The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) is excited to host our 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. On behalf of the 2015 Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the AAMD Board of Directors, we invite you to attend this dynamic conference. Not only will you be able to earn more than 35 continuing education credits, but you will also have the opportunity to network with over 400 fellow dosimetrists and see the latest radiation oncology products in our exhibit hall.

To highlight this year’s theme, “The Magic of Medical Dosimetry…Planning the Impossible for 40 Years,” presentations will range from tips and tricks and case studies to hands on/interactive workshops with the intent of helping dosimetrists to continue planning the impossible and impressing our radiation oncologists. We will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the AAMD with some timely and topical presentations to honor our past, treasure the present and shape our future.

We invite you to participate in our pre-conference workshop program, which includes a CMD Exam Review, a Radiation Oncology Billing and Coding Workshop, and a Contouring Workshop. For those who are unable to join us in Orlando for the two-day CMD Exam Review, you can participate as a “virtual” student. On Saturday, June 20, there is an in-depth four-hour radiation oncology billing and coding workshop that will focus on all the latest billing and coding updates. The Contouring Workshop will be an interactive workshop that will include tips and contouring strategies for achieving optimal, consistent results.

You won’t want to miss the Welcome Reception on Sunday evening in the Exhibit Hall! The place will be buzzing with all attendees and exhibitors enjoying good food and good company!

Back again this year will be the Treatment Planning System (TPS) Workshops, which provide a great opportunity to learn a different planning system! These workshops will be for beginners in the morning and for more advanced users in the afternoon. During the week, there will be a daily breakout session allowing you to train on one of four treatment planning systems: Varian – Eclipse, Elekta – Monaco, Philips – Pinnacle, and RaySearch – RayStation. These are FREE workshops (with full meeting registration), but you may only attend one. Some of these workshops are full, so you may need to put

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continued on page 2
Preparations for the annual meeting, at which AAMD will celebrate its 40th Anniversary, are nearing completion. There are many volunteers who worked on this event, and you will read content throughout this newsletter that will show the passion and dedication that has gone into the planning for this memorable occasion.

Along with content from the Annual Conference Committee, who planned the educational aspect of this meeting, you will hear from the Project 40 Task Group, led by Christopher J. Moore, who along with his volunteers, worked tirelessly to bring together 40 years of historical data and photos to help with this celebration. This historical review can also be read in a special edition of the AAMD journal, Medical Dosimetry, which was recently published.

I am proud to say we will have 20 past and current presidents in attendance for this exciting program along with many, many volunteers and our fantastic Headquarters Staff – Stacey, Gregg and Spencer. Through the events planned for this year’s meeting you will see that the efforts and contributions of these members are what made the AAMD the vibrant professional organization it is today with over 3,000 members the world over.

The Board of Directors will hold their semi-annual, in-person meeting June 19, 20 and 22. With the help of AAMD Headquarters Staff, we hope to continue to build on the growth shown over the past 40 years by working with the various committees to make their goals and strategies a reality. For example, helping the membership committee build on their international membership efforts will allow provision of valuable educational opportunities to treatment planners all around the world. Work with the Formal and Continuing Education committees, as well as the Directed Journal Reading Committee, will continue to improve on the high quality educational material available to student and full CMD members alike. New efforts are under way with the Government Relations Task Group and the Leadership Task Group, to name a few.

I hope many of you will be in attendance at this 40th Anniversary meeting to be held at the JW Marriott Orlando Grand Lakes Resort, June 21-25. In response to what you, the members, have asked for, workshops and lunch symposia are on the agenda. Attendees are encouraged to visit with our corporate partners and exhibitors to learn what they have to offer, listen to many fantastic speakers bringing you up-to-date information you can take back to your clinics and to network with your peers. There will be sessions dedicated to the past, present and future of medical dosimetry.

In closing, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the eMonitor made possible by our Director of Marketing, Stacey Wilson. I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you at the annual meeting in Orlando or wherever our paths may cross.

