional credit.

- **Recorded Presentation:** a recorded lecture/presentation offered for online viewing with a quiz for CE credit.

- **Annual and Regional Meetings:** live, face-to-face educational lectures/presentations during which participating viewers can ask questions and make comments. Attendees must be present to receive CE credit.

- **ProKnow Contouring Accuracy Program:** educational media combined with interactive contouring and performance measurement compared to ‘gold’ contours provided by an expert radiation oncologist. Additional fees apply for these activities, but these credits do NOT count toward your annual Member/Member PLUS credit allowance.

### Continuing Education Member Categories

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Member PLUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All AAMD membership categories eligible: Full, Professional Associate, Student, Retired</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of credits included w/paid membership</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost for purchasing additional credits</td>
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<td>$20/credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for additional FREE CE credits offered</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum # of CE Credits annually with additional AAMD provided</td>
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### Key Points

The expansion of the CE Center was specifically undertaken for a few reasons. We wanted to better serve our members who we know face decreased educational and travel funding from employers. Online CE activities can be done without the need for travel. In addition, members revealed the need for a variety of continuing education topics and modes of attaining credits, primarily because the Journal SAMs (which members were limited to until 2017) were not always relevant to their work. The current program allows more diversity in topics and methods of attaining the CE credits.

The AAMD will continue to offer free education to members and non-members during National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day annual celebrations, which will offer 5 additional CE credits.

Also, we will occasionally have sponsored CE activities that are free for Members/Members PLUS. The free activities will NOT count against the member CE allowance of 10 credits (Members) or 25 credits (Members PLUS) for the year.

We continue to make educational materials available (without CE credits) through the Resource Database [link to database], which is searchable by topic, key words, format, presenter, dates, etc. This allows members to access educational information to enhance clinical knowledge or professional development. Any activities that expire in the CE Center will be moved to the Resource Database.
Q & A

Why did the AAMD develop the CE Center?

The current AAMD continuing education program allows members to select from any type of activity to attain their CE credits for the year. The prior program offered limited activities, which resulted in limiting the types of activities members in each membership category could choose from.

For example, previously – The AAMD Members category was limited to Journal SAMs or any free live webinars to earn CE credits. In the new program, all members have the same access to a variety of courses. The current program is a vast improvement for everyone so that no member is limited in the type of activity they need to choose from.

Is there a maximum number of credits I can earn through the AAMD CE program?

No. For the Members category, you are limited to 10 CE credits as part of the paid membership fee ($200). But you can purchase additional credits at $20 per credit or choose Member PLUS category, which gives you 15 more credits for just $75 extra.

A benefit for both types of membership categories is that the AAMD offers free CE activities during the week of National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day (in mid-August) resulting in 5 additional FREE CE credits.

• Bottom Line: the AAMD is offering a minimum of 15 CE credits to Members each year and 30 credits to Members PLUS. However, additional CE activities are offered through the CE program for an additional low cost with your AAMD membership.

What is the cost per credit for any CE credits that I want to purchase beyond the credits included with my membership?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost per Credit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Member</td>
<td>$35/credit</td>
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Why is there a limited number of credits per year included with paid membership?

Due to the challenge in finding presenters and developing CE activities, there is only a certain amount of material that we can commit to developing annually while adhering to credentialing guidelines and providing a diverse CE program for the membership.

Our goal was to ensure we provided the minimum number of credits medical dosimetrists were required to maintain certification annually while improving the CE program for all members. For the Members category, you are receiving more than the minimum required annually to maintain certification. Member PLUS was developed as a cost-effective option for members to purchase additional credits up front and take advantage of the full program developed annually.

How can I help expand the CE program?

One goal of the AAMD is to stay current with specific educational needs for all members. We welcome any input in order to create meaningful CE activities. Here are ways you can help to expand the CE program:

• Contact the CE Committee with ideas for topics, presenters, and content
• Present a live webinar or recorded presentation
• Develop an online SAM/series
• Help recruit other presenters for activities within the CE Center

Congratulations to Our Membership Renewal Prize Winners

These lucky AAMD members were selected in a random drawing of all members who renewed their memberships for 2017 prior to December 31, 2016.

1. Stephen Shaffer – Annual Meeting Registration
2. Gertrude Christry – Member Plus Upgrade
3. Mark Littell – Member Plus Upgrade
4. Daniel Saulpaugh – Member Plus Upgrade
New Graduates Share Experiences

We are honored to have two recent graduates share their tips and tricks on job searching, interviewing and preparing for the MDCB exam. Our two speakers both graduated in June 2016 from the Indiana University Medical Dosimetry Program. Christopher Johnson is currently employed as a medical dosimetrist at Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, while Glen Dimick is employed at the Roudebush VA Medical Center also in Indianapolis.

