Need CE Credits before the End of the Year? AAMD Has You Covered!

AAMD has a variety of online activities available in the CE Center for immediate completion:

- 7 Journal SAMs – each worth 2.5 CE credits
- 8 Recorded Presentations – each worth 1 CE credit
- 15 Virtual Meetings – each worth 1 CE credit
- 16 ProKnow Contouring Activities - each worth 1 CE credit (additional fees apply)

That’s 56.5 CEs to choose from! And all are approved by MDCB and are also valid for ARRT.

Remember you get 10 CE credits with your AAMD Membership, so make sure you take advantage of them before the end of the year. If you need even more CE credits, you can purchase them for $20/credit (Members) or $35/credit (Non-members).

Note: If you already have an AAMD account but need help accessing it, please contact Cornelia Gallow at cgallow@medicaldosimetry.org

Check Out these Recent Additions to the CE Center!

These Virtual Meeting sessions from the 42nd Annual Meeting are a great way to earn needed CE credits before the end of the year! Each course has been approved for 1 MDCB CE credit (also valid for ARRT).

Liver Radiation: Review of Pertinent Anatomy and Physiology, Functional Imaging, and Potential Future Direction

*Presented by David Long, MD*

[https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=346](https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=346)

Oncology Information System Derived Indicators of Safety-Critical Events in Radiation Oncology

*Presented by Pehr Hartvigson, MD*

[https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=347](https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=347)

Very High Energy Electrons (>100 MeV) in Radiation Therapy

*Presented by Colleen DesRosiers, PhD, DABR*

[https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=348](https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=348)

IMRT and VMAT: A Look at Current and Future Best Practices

*Presented by Anthony Magliari, MS, CMD*

[https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=349](https://edu.medicaldosimetry.org/education/catalog/detail.cfm?id=349)
Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
Francis of Assisi

As I look back over the last 20+ years of Medical Dosimetry, I think the above quote is so appropriate. Our field has changed and evolved so much over these years as a direct result of all of us going above and beyond for our patients and our profession. The AAMD Board of Directors is striving to give you as members the opportunity to achieve the impossible in your everyday workplace. Over the past year the AAMD has awarded over 12,000 CE credits, provided five credits during National Medical Dosimetry week, worked with corporate partners to provide continuing education through lunch symposia and hands on workshops as well as provide regional meetings in Nashville, TN, and Columbus, OH, and we continued to work with Roswell Park Cancer Institute on our joint conference. We are working closely with our sister organizations to identify medical dosimetry as a necessary and professional career in the radiation oncology community. Our relationship with the MDCB is continuing to strengthen as we work more closely with them.

One way to accomplish the “impossible” is to partake in the many educational opportunities that are offered through the AAMD. Our Continuing Education Committee has worked hard to provide a wide range of topics through webinars, self-assessment modules as well as virtual meetings. The Membership Committee is actively working to broaden our outreach to the international community. The Annual Conference Committee is working hard in preparation for our 43rd Annual Meeting, June 17-21, 2018 in Austin, Texas.

As we continue with our membership renewal season, I encourage you all to look at the opportunities to volunteer within the organization be it either through running for an officer’s position on the Board of Directors, participating on a committee or speaking at one of our meetings. We want to provide you with the opportunity to grow within your profession.

I look forward to the upcoming year!

Keitt Mobile, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T)
AAMD President
keitt.mobile@gmail.com
AAMD and MDCB Announce Automated CE Credit Transfers

The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) are pleased to announce the completion of a database interface project. The result of this collaborative initiative will be a seamless and more immediate transfer of completed AAMD learning activities to MDCB learning plan transcripts. “We, at the MDCB, are grateful to have such a complementary working relationship with the AAMD. One of the many fruits of this relationship are improvements, such as this one, which will assist the CMD in the automatic and timely transference of CEUs into their learning plans,” said MDCB President Allison Paige Dalton, CMD, R.T.(T). “The AAMD also appreciates this collaboration with the MDCB to provide CMDs with an even more efficient tracking system for CE credits earned through AAMD activities,” said AAMD President Keitt Mobile, MS, CMD, R.T(R)(T).