In your service,
Susan Cagle, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T)
AAMD President
susancagleAAMD@comcast.net

We hope to see you there!
Congratulations to Our Newly Elected AAMD Leaders
By Cara Sullivan, CMD, and Adam Brown, CMD
Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs

The 2015 Election results are official! The AAMD would like to extend congratulations to the winners and thank our members for taking the time to vote. The AAMD is excited to work with each of these dedicated individuals and also look forward to all the new ideas and enthusiasm they will bring the AAMD.

Nominations for the following positions were considered and these individuals will be serving in their new roles starting August 1, 2015.

President Elect: Craig McKenzie, CMD
Secretary: Rachel Hackett, CMD
Region V Representative: Adam Brown, CMD
Region VI Representative: Eric Willis, CMD

Being a part of the AAMD is a rewarding experience and we encourage all our members to look for volunteer opportunities and to consider running for future AAMD positions. Volunteering is a great way to represent your profession, meet new people, and make a difference in the medical dosimetry field.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs, Cara Sullivan or Adam Brown or visit the AAMD website.

Educator and Student Events at the 40th Annual Meeting
By Jacky Nyamwanda, CMD, and Colleen Brogan-Raasch, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chairs

This year the Formal Education Committee will once again host two events geared toward students and educators. These meetings will give each group a chance to network with and learn from their peers.

Student Event – Monday, June 22
All students attending the AAMD meeting are invited to hear from a recent graduate as she shares her experience with studying for the MDCB exam and job searching. There will also be a demonstration of InterviewStream software, which is available to AAMD members for virtual practice of interviewing skills. Students will get a chance to network with those enrolled in other schools.

Educator Event – Tuesday, June 23
Educators are invited to this event, which will include various talks approved for MDCB credits. Robert Adams will deliver two talks titled “International Study on Communication of Medical Dosimetrists” and “Survey of Doctoral Degree Holders and Barriers to Conducting Original Research.” Mahsa Deghanpour and Jamie Baker will then give a talk titled “Improving Students’ Critical Thinking Skills - A Multifaceted Approach.” There will also be a general educator session that will include an update on the recently conducted Educators’ Needs Assessment Survey and a discussion with representatives of the JRCERT and MDCB. Finally, there will also be a demonstration of InterviewStream software.

Calling All New Members to Meet Us for Breakfast in Orlando!
By Rachel Hackett, CMD, and Elaine Bogner, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

The AAMD Membership Committee would like to invite all new members to the New Member Breakfast at the 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando this year. The breakfast will be held at 7:15 AM on Monday, June 22 in Mediterranean Ballroom 6. Enjoy a full breakfast while getting to know some of our volunteer AAMD leaders. You might even win a prize! The breakfast will conclude in time for you to make it back to the educational meetings on schedule. Watch your email for the invitation and be sure to RSVP.

Hope to see you there!
Announcing The AAMD 40th Annual Meeting Mobile App!

Navigate the AAMD 40th Annual Meeting like a pro with the new AAMD 40th Annual Meeting Mobile App, powered by core-apps.com

With the AAMD 40th Annual Meeting Mobile App, users can:

• Stay organized with up-to-the-minute Exhibitor, Speaker and Event information
• Sync the app across all of your devices with Multi-Device Sync
• Receive important real-time communications from AAMD
• Build a personalized schedule
• Find exhibitors and download product information
• Rate the sessions you attend and comment on them too
• Download session handouts and presentations (post-meeting)
• Find attendees and connect with your colleagues through Friends
• Stay in-the-know and join in on social media
• Find Orlando attractions in Local Places
• And much, much more!

Downloading the App is Easy!

SEARCH: The App Store and Google Play for “AAMD”

SCAN: 

OR, for all other web-enabled devices, including Apple and Android phones and tablets, Blackberry and Windows phones enter m.core-apps.com/aamd2015 to be automatically directed to the proper download version for your phone.

Questions? Please contact support@core-apps.com

From the Editor

AAMD welcomes your comments about the content of the eMonitor. Let us know if you have ideas for articles too. Please email your feedback to the Editor: Stacey Wilson, AAMD Director of Marketing, swilson@medicaldosimetry.org
Volunteer Spotlight: Michael Young, CMD
International Liaison for Australasia to the Membership Committee

How long have you served on the Membership Committee?
I joined the Membership Committee as the International Liaison for Australasia in April 2011 after I became involved with the AAMD through participation in the Radiation Oncology Resources Plan Challenges and attending the annual meeting in Minneapolis in 2010. At the time I was preparing to sit for the CMD exam.

