It’s Time to Celebrate: National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day Is August 19, 2015!

National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day is fast approaching! Each year, the third Wednesday of August is designated as the day for celebrating medical dosimetry professionals around the world. This is a day for us to recognize the importance of our profession. We contribute to cancer survivorship each and every day!

AAMD is once again teaming up with our corporate partners to present a series of FREE webinars, scheduled one each day, August 17 – 21. Each webinar will offer one MDCB approved credit (also valid for ARRT). Here’s the line-up:

**Monday, August 17 at 1:00 PM EDT**
*Sponsored by .decimal®*
Potential Future of Radiation Treatment Planning and Data Management
Presented by Kevin Erhart, PhD
[Click here to view the full abstract and register](#)

**Tuesday, August 18 at 1:00 PM EDT**
*Sponsored by Philips*
Treatment Planning with Constant Dose Rate VMAT
Presented by Steve Boyd, CMD, and Maria Golish, CMD
[Click here to view the full abstract and register](#)

**Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00 PM EDT**
*Sponsored by Varian Medical Systems*
RapidArc Planning Techniques, Tips and Tricks: It’s More Than Just Creating Contours
Presented by Lisa Wojtowicz, CMD, and Ontida Apinorasethkul, CMD
[Click here to view the full abstract and register](#)

**Thursday, August 20 at 1:00 PM EDT**
*Sponsored by Elekta*
Treatment Planning Tips and Tricks using Monaco 5.1
Presented by Brett Sloman, CMD
[Click here to view the full abstract and register](#)

**Friday, August 21 at 1:00 PM EDT**
*Sponsored by RaySearch*
Automation in Treatment Planning – A Promising Future Already Upon Us
Presented by Dayna Bodensteiner, BS, CMD, RT(R)(T); Marc Mlyn, MBA, CMD; Freddie Cardel, CMD, RT(T)
[Click here to view the full abstract and register](#)

**NOTE:** Participation in the live webinars is limited to 1,000 participants per webinar. Once capacity is reached for each webinar, GoToMeeting will not let anyone else log in. An hour after the live webinar, the webinar recording will be available online. Anyone pre-registered for the webinar will be provided with a link to view the webinar recording. The webinar recordings will be available until September 30, 2015 for participants to earn CE credits.

dedicated to the continuing education of medical dosimetrists
I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as President for this amazing organization. I look forward to the year ahead and hope to continue the advancement of our profession with the help of the Board of Directors, headquarters staff and the many dedicated volunteers that make up the AAMD. A big thank you to our outgoing President Susan Cagle for her leadership and dedication this past year. I would also like to thank our Past President Chris Gainer and Secretary Cara Sullivan for their service to the Board.

Our 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando was a huge success! We had our largest attendance to date with over 600 attendees. The Project 40 Task Group brought to light some of the history of our organization. Thank you to the Annual Conference Committee, staff, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and all who attended. We could not have planned and executed such an event without your efforts.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day on August 19! The AAMD will again be celebrating by providing free continuing education for medical dosimetrists. Thanks to our corporate partners decimal®, Philips, Varian, Elekta and RaySearch, we are offering five FREE webinars the week of August 17-21. Please take advantage of these free CE credits and increase your knowledge in the process.

The first joint meeting between AAMD and Roswell Park Cancer Institute will be the 2015 Radiation Conference for Therapists and Dosimetrists in conjunction with the AAMD Region IV Meeting, September 10-12 at the Conference and Event Center Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, NY. You can find the link to the meeting’s registration on the on the AAMD website.

Again, thank you for your support. If there is anything that I can do for y’all, and when I say “ y’all,” I mean “all y’all!” Please don’t hesitate to contact me or the headquarters staff at any time.

