Celebrate Our Profession on National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day – August 20, 2014!

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 18 – 22. Each webinar will offer one MDCB approved credit (also valid for ARRT). Here’s the line-up:

Monday, August 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT
Adaptive Therapy and Deformable Registration
Sponsored by RaySearch

Tuesday, August 19, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT
A Method to Reduce the Dosimetric Impact of Setup Uncertainties for Multi-Isocenter IMRT Plans
Sponsored by Philips

Wednesday, August 20, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT
Advanced Breast Planning with Eclipse – Forward and Inverse Planning Techniques Overview
Sponsored by Varian Medical Systems

Thursday, August 21, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT
Advances in Comprehensive Treatment Planning with Monaco 5
Sponsored by Elekta

Friday, August 22, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT
Spatially Fractionated Radiation Therapy: GRID
Sponsored by .decimal®

Registration will be limited to 1,000 participants per webinar. Once capacity is reached for each webinar, registrants who are unable to log in to the live webinar will have access to the webinar recording within 2 hours of the presentation. Recordings will be available for CE credit until September 30.

IMPORTANT CE INFORMATION:

1. Both Members and Non-Members must have an AAMD ID # for CE credit tracking. To set up a non-member account, please click here.

If you cannot attend the live session, the webinar will be available online for 30 days following the live session for registrants to watch the webinar, take a quiz and earn credits.

2. All webinar participants will be required to complete a quiz in order to earn CE credit for their attendance. This is a new requirement from the MDCB that will soon be in place for all CE providers. As of June 1, 2014, AAMD will not award CE credit for webinars or recordings without completion of the post-lecture quiz.

www.medicaldosimetry.org
Things you need to know about the quiz process:
• Quizzes will be posted online in the AAMD Online CE Center the day of the event and can be viewed during the live event.
• The MDCB is requiring 5 multiple choice questions for every 30 minutes of lecture.
• Attendees will have 3 chances to pass the quiz with an 80% grade.
• Completed CE credits will still be uploaded to the MDCB at least twice a month.
• Post activity quizzes will be required by the MDCB for all CE providers later this year. An exact date has not yet been set.

See the AAMD website for details on how you can participate and earn MDCB credits.

The AAMD is also offering a special National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day poster (pictured with this article) for you to print and display in your facility. See the website for your copy.

**President’s Corner**

Happy National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day!
Once again the AAMD is excited to offer five FREE webinars (offering five FREE CE credits) during the week of August 18-22 thanks to ongoing collaboration with our corporate partners. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for learning while celebrating our profession and contemplating how far we have come, especially over the past 40 years!

As the new president, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Chris Gainer, and outgoing past-president, Keitt Mobile, for their leadership and roles in the growth of the AAMD. I would also like to thank Sheila Sobremonte for her service on the board. While contemplating the year ahead I realize I have very big shoes to fill. I hope to continue to promote the medical dosimetry profession by building on the efforts of many past-presidents, board members and dedicated volunteers. Through the tireless efforts of three headquarters staff and approximately 100 volunteers, AAMD continues to be the premier national and international provider of educational opportunities and professional growth opportunities for members of our profession.

I am so proud of the record-setting events that occurred in 2014. The AAMD surpassed the goal for 3,000 members thanks to all the Membership Committee volunteers and staff. The 39th Annual Meeting in Seattle earlier this summer exceeded goals in overall attendance as well as participation in workshops, lunch symposia and concurrent sessions. Add to that success the amazing weather throughout the event and fun with colleagues both during the meeting and out on the town in the evenings! Many thanks to the Annual Conference Committee, staff, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and all who attended!

As president, I am excited to lead our current Board of Directors as we continue to build and advance this incredible organization. I, along with many volunteers, am now looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the first board meetings, the first annual meeting, the first newsletter and journal, and many more great advances with the AAMD’s 40th Anniversary coming in 2015. There are many great activities planned, and I am looking forward to being a part of the celebration of 40 years of excellence provided by an organization founded by some of the greatest in the field.

Join in the celebration of National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day 2014 and the upcoming 40th anniversary events to help AAMD exceed educational, career and professional development goals while recognizing, promoting and perpetuating the importance of our profession to healthcare communities around the world.

In your service,

Susan Cagle, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T)
AAMD President
susancagleAAMD@comcast.net
39th Annual Meeting Attendees Enjoyed an Amazing Journey to the Top!

By Lori Kasuske, CMD, and Kristi Smith, CMD
2014 Annual Conference Committee Co-Chairs

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) would like to thank all of the attendees that took a “Journey to the Top” with us at our 39th Annual Meeting held in Seattle, WA, June 1 - 5, 2014. 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!”

• “This was my first time to the AAMD Meeting. I usually attend the ASTRO Conference. I was extremely impressed with the presentations and the information I could review and share with my fellow dosimetrits. I recommend this conference to everyone. Thank you for all the work and I will be signing up again in the future. Thanks again to all your staff and volunteers for a successful conference!”

• “Very good quality meeting. Will be telling my colleagues to attend in the future.”