MDCB Talks to the Students

This year we are pleased to announce that a representative from the MDCB will give a talk to the students about the exam. Students will also have an opportunity to ask questions they may have about the exam. The AAMD FEC is grateful to the MDCB for this very important offering to students.

Quiz Bowl

Every year, we host an informal quiz bowl where students get to answer questions related to medical dosimetry. Prizes for correct answers include gift cards, 1-year membership to the AAMD and free registration to next year’s annual meeting.
Why did you pursue a career in Radiation Oncology?

There was an instant, a long time ago, in which I made the decision to work in a hospital. I remember it as if it were yesterday. It was a powerful insight…I was about nine years old and was traveling in my father’s car. While looking out of the passenger’s window, I saw it for the first time: the city hospital building, with its multitude of windows and its own mysterious character. At that very moment, the choice to work in a hospital was made.

At the time, I did not know what kind of work I would do or what type of hospital employee I would become. In the end, I can say that my present field of expertise was more of a matter than personal choice. My first employment was in a chemical factory. I was 19 years old and I needed money because, despite my early age, I already had a child to take care of. However, the prospect of working in a hospital, of taking care of people in need, was still very much alive in my dreams. I decided to apply for all those healthcare-related positions for which my high-school diploma would be accepted. Among them, there was an opening for a technologist position in a medical physics department. It was June 2000 when I started my career in dosimetry in the Medical Physics Department for Radiotherapy of the Reggio Emilia Hospital, one of the most state-of-the-art centers in Italy. This was the very first Italian hospital to implement, in 2002, the IMRT technique. While working there, I earned my BA in RTT and continued to work there for a total of 12 years. I then moved to Trento (Northern Italy), where I am just concluding a positive four-year experience at the local proton therapy center. I feel that it is now time to take a further step in my career, which is why I have recently accepted a job offer at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland. The Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) is an international research center equipped with one of the most experienced and established proton therapy facilities in Europe. The center is about to acquire a new, improved proton gantry designed by Varian.

To return to the original question, I guess you can say that “I didn’t really choose dosimetry, but dosimetry chose me.”

How is your position in Italy different than a dosimetry position in the US?

First of all, I need to state that the dosimetrist profession is not recognized as such in Italy. There are few physicists who acknowledge our activity in a Medical Physics Department as useful and functional; that’s why a few centers deliberately choose motivated RTTs and train them as dosimetrists. I had the good luck to work with some of these physicists: they let me attend international courses in planning and dosimetry, they taught me everything I know about the dosimetrist profession.

In the US, dosimetrists can count on the AAMD in order to achieve professional recognition and a proper income. In Italy, no professional association of its kind exists, the number of Italian dosimetrists is too little and we cannot count on the recognition by the other professionals whom we work with shoulder to shoulder every day, i.e. physicists. After my extensive experience in this field, I can easily say that they are, or at least the majority of them, are “scared” of us. They claim that we “stole” their job. This is also due to the current unfortunate unemployment issue in Italy. Every professional body strives to protect its professional field.

All this said, I think that my job duties are quite similar to the ones requested of dosimetrists in the US.

How do you think being an AAMD member has helped you on the job?

So far, I think that being an AAMD member has helped me become more aware of the role that I represent inside the healthcare community and its important value. Talking with American dosimetrists, browsing through the AAMD site and, last but not least, being invited as a lecturer at the AAMD 41st Annual Meeting in Atlanta gave me the opportunity to have a clearer vision of my duties, responsibilities and also of my rights. This is a very important step for me, and for Italian dosimetrists in general, because we are, as I said, in a very precarious professional position and we are sometimes frustrated with being totally dependent from the physicists’ recognition of our work. Part of my decision behind moving to Switzerland involves the chance to finally have the long-time-desired-for-professional and financial recognition of my role as a dosimetrist.

Furthermore, I think that being an AAMD member could help me obtain more attention from Italian federal institutions in those negotiation tables in which the role of the dosimetrist is involved.

Have you taken advantage of any AAMD sponsored webinars or Regional or National meetings?

I have not yet had the opportunity to take advantage of any webinars. The AAMD-sponsored webinars sound very interesting and I would certainly like to attend a few of them in the near future. Last June, I took advantage of the great opportunity that was given to me by the AAMD to present my work during the 41st Annual Meeting in Atlanta. It was a pleasure to meet American dosimetrists, speak with them and with the AAMD President about our work, compare our skills and present my Italian experience. During that meeting, I felt to be among my “peers,” my fellow dosimetrists, for the
Outside of your career, what is your life like? What do you do for fun?