What are your responsibilities with this position and about how many monthly hours do you spend working on AAMD projects?
I’d say my main responsibility is to act as a go-between for the AAMD and the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR), which is the equivalent professional body here in Australia. Mostly I communicate with the Membership Committee via email but have also joined in some of the teleconference meetings. I’ve been able to describe dosimetry/radiation therapy practice in Australia (which is quite different with RTs undertaking both treatment and planning tasks) for the Membership Committee to gain an understanding of how the AAMD’s services, particularly the educational offerings, may be beneficial for Australian practitioners. The aim of this is to promote the availability of these and potentially attract new members to the AAMD from down under. I’m also available as a resource to anyone interested in undertaking the CMD exam and recently received an enquiry from an RT in Queensland. I was able to give her a few pointers about the MDCB application process and some resources that I found really useful when preparing for my exam. None of this takes a great deal of time, maybe a couple of hours a month at most, and I’ve enjoyed the interaction with my colleagues both here and in the US.

What advice would you have for members considering volunteering for the AAMD?
Volunteering for your professional body, whether it is the AAMD or another body, is very rewarding. I have enjoyed being active within the AIR, and it has been very helpful in my career. I’ve been able to travel extensively around Australia, attending numerous conferences and learning many new things which have helped our department. Organizations such as the AAMD are here to represent our profession. By volunteering you are able to have a say and potentially influence its direction. This might be in small, local ways or it could have much broader impact which can be very important given external pressures from other stakeholders in Radiation Oncology. I’m currently a member of the Radiation Therapy Advisory Panel (RTAP) of the AIR. RTAP is an expert panel, with representatives from each state, which reports to the AIR Board on matters that may impact on radiation therapists in Australia. The AIR then represents the profession on those matters. A recent example is pressure from one state government to effectively deregulate some professions and potentially allow non-certified people to undertake radiation therapists’ tasks.

What was the main reason you decided to become involved with the AAMD?
Initially it was through my interest in the ROR Plan Challenges and then working towards certification. Maintaining the required CE credits for the MDCB keeps me involved by accessing the webinars, journal readings, etc., and hopefully attending more meetings in the future. If I can help out in other ways such as the Membership Committee and communication with the AIR then that’s a bonus. Attending ASTRO last year and being able to meet some of the AAMD reps and put some faces to the names was great!

What have you found to be most rewarding about this position?
Seeing the dialogue between the AAMD and the AIR grow and the two professional bodies come closer together has been very rewarding. This has resulted in the AAMD CE activities and credits being recognized by the AIR as they are for the MDCB. I have found the webinar program to be very interesting and valuable and hope that more Australian RTs/ dosimetrist access these through the Member Plus option. The only downside is the time difference makes attending the live sessions very difficult! They are often at 3:00 am or similarly unsociable times – but the recordings are great to go back and watch at a more convenient time. I’ve found the recent stereotactic sessions to be particularly valuable as we are only just starting our SBRT program.

How do you think serving this position for the AAMD has helped you in your current job?
Whilst being on the Membership Committee may not have had a direct influence on my day to day work, it has been beneficial in broadening my network and maintaining a wider/more global view of what is happening in Radiation Oncology than what might otherwise be the case. Having a broad network of contacts can be very helpful when faced with something novel, like our fledgling SBRT program.

How is your Dosimetry position in Australia different than a position in the US?
As mentioned above, there are some differences in the way we practice. Firstly, we are known as radiation therapists in Australia, but our role includes treatment and planning/ dosimetry plus CT-Sim. Whilst each department is different, generally speaking, RTs move through the different sections on a three to four-month rotation. RTs do the vast majority of planning/dosimetry with little involvement from Physics except for IMRT QA and other technical aspects that require their input. Most other factors are similar, with similar equipment and techniques, especially given the rapid dissemination of information these days.