In your service,

Ray Lawson, CMD, RT(R)(T)
AAMD President
rlawsonjr@yahoo.com
Meet the 2015-2016 AAMD Board of Directors

By Gregg Robinson, CAE
AAMD Executive Director

Congratulations to Ray Lawson, CMD, as he steps into his presidency and to Craig McKenzie, CMD, who was elected to the position of President-Elect in the spring election. Also, Rachel Hackett, CMD, is the new Secretary. All of their terms started on August 1, and they will be joining the other Board members for their 2015-2016 terms:

The Board members serve the AAMD through many hours of dedicated service throughout the year. They continually look to review existing efforts and identify new ideas that are designed to help move the association and profession forward. They strive to meet the needs of the membership through your communications and responses to various surveys and participation in AAMD programs. Communication with the Board and Headquarters remains a top priority and is encouraged. The Board continues to review the activities of the association for relevancy and efficiency and encourages volunteer participation and involvement. By working with committee volunteers and headquarters staff, they participate in a full yet rewarding range of activities reflective of the workings of the association.

As new efforts are identified, the assignment of task forces allows for a wide range of volunteers to participate and complete a service towards the AAMD. Currently we have over 100 active volunteers and continue to look for new people who are interested in serving the AAMD. On an as-needed basis, a Call for Volunteers is distributed to solicit support for new projects. Be on the lookout for these announcements, and we will do our best to include new participants in future activities. All members are encouraged to take part in the different opportunities to serve, and it would be great to learn of your interests in serving on the Board, committees or task forces. Information on committees and how to become a volunteer is available on the AAMD website.

In addition to the new Board members, two Regional Representatives were elected this past spring. The Region V Representative is Adam Brown, CMD, and the Region VI Representative is Eric Willis, CMD.
Meet Rachel Hackett, CMD
Secretary, AAMD Board of Directors

Rachel Hackett joined the Board in August, so we asked her a few questions to get to know her a little better.

What has been your career path to and within medical dosimetry?

Like most high school graduates, I had no idea what I really wanted for a career. A friend of mine brought me some brochures from a local community college, and that is when I discovered the existence of radiation therapy. No one in my family or circle of friends had ever been treated for cancer, so I didn’t even know it was a field until I saw the brochure. I was attracted to the physics and math combined with the ability to help people with cancer. Two years later, I had an Associate’s Degree and was ARRT certified in Radiation Therapy. That was great, and I really enjoyed being a therapist. But five years later, one of our two medical dosimetrists broke his leg and was out for 3 months. Since I had “nice penmanship,” the other dosimetrist pulled me in to train and help him out. I fell in love with the field immediately and never looked back. I did full-time OJT for 3 years and then became MDCB certified in 2002. I've always felt like I was lucky in some ways—I was able to enter the field with only an AAS degree, I was fortunate enough to be selected for an OJT position at a very prestigious cancer hospital, and all for a profession that I love immensely.

Why did you decide to volunteer with AAMD?

I had attended a few AAMD annual meetings and was always impressed with the volunteer spirit of my colleagues who extended themselves willingly for the AAMD. At one particular meeting in 2009 in Scottsdale, Arizona, it became evident that the AAMD was in need of more volunteers on several committees. The Board of Directors at that time made a heartfelt plea to the attendees during the AAMD Business Meeting to consider volunteering and giving back to our professional society. I specifically remember the words of Nishele Lenards and Christopher J. Moore during that meeting, and their words really stayed with me. A few months later I found myself volunteering as a member on the AAMD Membership Committee.

What have you enjoyed most about your AAMD volunteer experience so far?

I have truly enjoyed the satisfaction I feel in offering my time and energy to the AAMD and our membership. I feel it is important to give back to the profession that I love—a profession that courageously searches for better and safer ways to treat cancer, a profession that is comprised of a unique group of individuals who consistently give their best to their patients, and a profession that persistently challenges me while continuously providing me with a deep feeling of job satisfaction and contentment at the end of every work day. I have also had the pleasure to meet and work alongside many of our colleagues from all over the country and world who also volunteer for the AAMD. The working relationships I have developed with these remarkable people have only served to better me as a person and a dosimetrist, and their friendship is priceless.

AAMD is celebrating 40 years of serving medical dosimetrists in 2015. What impresses you most about the development of AAMD and/or the medical dosimetry profession?

I am so proud of the AAMD for keeping up with the profession. One of the most exciting aspects of medical dosimetry is how quickly the technology and treatment techniques change and improve. This field is progressing so quickly, but the AAMD has done a fantastic job of keeping pace with it and offering top-notch education opportunities through annual meetings, regional meetings, webinars, and timely journal articles. What a great organization!