The transfer time will change from approximately two (2) weeks to as little as 24 hours. CE credits will be transferred nightly from the AAMD CE Center to CMD learning plans. While the automation provides for nightly uploads, CMDs should allow up to 48 hours for credits to appear on their Learning Plans when credits earned late in the day may not be uploaded until the following night.

This faster transfer time is reflective of AAMD CE activities completed online through the CE Center. In-person AAMD meetings will take a little longer to populate learning plans as credits are initially uploaded into the AAMD CE Center before they become part of the nightly transfer to MDCB. The AAMD will keep CMDs apprised of appropriate transfer times for these meeting activities.

For activities completed prior to the effective date of the interface, September 21st, 2017, but not loaded to transcripts, CMDs should contact the AAMD (aamd@medicaldosimetry.org) or MDCB (info@mdcb.org).

Joint Statement of the AAMD and the MDCB on ASRT Practice Standards

This fall, ASRT posted the ASRT Practice Standards for medical dosimetry and invited public comments. The AAMD and the MDCB submitted the following joint statement to the ASRT and are now awaiting an official response from the ASRT.

The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) recently reviewed the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Practice Standards posted for public comment. Both organizations are concerned that the standards as stated, both text highlighted for change and text not highlighted for change, do not adequately reflect the medical dosimetry profession. We find the language to be dated and not accurately indicative of current medical dosimetry practice.

To alleviate confusion, there should be one standard for any profession. This standard is the standard developed by the professional medical dosimetry society, the AAMD, as referenced in the AAMD Scope of Practice. The Scope of Practice has been thoroughly researched. It identifies the basic responsibility of the “Qualified Medical Dosimetrist” and “addresses education, certification, continuing education and maintenance of certification.” In addition, the Scope of Practice is designed to educate professionals in the fields of health care, education, other communities of interest and the general public regarding the expectations of the Qualified Medical Dosimetrist. One of its intended uses is for “individual facilities to develop job descriptions and practice parameters.”

The AAMD Scope of Practice is the basis of the AAMD Curriculum Guide, which is endorsed by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and followed in the development of JRCERT accredited medical dosimetry educational programs. Graduation from a JRCERT accredited program is the only vehicle through which a medical dosimetrist can achieve certification in medical dosimetry.

Certification in any field represents a recognized standard of knowledge and education and measures knowledge in a standardized and comprehensive way. Both the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) recognize MDCB Certification, a certification based on the AAMD Scope of Practice, as a significant aspect for the medical dosimetrist on the radiation oncology team.

Patient safety and consistent quality of care is a recognized touchstone of all three (3) organizations — AAMD, ASRT and MDCB — as referenced in each of their individual mission statements. Quality patient care can only result from clarity by adherence to one definitive standard. The standard for medical dosimetry is the one developed by the professional society dedicated to medical dosimetry – AAMD – and is the one on which medical dosimetry certification is predicated. Medical dosimetry certification by the MDCB is recognized by authorities in the radiation oncology field – ASTRO, ACR and JRCERT.

The AAMD and MDCB respectfully request that the ASRT adopt the AAMD Scope of Practice as the definitive scope of practice for medical dosimetry.

Respectfully submitted by:

Katherine “Keitt” Mobile, MS, CMD, R.T(R)(T)
AAMD President

Allison Paige Dalton, BS, CMD, R.T(T)
MDCB President

Joint Statement of the AAMD and MDCB Regarding Scope of Practice

The AAMD and the MDCB developed the following joint statement in regard to concerns about employer requests to perform duties outside a medical dosimetrist’s scope of practice.

The Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) 2016 Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD) Survey indicated that many medical dosimetrists are being asked to contour clinical target volumes (CTVs) and gross target volumes (GTVs). Medical dosimetrists should be aware that requests to determine CTVs and GTVs are outside the scope of practice for medical dosimetrists. Further, the medical dosimetrist who is certified and submits to requests to execute contours of CTVs and GTVs is in violation of MDCB Ethical Standard 12, “A CMD shall not practice beyond the scope he or she is competent to perform as defined in” American Association of Medical Dosimetrists’ The Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist.