What made you decide to get into the radiation oncology field?
In high school I was always interested in the medical/health science field but at the end of year 12, I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do. I virtually fell into radiation therapy by accident, as it wasn’t an area I had heard much about. My department had advertised some scholarships to attend university and I was lucky enough to get one. I spent three years studying in Melbourne before returning to Hobart and have been working here ever since. As I write this it is almost 25 years to the day since I was first employed as a student – time flies when you are having fun!
Roswell Park Cancer Institute’s Radiation Oncology Conference and the AAMD Region IV Meeting have merged! Join us for an incomparable, multidisciplinary educational opportunity to learn the latest developments in treatments, treatment planning and clinical support issues.

Benefits of attending:
• Learn from leading industry experts on diverse topics.
• Acquire creative solutions and resources for your work environment.
• Gain knowledge on improving patient and staff safety, and quality of treatments.
• Enjoy an atmosphere that allows personal interaction with your colleagues.
• You’ll be steps away from Niagara Falls, local festivals and area attractions.
• It’s affordable: 14 credits within 2 days for $225.

Earn CE Credits in Niagara Falls this September!

AAMD Region IV Meeting in Conjunction with the 2015 Roswell Park Cancer Institute Radiation Conference for Therapists and Dosimetrists
September 10 - 12, 2015
Conference and Event Center Niagara Falls
Niagara Falls, NY

Accreditation:
This event is accepted by the American Registry for Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) for 14 CE credits.

Click here for more information and to register.

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LOOKING FOR TREATMENT PLANNING RESOURCES?
TRY THE NEW AAMD RESOURCE DATABASE!

As the leading resource for medical dosimetry and treatment planning professionals around the world, AAMD has accumulated a large number of educational PowerPoint presentations, Medical Dosimetry journal articles and recorded lectures on related topics. This vast Resource Database is now searchable by:

- **Keyword or Topic** (i.e. Proton, IMRT, SBRT, Khan)
- **Resource Type** (i.e. Meeting Presentation, Webinar Recording, Article)
- **Document Type** (i.e. Word, PDF, Multimedia)
- **Date of Presentation/Publication**

Visit the AAMD website at www.medicaldosimetry.org, then go to the “Resources” tab in the blue navigation bar and select “Resource Database” from the drop-down menu. Or go directly to the Resource Database: www.medicaldosimetry.org/resources/library/

Conduct a Simple Search by Keyword:

Or conduct an Advanced Search using multiple search criteria: Your results will be displayed in an easy-to-review format.
MDCB Maintenance Of Certification Reminders

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

**Item Writing Workshop**

The MDCB cordially invites CMDs to attend the item writing workshop at the AAMD 40th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 24 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Workshop participants will be guided by MDCB exam administrator subject matter experts to learn how to develop well-constructed exam questions utilizing volunteer-submitted items.

Those CMDs interested in learning how to develop MDCB exam questions are urged to participate. Attendees will be required to complete a conflict of interest confidentiality statement.

Join us, learn how items are developed for the MDCB exam and take the opportunity to expand your horizons and contribute to exam development. Credit will be granted for attendance at the session. There’s no additional cost to participate in the MDCB workshop.

Are you already committed to the process?
- Complete an item writer application, available on the [MDCB website](#), “About” section and submit.
- Complete a conflict of interest, confidentiality, copyright assignment agreement - to be provided on receipt of the application.
- Submit five (5) questions pertaining to the exam matrix in advance of the conference.

The MDCB looks forward to seeing you there.

**See You in the Exhibit Hall**

The MDCB will once again have a booth at the upcoming AAMD Annual Meeting. Please stop by the MDCB booth to address any questions regarding the exam or the maintenance of certification process. CMDs are reminded that all continuing education (CE) activities in which they participate at the conference will be uploaded to their MDCB learning plans toward the completion of CE requirements.

**MDCB Prize Drawing**

Participate in the MDCB annual prize drawing:
- Secure a copy of the “Know Your Credential” quiz at the MDCB Booth.
- Complete all 10 questions.
- Complete the contact information: your name, MDCB number, email address and phone number.
- Submit the completed quiz by 5:00 pm on Monday, June 22.

Answer all 10 quiz questions correctly and your name will be entered into the drawing.