What do you hope to accomplish by being a board member?

It is such a privilege to help the AAMD continue to offer such outstanding services to its members. My main goal is to serve in the position to the best of my ability and help the Board of Directors as a whole in its efforts to listen to the membership and maintain the development of the superior services that benefit treatment planners around the world in continuing education, instruction on new technologies, career services, and other issues that are important to our members. I also look forward to learning how a board of directors operates and help with its effectiveness and efficiency in any way I can.

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

I really enjoy life. There is very little I don’t like to do, and I’m always exploring new hobbies and trying to learn new things. But I’m very passionate about photography and practice quite a bit of it on the side. I love how the lens forces my focus on the details of a given moment and it further accentuates my love for life. I also read voraciously, am passionate about traveling, and for exercise, I’m a bit of a CrossFit nut (the other CrossFit nuts out there will understand). Finally, I spend as much time as possible with my family, friends and 2 rat terriers, Alice and Gertie.
AAMD Is Planning for Your Future

By Adam Brown, CMD, and Susan Gehr, CMD
Nominations & Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs

With the profession of Medical Dosimetry facing challenges ahead, AAMD is seeking outstanding leaders. We need members who are willing to participate and make a difference. We hope you will consider running for office or submit nominations of those you believe are well qualified to be candidates for next year’s elected positions. Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Member at Large II
- Region I Representative - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah, British Columbia (Canada)
- Region II Representative - Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Alberta (Canada), Manitoba (Canada), Saskatchewan (Canada)

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the open positions, please contact the AAMD Nominations & Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs.

Susan Gehr: msg328@windstream.net
Adam Brown: Adam.Brown@sarahcannon.com

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 reside in one of the states/provinces covered in that region. All positions are a three-year term, beginning August 1, 2016 and ending on July 31, 2019. Position descriptions can be found on the AAMD website.

All online nomination applications need to be completed by December 31, 2015. Elections will take place in the spring of 2016.

Not ready for a board position just yet? Not a problem. How about volunteering for one of the AAMD committees or task groups? Share your passion and knowledge of Medical Dosimetry with your peers and become an integral part of the success of the AAMD. Check out the volunteer opportunities and get started!
The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) would like to thank all of the attendees that came to the 40th Annual Meeting held in Orlando, FL, June 21 - 25, 2015. It was a huge success with record breaking registration and attendance. We enjoyed seeing familiar faces while meeting new ones! Attendance certificates can be accessed on the AAMD website.

Thank you to everyone who completed the post-meeting survey. It is your feedback that helps us improve our meeting every year and lets us know what you want to hear about. The ACC strives to bring our members a meeting that is well balanced with a variety of topics and engaging speakers while also providing an atmosphere of camaraderie. Based on the excellent reviews we received this year, I think it is safe to say we were successful! Here are some of the comments we received:

• “The best annual I have attended so far. The vast majority of topics were things I could take to the clinic”
• “Best meeting I’ve ever attended! Great job!”
• “Overall, a great meeting! Thank you for all of your hard work!! One of the best ever!”
• “It was very interesting getting a broader perspective on what is going on in our field. Fantastic meeting!”

All presentation PDFs are available on the [AAMD website](http://www.aamd.org). Some of these presentations will be converted into learning modules offering continuing education credits for those who were not able to attend the meeting. Please watch for more details.

Here are some of the meeting highlights:

• 638 registrants (includes attendees, speakers, and exhibitors) - largest ever!!
• 37 educational sessions (more from workshops and symposia) - provided by excellent speakers
• 3 pre-conference workshops
  - CMD Exam Review Course
  - Billing and Coding Workshop
  - Contouring Workshop
• 4 lunch symposia provided by .decimal, Elekta, Philips and Accuray
• Treatment Planning System Workshops for new and advanced users sponsored by Varian, Philips, Elekta and RaySearch
• Breakout Workshops
  - Image Registration
  - MDCB Item Writing Workshop
• Largest session had 369 attendees
• CAMPEP credits for medical physicists offered
• Successful day of concurrent sessions
• 27 posters on display
• AAMD Fellow Inductee: Melanie Dempsey
• 28 exhibitors filled our exhibit hall
• Excellent hotel and staff
• Fantastic location close to MANY Orlando attractions
• Great prizes given out throughout the week
• Lazy River