The literature regarding scope of practice is definitive. Both ASTRO publications, Safety is No Accident and the APEX Practice Standards, indicate that the role of each member of the Radiation Oncology Practice is delineated by the individual profession’s scope of practice. Other publications are clear on the specific contouring function. Determining CTVs and GTVs are the responsibility of the radiation oncologist.

Most health-care professions develop a scope of practice document to define the procedures, actions and processes that a health-care practitioner is permitted to undertake. The scope of practice endeavors to assure proficient performance that reflects ongoing professional training. For those dedicated to the ever more complex radiation oncology field, safe and competent delivery of care is achieved through adherence to the guidelines outlined. Medical dosimetrists must not practice beyond the boundaries outlined in The Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist.

Finally, members of a radiation oncology team should recognize the obligation to voice concerns regarding patient care and safety without fear of reprimand. No matter how small a facility the ultimate concern is delivering safe patient care.

1 2016 MDCB CMD Survey
2 MDCB Ethical Standards
3 Safety is No Accident – page 11
4 APEX Practice Standards – page 4
5 Safety is No Accident – page 6, ACR-ASTRO Practice Parameter for Radiation Oncology, page 3
6 Safety is No Accident – page 19
7 Safety is No Accident – page 1
On behalf of the AAMD Annual Conference Committee (ACC), we are pleased to invite you to the 43rd Annual Meeting, “Deep in the Heart of Planning,” in Austin, Texas, June 17 - 21, 2018. The meeting will be held in beautiful downtown Austin, Texas at the JW Marriott hotel, which is located in the heart of all this amazing city has to offer! Pre-conference workshops will be held on Saturday, June 16.

The 2017 Annual Conference Committee has been working hard to provide you with the best opportunity to expand your knowledge of medical dosimetry and gain over 35 Continuing Education credits in the process. New this year will be an interactive general session contouring workshop. Additional educational topics will include:

- Tips and Tricks
- Case Studies
- General Interest
- IMRT, VMAT, SRS, SBRT, proton, brachytherapy planning
- Billing and Coding
- Innovative Technology
- Safety Culture in Radiation Oncology Departments
- And much more!

So please consider attending the 43rd Annual Meeting in Austin, the live music capital of the world, where you can walk to a concert at Austin City Limits or enjoy an evening at a local night spot. Austin also boasts a variety of excellent restaurants with award winning chefs! Enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner at one of the many outstanding local restaurants or food venues. Did we mention Texas Barbeque? A short walk from the JW Marriott hotel you will find eclectic shopping as well as local art galleries. Lady Bird Lake, a reservoir of the Colorado River, is located two blocks from the hotel. There you will find a running/biking path that will take you to well-maintained city parks on either side of the lake. Stand-up paddleboards and kayak rentals are also available at the lake. What better place than Austin to gain continuing educational credits while experiencing an exciting destination!

We hope to see you “Deep in the Heart of Planning!”

AAMD 43rd Annual Meeting
Austin, TX
June 17 - 21, 2018
Give Back to Your Profession through Volunteer Leadership

By Adam Brown, CMD, and Catherine Gagne, CMD
Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs

What an exciting time to be a member of the AAMD! With our 2018 Board and Regional Representatives Election on the horizon for the spring, we are thrilled to have some great nominees willing to serve to help advance our professional society and our profession. If you have ever had a desire to be a part of the leadership of this great organization, please consider the opportunities available for the 2018 election. The positions for which we will be accepting nominations for the 2018 election are:

• President-Elect
• Secretary
• Region V Representative (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee)
• Region VI Representative (Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington, DC)

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD Member in good standing. For the Regional Representative position, the candidate must also reside in one of the states covered in that region. All positions are three-year terms, beginning on August 1, 2018 and ending on July 31, 2021. Position descriptions have been recently updated and can be found on the AAMD website.