Other than being a dosimetrist, I am the proud father of two boys and one girl who are 26, 24 and 22, respectively, and the step-father of a 9-year-old girl, who is bilingual (Italian–English) and helps me keep track of my improvements in the English language. My fiancé is also bilingual. She was in Atlanta with me last June and helped me so much with my presentation. She works in the communication field and lived for five years in Nova Scotia, Canada. In the spare time, we go for long hikes in the beautiful Italian Alps. I like swimming and take a lot of pleasure in reading, especially biographies and classics, particularly the ones by Russians authors like Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. My favorite author is American, Taylor Caldwell. However, I have also deeply enjoyed the whole Harry Potter series. I love cooking very much and drinking excellent red wine in good company of family and friends.
AAMD Brings Medical Dosimetry to Music City, USA!

AAMD Region V Meeting
April 7 - 8, 2017
Hotel Preston, Nashville, TN

By Adam Brown, CMD
Region V Representative, Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chair

Register now for the AAMD Region V Meeting, April 7 - 8, 2017, at the Hotel Preston in Nashville, TN. This event will offer 15 MDCB/ARRT CE credits (anticipated) in just 2 days! The full program is posted on the AAMD website. Presentation highlights include: prone breast radiotherapy; hippocampal sparing; survivorship; billing and coding updates; robustness; variability in contouring; radiation treatment of sarcoma; state of the proton therapy industry; and much more. Come and learn the latest about medical dosimetry tools and techniques, while sharing best practices with colleagues from across the country. Also, you'll have a chance to meet with AAMD corporate partners, including: Varian, Oncology Data Systems, Philips, RaySearch, ProKnow and Provision.

Read more about the meeting and register today!
We look forward to seeing each of you in Nashville, TN.
The Call for Abstracts Is Now Open

Share your knowledge and experience at this unique interdisciplinary meeting! We are currently soliciting abstracts for presentations. We are looking for topics that will help therapists and dosimetrists with daily tasks and state-of-the-art techniques that are relevant to ever-changing technology and our unique and challenging patient population.

Here are some topics that were suggested from last year’s conference that might be of interest to you or get you inspired to come up with your own:

• Dynamic conformal ARC treatment planning vs. VMAT treatment planning
• Since the advent of proton treatment, any follow-up and survival benefits? Advantages or disadvantages of proton facilities
• How does a center treat/plan CSI (craniospinal irradiation)?
• Radiotherapy special procedures: total body irradiation, total body electron irradiation, radioactive eye plaques, intraoperative breast therapy, etc.
• Special considerations in treating/planning pediatric cases
• SBRT
• Bilateral breast treatment techniques
• Case studies
• Benefits of oncology rehab
• H&N treatment planning approach using Rapid Arc and SIB (creating planning volumes between different dose volumes and how to set up optimizer)
• Respiratory gating techniques for lung breast and abdominal tumors
• Billing
• Orthovoltage vs electron for skin cancer: effectiveness and differences

See the AAMD website for more information and submit your abstract online.

Abstract submission deadline is April 10.
What has been your career path to and within medical dosimetry?

I began college as a “no major” but very interested in the medical field. There was a course available introducing all medical and allied health careers. This is where I learned about radiation therapy. So, after completing prerequisites I applied and was accepted to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Bachelor of Science Radiation Therapy program.

I worked clinically for five years as a radiation therapist, during which time I rotated through dosimetry and found I really liked this aspect of radiation oncology. I took a full-time academic position and was assigned to teach radiation therapy physics and medical dosimetry. It was during this time I really became more interested in medical dosimetry. After a number of years of teaching and working PRN in radiation therapy and dosimetry, I completed requirements to sit for the medical dosimetry boards. While I am certified as a medical dosimetrist, I predominantly work as an educator.

What do you like about being a medical dosimetry educator?

Working with young adults excited to learn about the profession they will likely dedicate their working lives toward. It’s great to see these individuals grow and mature into competent health care providers.

What advice can you give to those who may be interested in pursuing a career in medical dosimetry education?

I suggest they take courses to strengthen their math, analytical and communication skills. It’s also important to fully understand what a medical dosimetrist’s role is as part of the radiation oncology team. Applicants should shadow in a department more than just a few hours and at more than one facility to fully understand the scope and depth of the field.

What would you like the medical dosimetry community to know about the medical dosimetry program you lead?

The program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is a traditional research based graduate program. All courses are on campus (a few are web-based) and the practicum occurs within the state of Oklahoma. It’s structured for five semesters or 40 credit hours with integrated didactic and practicum courses. Students may rotate to as many as five different clinical sites which provides a great opportunity to learn various treatment planning systems, techniques and to experience a variety of clinical practice sites.