As ACC Co-Chairs, we would like to thank our committee members who volunteer their time and effort in order to help make the annual meeting a success! We would also like to thank the AAMD Headquarters Staff and Steele Meetings (our professional meeting planner) for all of the guidance, help and support they provided us this past year. Lastly, we need to thank our corporate sponsors and exhibitors for their financial support that helps us continue to provide quality meetings at reasonable prices:

<decimal*
AAMD
AAMD Education & Research Foundation
Accuray
Best Medical/Heustis
Brainlab
CDR Systems
D3 Oncology Solutions
Elekta*
Feel Good, Inc.
LAP of America, LLC
Lifeline Software, Inc.
Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB)
MIM Software Inc.*
Mission Search*
Mobius Medical Systems, LP*
mu Check
Oncology Data Systems*
Oncology Systems Limited
Orfit Industries America
Philips Radiation Oncology Systems*
QFix
RaySearch Americas*
Revenue Cycle Inc.*
RTU/ARC
Sensus Healthcare*
Siemens Healthcare
Sun Nuclear Corporation
Varian Medical Systems*
(Exhibitors in alphabetical order, *indicates AAMD Corporate Member)

The ACC is already hard at work planning next year’s meeting in Atlanta, June 12 – 16, 2016. We are now accepting abstracts for general education sessions, panel discussions, pre-event workshops and poster displays. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2015. The poster deadline is March 15, 2016. Please see the [AAMD website](http://www.aamd.org) for more details.

We hope to see even more of you for the 41st Annual Meeting in Atlanta! Mark your calendars now and request that time off. You will not want to miss it!!
Call for Abstracts
Now Open

AAMD 41st Annual Meeting
June 12 – 16, 2016
Pre-Conference Workshops: June 10 – 11
Omni Atlanta Hotel at CNN Center
Atlanta, GA

Do you have a topic that you’d like to present to your radiation oncology colleagues? AAMD is seeking presenters for the 41st Annual Meeting. The Annual Conference Committee is now accepting abstracts for general education sessions, panel discussions, workshops and poster displays.

With a goal to provide attendees with tips and tricks, case studies and information they can use in their clinics, specific topics of interest include:
• Review of clinical anatomy and contouring
• Practical tips for community-based dosimetrists
• Safety culture in radiation oncology departments
• Case studies
• IMRT, VMAT, SBRT/SRS treatment planning
• Deformable image registration and adaptive planning
• Retreatment
• General interest – future of medical dosimetry, new technologies, reviews, professional development, leadership

Abstract Submission Deadline: October 31, 2015
Poster Abstract Submission Deadline: March 15, 2016

Get all the details and submit your abstract online.


By Spencer Boulter
AAMD Director of Operations

2015 Continuing Education Update

We are halfway through 2015, and AAMD has awarded over 20,000 CE credits since January 1. At the end of June, 600 people earned 10,560 credits at the AAMD 40th Annual Meeting. Directed Journal Reading quizzes continue to be a huge source of CE credits, producing 7,230 MDCB credits so far this year. The remainder of the year will continue with just as many opportunities for AAMD members to earn CE credits and learn the latest treatment planning techniques with webinars like the one on September 16, sponsored by Philips, on Auto-Planning with CDR. Member Plus subscribers have two webinars coming up on Electronic Brachytherapy and Proton Radiation Therapy in the Re-Treatment Setting.

As a reminder, sponsored webinars are free to all AAMD members as a new way for to get up to date training on the newest products and refresher courses on the basics. Member Plus webinars require an additional $100 subscription and provide a minimum of 20 additional credits through online activities. Both Student and International Members receive access to Member Plus content as part of their membership.

2015 Fall Webinar Schedule:
• August 17-21: National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day Webinar Series
• September 9: Electronic Brachytherapy (Member Plus)
• September 16: Auto-Planning with CDR – Sponsored by Philips
• October 14: Proton Radiation Therapy in the Re-Treatment Setting (Member Plus)

Are You Getting the Credits You Earned?