All online nomination applications need to be completed by December 31, 2017. Elections will take place in the spring of 2018. In addition, the AAMD is always in need of volunteers, so even if you are not interested in the above positions, there are many other ways to serve this great organization.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the open positions, please contact the AAMD Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs: Adam Brown (abrown@revenuecycleinc.com) or Catherine Gagne (clkgagne@gmail.com).

Why Membership Matters

By Felita S. Christie, CMD
Membership Committee Co-chair

Hello, Colleagues,

First and foremost, I’d like to say that no other organization has our breadth of expertise in promoting professionalism in the field of Medical Dosimetry, which is why I am privileged and excited to serve as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. I am also proud to say that membership enrollment in AAMD continues to grow across all membership categories.

As your new Membership Committee Co-Chair, the goal during my term is to ensure that we continue building on the successes already made by my predecessors. I will continue working with the Membership Committee members to maximize and focus our efforts on building international membership, as well as increasing student and corporate partner participation.

As we all prepare for the upcoming holidays, please be reminded that renewal time is upon us, and the committee is running a membership promotion. Renew by December 31 and you’ll be entered into a drawing for prizes, including an Annual Meeting Registration and Member Plus upgrades.

We all take pride in doing rewarding work and being members of an organization where there is a shared commitment and voice that connects us, and that is why membership matters.

For complete renewal information, visit the AAMD website.

Annual Meeting Winner

Congratulations to Lori Simmons, CMD, who won an annual meeting registration for 2018 or 2019 following the 42nd Annual Meeting this past summer. Her name was selected in a random drawing of post-meeting survey submissions. We look forward to seeing Lori again soon!
Updates for Educators and Students
By Mahsa Dehghanpour, EdD, CMD and Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, MET, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-chairs

The AAMD Formal Education Committee (FEC) invites educators to submit their abstracts for presentation in the educator’s workshop during the AAMD annual meeting in Austin, TX in June 2018. The suggested topics include: best teaching practices, legal contracts, performance on MDCB exam by degree earned, and overview of syllabus and master plan of education construction.

The FEC is seeking a new co-chair in training to join the co-chairs in January 2018. Please send your nominations to Mahsa Dehghanpour or Mellonie Brown at mdehghan@mdanderson.org or mellonieb9@aol.com.

The results of the student surveys indicated that a majority of students are unaware of the AAMD Student Facebook group. We are asking educators to inform their students of this page as a means to enhance interaction with their peers in other programs. The link to join is https://www.facebook.com/groups/481683818691744/. Furthermore, please encourage your students to attend the 2018 student gathering during the AAMD annual meeting in Austin, TX in June 2018. There will be ample opportunities to interact with MDCB representatives, learn study skills to prepare for the MDCB board exam, hear about job hunting tips and strategies, and network with medical dosimetry professionals and students from other programs.

The FEC will lead the 2018 Student Writing Competition. The abstract and manuscript submission deadlines are April 15 and May 1, 2018, respectively. FEC encourages medical dosimetry students to submit their research papers to this competition.

AAMD Met in Columbus to Explore the Latest Medical Dosimetry Trends and Techniques

Thank you to the speakers and attendees for helping to make the Region VI Meeting in Columbus, OH, a successful one in early November! The meeting featured a lot of great information on treatment planning, billing and coding, safety and other timely topics, and offered 14 continuing education credits to those who attended. The program also featured several first-time presenters, who all did an excellent job sharing their knowledge!