What do you like to do outside of your medical dosimetry work? Anything else you think people should know about you?

When I was younger you could probably find me on a softball field, bicycle, tennis or volleyball court. Now I’m more likely to be in the stands watching my great niece or nephews. I love to spend time with family and friends especially if it involves traveling. I’m a life-long dachshund lover and currently have three of the little trouble makers.
Looking for a New Job? Check Out These AAMD Resources

By Ashley Hunzeker, CMD, and Brittany Stoller, CMD
Career Services Committee Co-Chairs

Online Job Listings
When you’re looking for a new career opportunity, start by checking out the online job opportunities on the AAMD website. This is the go-to source for medical dosimetry opportunities. Featured positions can be found on the AAMD website home page and in a bi-weekly Job Flash email. Full listings can be found under the Career Services tab. Members can review jobs and post resumes for employers to search.

Annual Meeting Career Workshop – New This Year
If you’re thinking about where you’re going with your career, check out this newly added workshop for the AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting: “Making a Job Change: Application/Interview Process and the Marketplace.” This workshop will offer insights into all aspects of the job search process from career evaluation and resume writing to interviewing and communicating with potential employers. You’ll also gain real world insights into today’s job market. It’s sure to be an hour well spent!

AAMD Continues to Offer CE Credit Activities to Australian Treatment Planning Professionals

By Gregg Robinson, CAE
Executive Director, AAMD

The AAMD has been working with the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR), now known as the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT), for the past three years in the application and approval of awarding of credits to the Australian treatment planning community. A yearly application has been renewed for the third time and is in effect for the calendar year 2017. The appellation allows members of ASMIRT to take part in AAMD education activities including the Annual Meeting, Journal SAMs, webinars and online education modules and apply the MDCB credits toward their required education needs in the maintenance of their radiology and radiation oncology certification requirements. Participation has been modest, but the program does serve as a good avenue to reach out to members of the international treatment planning community. The program is reviewed on a yearly basis for continuation and expansion.
Donations Fund Opportunities for Medical Dosimetrists

By Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, BS, CMD, RT(T), FAAMD
Chair, AAMD Education and Research Foundation

Thank You for Your Donations
We want to extend our deepest thanks to our donors who have helped us raise $4,238, and the AAMD who has graciously agreed to match the donations of members. Generous gifts from donors provide the financial and moral support we need to empower medical dosimetrists in pursuing their educational dreams. Thank you.

Travel Grants for the AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting
We will be accepting applications for the travel grant for the 42nd Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, starting April 1, 2017. See our website for more information.

1. Process will be open April 1 – 30.
2. Only CMDs in the 5th year of their MDCB renewal cycle can apply.
3. Mission Search and the generous donation of “Matching Funds” from the AAMD during the renewal period make the travel grants possible.
4. 4 travel grants, up to $2,000 will be paid out.

Please take note of our new website and contact information:

www.aamdfoundation.org
Phone: 585-376-AAMD (2263)
Email: scholarship@aamdfoundation.org
Calling All JRCERT Program Students

The MDCB supports the AAMD Foundation scholarship efforts annually through the award of four CMD Exam registrations to graduates of JRCERT accredited programs. Scholarships are awarded on merit, need and to members of the armed services. Each award is provided in the form of a voucher.

Additionally in 2017, a one-time $2,000 award is available.

CMD Survey Results

Did you know that 22% of CMDs identify Brachytherapy as their individual specialty? See additional results of the CMD survey.

In the fall of 2016, the MDCB conducted a survey of CMDs to learn about CMD preferences and professional practice to determine ways in which to continue to meet the needs of certificants. The request to complete the CMD Survey was distributed to 4,269 CMD practitioners. An unprecedented 61% of CMDs completed the survey, totaling 2,608 practitioners.

2017 Schedule for Learning Plan Review

The MDCB 2017 learning plan review schedule follows:

• Year 5 of Cycle: Continuous review for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2017.
• Year 4 of Cycle: January, April, July and October for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2018.
• Year 3 of Cycle: February, May, August and November for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2019.
• Year 2 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2020.
• Year 1 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2021.

August 2017 Exam Dates

The application for the August 2017 exam opened on March 1, 2017. The exam will be administered on August 10 – 12. The early application submission deadline is May 1. The late application deadline is May 15. A late fee is imposed for late application.

See You in Indianapolis

• Please join us for the MDCB presentation, “MDCB Exam: Reliability & Validity,” at the AAMD Annual Meeting.
• In addition, MDCB leadership will be in attendance at the Formal Education Committee meeting and the student gathering.
• Don’t forget to visit us at the MDCB booth in the exhibit hall.