The start of 2015 also came with new online education requirements from the MDCB. Every online activity offered by AAMD requires a post activity quiz in order to receive CE credit. Throughout the year AAMD has averaged over 300 attendees per webinar, but only 150-200 people complete the required quiz. Over the past 7 months that would mean that at least 500 members missed out on 1,500 CE credits. If you are participating in AAMD’s online learning make sure you take the 5-10 minutes to log in to the AAMD website and complete the activity quiz.

Call for Webinar Presenters

The Continuing Education Committee is always interested in hearing from members the topics of interest that could potentially be presented as a webinar. In addition, if you are interested in giving a webinar or know someone who would be an excellent speaker, we have launched a call for webinar presenters for the 2016 curriculum. Visit the AAMD Online CE Center for more information.
Join AAMD and Roswell Park Cancer Institute for a Special Joint Meeting

By Lee Hales, CMD
Region IV Representative

We’re looking forward to a big crowd at the AAMD Region IV Meeting September 10-12 in Niagara Falls!

Registration has been brisk with lots of dosimetrists and therapists reserving their spots for this unique multidisciplinary educational opportunity that offers insights on the latest developments in treatments, treatment planning and clinical support issues. You can earn up to 14 CE credits (valid for MDCB and ARRT) for just $225. That Early Bird rate, which is a savings of $50 on the regular registration, ends on Tuesday, September 1, so be sure to register soon to enjoy these savings. You can register for the meeting online at: www.roswellpark.edu/RadConf.

Reserve your hotel room at our conference hotel, Sheraton at the Falls, online. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at: lee.hales@roswellpark.org

And remember that the Niagara Falls Blues Festival just happens to fall on this weekend as well!

Read Medical Dosimetry via Mobile

Did you know you can now read Medical Dosimetry on your phone or tablet, without downloading an app? Your device will present an optimized view that makes it easy to scroll through and read the latest articles. AAMD members can easily set up an account by entering your AAMD ID number the first time you visit. Click here for more information.

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
Most AAMD members are unaware about the details of how one achieves the honor of AAMD Fellow and the use of the FAAMD credential. We aim to educate the members about the Fellow elevation process and the path to becoming a Fellow.

From Member to Fellow

The process of achieving AAMD Fellow status takes place over several years and involves various aspects within the medical dosimetry profession that includes participation beyond the organization. Many AAMD members serve for years and may not consider having their contributions recognized. Often, it is a fellow colleague, another member, or a current AAMD Fellow who encourages a member to document his/her points and apply for the honor. The sponsor and candidate initiate the process and see it through to submission.

The process of becoming an AAMD Fellow is objective in that it requires the following steps:

• Achieving minimum point requirements. Points are earned through participation and achievement within the various areas of the medical dosimetry profession.
• Completing the application with the support of a sponsor.
• Submitting documentation of the points earned.

The current AAMD Fellows verify the integrity of the process by confirming the point requirements have been met and ensures that the documentation is valid. Achieving the honor of AAMD Fellow is ultimately within the control of the member – the AAMD does not initiate the process.

Steps Towards Fellowship

We recently evaluated current AAMD Fellows based on years of AAMD service before they completed an application. The shortest amount of time was approximately 9 years and the longest time frame was approximately 20 years.

According to the current application for AAMD Fellow, a member must achieve a minimum of 70 points. These can be earned through a variety of professional contributions. Of that number, at least 15 points must be earned from AAMD activities. Many Fellows achieve more than the minimum number of points. For example, one Fellow earned 34 points through service alone.

Earning the number of points required for AAMD Fellowship takes many years. According to the current application, serving on an AAMD committee earns a member 0.5 points per 2-year term, co-chairing a committee earns 1 point per 2-year term, serving on the Board of Directors earns 1 point per year, and serving as AAMD president earns 5 points each term.

Nearly all Fellows earn points outside AAMD service. Many Fellows acquire points by earning a master's degree (8 points), writing a textbook (5 points sole author; 2 points for contributing author), writing scholarly journal articles (3 points for first author; 1 point for co-author), or presenting at a national (3 points) or regional (2 points) meeting. For a detailed breakdown about how to earn points toward AAMD Fellowship, view the Fellows application (available by September 1).