Thanks to our sponsor, Varian Medical Systems, and exhibitors Allegheny Health Network, Klarity, MIM Software, Oncology Data Systems, Philips, Revenue Cycle, and the AAMD Education and Research Foundation, who met with attendees in between sessions. Watch your email and the AAMD website for the announcement of the AAMD spring regional meeting.
AAMD Career Center will allow you to:

- Search and apply to more medical dosimetrists jobs than in any other job bank.
- Upload your anonymous resume and allow employers to contact you through AAMD's messaging system.
- Set up Job Alerts specifying your skills, interests, and preferred location(s) to receive email notifications when a job is posted that matches your criteria.
- Access career resources and job searching tips and tools.
- Have your resume critiqued by a resume-writing expert.

jobs.medicaldosimetry.org

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MISSION SEARCH
There has been a lot of recent activity in the AAMD Facebook group over the past few months. With more than 1,800 dosimetrists and radiation oncology professionals following and interacting globally, the Facebook group has a wide range of discussions and radiation oncology news updates. In addition to what's posted, please feel free to create your own post and conversation on topics including:

- Job Postings
- TPS specific planning questions
- Sharing how you implemented something new
- Tips & Tricks
- Plan Studies
- Polls to survey the group
- Sharing your experience from attending a meeting
- Billing updates and questions

There is also a Student Facebook group where AAMD student members currently enrolled in a JRCERT-accredited program can collaborate on student-focused topics including coursework, curriculum questions, study tips and more. This is a smaller, private group; students are encouraged to join the conversation.

For additional news and professional collaboration, feel free to post and interact through the AAMD LinkedIn and @med_dosimetry Twitter pages. LinkedIn has brought together more than 2,000 individuals in our field to share industry and community news and updates.

Recent Facebook postings include:
By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

MDCB Call for Board Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the five-year MDCB Board of Directors term of service. MDCB is seeking qualified and dedicated individuals to serve on the board. Your input is crucial for ensuring the success of MDCB.

What are the qualifications for board service?
• Be a CMD for a minimum of 3 years
• Have a minimum of a BS degree
• Be a current practicing dosimetrist

What’s involved?
• CMD Board terms are 5 years in length.
• The Board meets for two days, 3 times a year, in cities across the US and Canada.
• At board meetings issues related to the administration of the certification exam, policy and strategic initiatives are considered.
• Individual board members’ knowledge and expertise are an important component during discussions. Each member should be prepared to discuss the issues at all meetings.
• Each board member serves on one or more board committees: Executive, Eligibility, Ethics, Finance, Maintenance of Certification, Test Development or Leadership Development. Time commitment on each committee varies and may be up to 2 hours per week. Committee service is rotated annually.
• Board members are required to submit 3 (three) exam items for each board meeting and will be awarded a maximum of 20 CE during the board term.

What is the nominating process?
• Applications are reviewed by the MDCB Leadership Development Committee.
• Selected candidates are interviewed via teleconference by the committee.
• The committee recommends candidates for nomination to the board.
• Final candidates are elected by board vote.
• Elected candidates are notified of board decisions in April.

Applications are accepted annually between November 1 and February 1. CMDs interested in board service or wish to nominate a fellow colleague can submit a completed application, and email it with a current CV, letter to the president indicating your service goals and two letters of recommendation to info@mdcb.org with the subject line “MDCB Board Nomination.”

CMDs interested in board service or wish to nominate a fellow colleague can submit a completed application, and email it with a current CV, letter to the president indicating your service goals and two letters of recommendation to info@mdcb.org with the subject line “MDCB Board Nomination.”

Deadline to submit your electronic application and accompanying documents is Thursday, February 1.

The MDCB Nominating Committee will interview qualified candidates. All candidates will be notified of the final board decision in early spring.

Learning Plan Submission

CMDs whose five-year cycle ends on December 31, 2017 are reminded that learning plans were to be completed by November 30, 2017. Once learning plans are completed, the annual credential fee can be submitted. Certificates for practitioners who have met the requirements for credential renewal will receive a new certificate in mid-January 2018.

MDCB Scholarship for 2018

The MDCB is a proud supporter of the AAMD Education and Research Foundation Scholarships. In 2017, four exam registration vouchers were presented to students of JRCERT accredited program.

In 2018, five exam vouchers will be awarded. For details on scholarship application, please view the AAMD Education and Research Foundation website at https://www.aamdfoundation.org/scholarships/.