In my role as President of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrist (AAMD), I encourage people to examine Medical Dosimetry as a career that is challenging and ever evolving. Like the rest of the medical field, the core of Medical Dosimetry is about helping others. As a 30-year practitioner, it is this often overlooked facet that still makes me proud to go to work each day. Don’t misunderstand me. I love working with the emerging new technologies and having the opportunity to work closely with physicians, physicists and therapists on a daily basis. In the end, however, Medical Dosimetry is about assisting our patients through a most difficult time in their lives.

Take a few minutes to review the enclosed material and don’t hesitate to contact the AAMD for further information about how you can join this exciting profession.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD
AAMD President

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Medical Dosimetry is an exciting and amazing profession to work in! Medical Dosimetrists impact cancer survivorship on a daily basis.

After the radiation oncologist has consulted with the patient on a plan of treatment, he/she will write a prescription on radiation dose to a defined tumor volume. The Medical Dosimetrist designs a treatment plan by means of a computer to determine a treatment field technique that will deliver the prescribed radiation dose while taking into consideration the dose-limiting structures.

The Medical Dosimetrist maintains a delicate balance between delivering the prescription that the physician has written while ensuring the patient will not lose important healthy organ function. Using CT scan images, alone or in combination with MRI or PET images, planning is completed with 3-D computers that allow for the delivery of higher doses of radiation to a tumor while lowering the doses to the sensitive structures around it.

In some environments, Medical Dosimetrists play a part in cutting-edge clinical research for the development and implementation of new techniques in cancer treatment. The Medical Dosimetrist performs calculations for the accurate delivery of the radiation oncologist’s prescribed dose, documents pertinent information in the patient record, and verifies the mathematical accuracy of all calculations using a system established by the medical physicist. They perform, or assist in, the application of specific methods of radiation measurement and provide support to the department in radiation protection, qualitative machine calibrations, and quality assurance of the radiation oncology equipment. Also, they often take on the role of educator in facilities that have radiation oncology residents, radiation therapy students or Medical Dosimetry students. Dosimetrists also get involved directly with patient care by assisting in setting up the patients for their planning sessions as well as their daily set-up.

Medical Dosimetrists take many different pathways to the profession, but one of the most common is through radiation therapy. After becoming an ARRT certified radiation therapist, many individuals will continue their education and enroll in a Medical Dosimetry education program. For more information on the career pathways to becoming a Medical Dosimetrist, visit www.medicaldosimetry.org.

Learn more about becoming a Medical Dosimetrist

For more information about Medical Dosimetry, please visit www.medicaldosimetry.org, the official website of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD).

There are a number of Medical Dosimetry programs in the United States that are certified by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). For a listing of those programs, visit www.jrcert.org.

The Medical Dosimetrists Certification Board (MDCB) sets the standards for eligibility for the certification exam. The eligibility requirements are listed on the MDCB website at www.mdcb.org.