Serving the Profession

Members serve their profession in different ways before attaining Fellow status. There are four pathways to becoming a Fellow, but fundamentally there are three major categories.

• Individuals who served on the Board of Directors
• Individuals who served as members or chair of committees
• Individuals who served as authors and lecturers

To gain a better perspective, let's take a look at a few AAMD Fellows and the contributions they have made.

AAMD Fellow Melanie Dempsey (2015)

Melanie Dempsey, MS, RT(R)(T), CMD, FAAMD, of Richmond, VA, served her profession in a number of ways for more than 20 years before she earned enough points to apply for Fellowship. Most of Melanie’s professional service took place primarily through Board of Directors and committee co-chair positions. More recently, she has been involved with the Board of Trustees for the AAMD Education & Research Foundation. Melanie has also contributed to the profession through scholarly work where she acquired double the minimum point requirement for the application.

AAMD Fellow Theresa Kwiatkowski (2013)

Theresa Kwiatkowski, BS, RT(T), CMD, FAAMD, of Rochester, NY, served her profession in a number of ways for more than 20 years before she earned enough points to apply for Fellowship. Most of Theresa’s professional service took place primarily through Board of Directors and Committee Co-Chair positions. She served as the Writing Competition Co-Chair for nearly 20 years. More recently, Theresa devotes time serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the AAMD Education & Research Foundation.
AAMD Award of Excellence Nominations Due November 1

The AAMD Award of Excellence was established to recognize individuals and their significant accomplishments in the field of Medical Dosimetry. The crystal trophy and $2,500 award will be presented at the AAMD Annual Meeting.

Nomination:
Any member of AAMD can submit a nomination. All nominations should be sent to the Selection Committee by November 1. For details on how to submit a nomination, visit the AAMD website.

Criteria for Recognition:
- AAMD member in good standing for at least 5 years.
- Significant contribution to the field of Medical Dosimetry as demonstrated by any/all of the following:
  - AAMD Committee service
  - AAMD Board of Directors position
  - Publication of articles pertaining to the field
  - Legislative efforts on behalf of the profession
  - Lectures at local/regional/national meetings
  - Research activities within the profession
  - Outstanding years of clinical service – 10 years or more
  - An educator in a recognized Dosimetry Program
  - Significant professional accomplishments in the Radiation Oncology field

AAMD’s International Outreach Continues

By Membership Committee Co-Chairs Elaine Bogner, CMD; Lee Hales, CMD (Incoming); and Rachel Hackett, CMD (Outgoing)

As the AAMD continues to grow in membership numbers, so too does our international membership. Of our record 3,150 members, 91 of them reside and work outside of the United States. We are thrilled to be able to confer with and learn from our international treatment planning colleagues. Many of them are medical dosimetrists, like us. However, in many other countries, the treatment planners may be radiation therapists, medical physicists and even radiation oncologists, all working alongside the rest of us on treatment planning for 3D CRT, IMRT, VMAT, SBRT, brachytherapy and the many other treatment modalities we use to battle cancer.

Therefore, the AAMD is thrilled to be able to offer the same educational opportunities we provide for our American colleagues to our international members. At the reduced member rate of $150 per year, they are able to access all of the CE modules, webinars and the Medical Dosimetry journal.

The AAMD would also love to hear from our international colleagues and learn about other educational needs they may have. We will continue to work hard to provide these opportunities to all of our members. If you are one of our international members and you would be willing to provide some feedback and insights to the AAMD about how we can further help you, please feel free to email Elaine Bogner or Lee Hales, Membership Committee Co-Chairs, and let us know how we can improve our services. If you know any treatment planners who reside and work outside of the United States, please introduce them to the AAMD and the international membership provision. We look forward to hearing from you.

Educators’ Update

By Jacky Nyamwanda, CMD, and Colleen Brogan-Raasch, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chairs

The Formal Education Committee (FEC) continues to work on various projects geared towards students and educators in formal medical dosimetry programs. Among these projects is a comprehensive review of the AAMD Medical Dosimetry Curriculum Guide, which is scheduled to be completed in 2016. We are also working on the analysis of an educators’ needs assessment survey, which will provide valuable information to help us work with educators and students in the future.

During the recently concluded AAMD 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, the FEC hosted two events. The first was an educators’ event, which had 16 attendees including program directors, education coordinators, clinical preceptors, and representatives from the JRCERT and the MDCB. The event included continuing education talks geared specifically towards educators. Dr. Robert Adams gave two talks titled “A Survey of Doctoral Degree Holders and Barriers to Conducting Original Research” and “An International Study on Communication of Medical Dosimetrists.” Dr. Mahsa Dehganpour and Dr. Jamie Baker gave a talk titled “Improving Students’ Critical Thinking Skills – A Multifaceted Approach.” The group also got a demonstration of InterviewStream by Ashley Pyfferoen from the Career Services Committee. The rest of the meeting was spent discussing various topics of interest to educators.

The second event, which was attended by 34 students, focused on two presentations by Ashley Pyfferoen, who is a recent graduate and currently employed full time as a dosimetrist. She gave a very interesting presentation on her experience with her job search and interview process which was very well received. She also gave a demo of InterviewStream, an online interview preparation tool that is available for free to all AAMD members. The event concluded with a short quiz which provided 5 lucky students with prizes ranging from gift certificates to a one-year membership to the AAMD. Students spent time networking with one another and were happy to meet students from other programs.
Like the majority, I didn’t find out about medical dosimetry until I stumbled upon it as an X-ray student rotating through the different modalities. I found my passion in becoming the patient’s advocate in the field of radiation oncology. After my first rotation through radiation oncology, I informed my parents that I knew what I wanted to do as a profession. Two weeks later, my father was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer that metastasized to his brain and bones.

The roles had switched. I was experiencing the course of treatment now on the other side as a patient’s family member. I was able to help assist my father through his radiation treatments, and again, I saw the unconditional love the therapists provided him during the hardest time of his life. As I climbed the ladder, graduating X-ray school, achieving a Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Imaging, graduating from the radiation therapy program at the University of Virginia, and then working as a radiation therapist, my decision of being part of this team had only been confirmed.

I had a month long dosimetry rotation at the University of Virginia as a therapy student. I fell in love all over again. The relationship between the radiation oncologists and dosimetrists was humbling yet rewarding. I was intrigued by the thought process and critical thinking that occurred behind the scenes while still being the patient’s advocate in achieving the most optimal treatment plan. Having the responsibility of creating the best plan for tumor control while sparing the normal structures through the utilization of the treatment planning software was a challenge that I was interested in.

I landed a radiation therapy job back home in Huntington, WV, where I did my formal rotations. I worked there for close to 3 years and had a role in assisting our medical dosimetrist. He had a great influence in my decision to pursue a career in medical dosimetry. I applied for the University of North Carolina Medical Dosimetry program and was 1 of 2 candidates that had been accepted for the class of 2015.

During the past 13 months, I have not only been prepared as a student, but as a well-rounded dosimetrist. This program along with the mentoring of our director, Dr. Robert Adams, has allowed me to have the opportunity to publish posters for ASTRO, work on AHRQ research grants, be an active member of the quality safety committee, attend/run simulation review and chart rounds, be knowledgeable didactically and clinically, and be trained to work as a dosimetrist in the real-world.

In the next few weeks I will be graduating from the UNC Dosimetry program, getting married, and moving to Louisville, Kentucky to start my job at the Norton Cancer Institute. I hope to become fully engrained in the field, continue to learn and grow as a dosimetrist, take an active role in our department’s quality safety program, and represent the AAMD with honor.
Congratulations to the 2015 AAMD Student Writing Competition Winners
By Jacky Nyamwanda, CMD, and Colleen Brogan-Raasch, CMD
2015 Student Writing Competition Co-Chairs

We wish to express our gratitude to all students who participated in the 2015 AAMD Student Writing Competition. We also wish to recognize the efforts of the judges involved, all of whom reviewed the manuscripts in their own time and on a volunteer basis. To the top three winners, the AAMD congratulates you for this achievement and wish you the very best in the future.

First Place ($500):
Acquisitioned Benefits in Adaptive Planning for Cervical Cancer Patients
Quyen Nguyen, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions

Second Place ($250):
A Dosimetric Comparison between Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of Brainstem Gliomas
Courtney M. Gann, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions

Third Place ($125):
A Dosimetric Comparison of Whole-Lung Treatment Techniques in the Pediatric Population
Christina L. Bosarge, Indiana University School of Medicine

Ask Questions and Get Answers from Your Medical Dosimetry Peers
AAMD’s Facebook and LinkedIn groups provide both members and non-members with another forum for interaction. Check out what’s going on in the world of medical dosimetry and talk with professionals who do what you do! Ask questions, share resources, talk about current events and more.

Facebook: American Association of Medical Dosimetrists
LinkedIn: American Association of Medical Dosimetrists

Special Thanks to Our 2014/2015 Sponsors

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Foundation Activities Update

As I approach my third year as chair of the AAMD Education and Research Foundation, I have learned a great deal about what makes our profession so strong, the challenges we face, and the people who tirelessly support it.

The Foundation would like for the AAMD Board and the AAMD Members to take pride in the following accomplishments: Over the past year the Foundation made its biggest strides by awarding 11 student scholarships dispersed in the amount of $41,600.

**Gunilla Bentel Scholarship Recipients**
- Drew Grantowicz- UW La Crosse- $3,000
- Stephen Rhodes- SIU Carbondale- $3,000

**Varian Student Scholarship Recipients**
- Jena Burrow- SIU Carbondale- $4,200
- Alexandra DeMarais- SIU Carbondale- $4,200
- Hyemin Ku- Suffolk University- $4,200
- Anthony Kuchta- UT San Antonio- $4,200
- Alyssa Olson- UW La Crosse- $4,200
- Stacy Peterson- UT MD Anderson- $4,200
- Jessica Stanley- SIU Carbondale- $4,200
- Tammy Volk- SIU Carbondale- $4,200

**Rudi J. Bertrand Veterans Scholarship**
- William Ichter- UT Texas MD Anderson- $2,000

**Annual Meeting Travel Grants Recipients**
*(funded by RaySearch and Mission Search)*
- John Bosch
- Doris Chen
- Stephanie Olson

The Foundation is asking you to support our 2015-2016 Fundraising Campaign. As a Medical Dosimetrist, you know personally the value and importance of the Medical Dosimetrists role in the Radiation Oncology Community. Your fully tax-deductible gift will support the education of students enrolled in medical dosimetry programs.

Among the many decisions we make in our lives, identifying our philanthropic priorities and choosing to act on them remains the most personal. Your decision to support the Foundation through donations or participation in our fundraising reflection of your priorities and values.

I am humbled by those of you who have found your passion in creating educational opportunities for individuals in our profession.

Together we are greater than the power of one.

Thank you,
Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, BS, CMD, RT(T), FAAMD
Chair, Board of Trustees
MDCB Maintenance Of Certification Reminders

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

Standard Setting Workshop

The MDCB conducted a standard setting workshop on July 10 and 11 in Chicago, Illinois. Twelve (12) CMD volunteers were selected to participate. The standard setting study – often referred to as a passing score or cut score study – ensures test validity and sets the passing score for the certification exam. Each exam candidate’s performance is measured against the determined cut score.

A standard setting study (or cut score study) is completed following the administration of a job task analysis (JTA). The JTA, completed in 2014, ensures that the MDCB exam continues to reflect current dosimetry practice.

The MDCB thanks the participants of the workshop who contributed their valuable time and expertise to this effort.

Item Writing Workshop

MDCB thanks the participants of the MDCB Item Writing Workshop at the AAMD 40th Annual Meeting. CMDs participated both remotely and in person. Workshop participants were guided through the process of developing well-constructed exam questions.

Item writers who submit questions receive CEUs for items submitted. Become an item writer, learn a new skill and gain recognition among your peers. For further details, please contact the MDCB at info@mdcb.org.

CE Center Reminders

• Individual CMD learning plans are reviewed quarterly. The review schedule is posted at http://www.mdcb.org/continuing-education/learning-plan-review-schedule.

• Documentation for completed activities is required to include the following:
  - CMD’s name
  - Provider
  - Activity name & MDCB number
  - Date activity was completed.

• CMD contact information can be updated on the “My Account” section of the CE Center.