All presentation PDFs are available on the AAMD website. Some of these presentations will be converted into continuing education 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 highlights:

• 610 registrants (includes attendees, speakers and exhibitors) – our largest meeting ever!!

• 38 educational sessions (more from workshops and symposia) - provided by excellent speakers

• Tour of the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Proton Therapy, a ProCure Center

• Three pre-conference workshops
  - CMD Exam Review Course
  - Radiation Oncology Billing and Coding Workshop
  - Interactive Contouring Workshop

• Four lunch symposia provided by .decimal, Elekta, Philips and RaySearch

• Treatment Planning System Workshops for new and advanced users sponsored by Varian, Philips, Elekta and RaySearch

• Two breakout workshops
  - Quality and Safety
  - Image Registration

• 10,544 total CE credits earned by the meeting attendees during the week

• Largest session had 382 attendees

• CAMPEP credits for medical physicists offered

• Successful day of concurrent sessions

• 18 posters on display

• Award of Excellence Recipient: Anne Marie Vann

• AAMD Fellows Inductees: Paula Berner and Anne Marie Vann

• 30 exhibitors filled our exhibit hall

• Excellent hotel and staff

• Fantastic location close to MANY Seattle attractions

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Great prizes given out throughout the week

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:

AAMD
Accuray
Best Medical
Brainlab
CDR Systems
Churchill Consulting, Inc.*
CIVCO Medical Solutions*
D3 Oncology Solutions
Dade Moeller Health Group*
Elekta*
LAP LASER
Lifeline Software, Inc.
Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board
MIM Software*
Mirada Medical Ltd.*
Mobius Medical Systems, LP*
Oncology Data Systems*
Oncology Systems Limited
Orfit Industries America
Philips Healthcare*
QFix
Radiological Technologies University*
RaySearch Americas*
Revenue Cycle Inc.*
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Siemens
Sun Nuclear Corporation
Varian Medical Systems*
WePassed*

(Exhibitors in alphabetical order, *indicates AAMD Corporate Member)

We hope to see even more of you for the 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando! Mark your calendars now for June 21 - 25, 2015 and plan on joining us at the 40th Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL! You will not want to miss it!!
Meet the 2014-2015 AAMD Board of Directors

By Gregg Robinson, CAE
AAMD Executive Director

Congratulations to Susan Cagle, CMD, as she steps into her Presidency and to Ray Lawson, CMD, who was elected to the position of President-Elect in the spring election. In addition, Lori Kasuske, CMD is the new Member-At-Large and Scott Green, CMD, is the new Regional Director. Their terms started on August 1, and they will be joining the other Board members for their 2014-2015 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. At the same time, they strive to meet the needs of the membership as known to them through your communications and responses to various surveys. 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 allowing for an active volunteer participation and involvement. By working with committee volunteers and headquarters staff, the Board members participate in a full yet rewarding range of activities reflective of the workings of the association. New efforts continue to be identified, and the assignment of task forces has allowed 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. As needed a Call for Volunteers is distributed throughout the year relating to new projects and soliciting support. 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.
The official Call for Nominations for the 2014/2015 Board and Regional Representative Positions took place in Seattle. As the AAMD continues to grow we are always looking for new and enthusiastic leaders. The positions that are currently open for nominations 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

Help the AAMD continue on our journey to be the leading source of medical dosimetry education for treatment planning professionals around the world. Bring your ideas, resources and talents to this great organization.

To be eligible for nomination, you must be a current AAMD Full Member in good standing. For the Regional Representative Position, the nominee must reside in one of the states included in that region. All positions are three-year terms beginning on August 1, 2015 and ending on July 31, 2018. Position descriptions can be found here on the AAMD website.

All online applications are due by December 31, 2014. Elections will take place in the spring of 2015.

If you would like to nominate an individual for one of the open positions, or have any additional questions, please email the AAMD Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs:

Cara Sullivan at caramia@comporium.net
Adam Brown at adam.brown@sarahcannon.com

Thank you to all the individuals who have stepped up to volunteer for different committees! After the Seattle meeting the AAMD received many new volunteer applications. It is great to see so many dosimetrists willing to give their time to the AAMD. We still have some opportunities open on various committees, including Communications, so please check the Volunteer Opportunities page for more information.

As new leaders come aboard, we also have to say goodbye to others. The Nominations and Volunteer Committee operated many years by one individual – Keitt Mobile. Her hard work on the committee cannot go unrecognized. She will be missed, and we thank her for her dedication and leadership on the committee. We are pleased to announce that Adam Brown will be joining me to co-chair this important committee.

Volunteering for the AAMD is a very rewarding experience, and I encourage everyone to start the volunteer journey today!

Get the Most Out of AAMD Membership – Important Information about Continuing Education

By Spencer Boulter, MS
AAMD Director of Operations

New Continuing Education Requirements from MDCB

In June, AAMD started piloting a new MDCB education requirement that will go into full effect later this year. Following the trends of other accrediting organizations, the MDCB is requiring all online education participants to complete a post event quiz. This requirement has always applied to Directed Reading activities and now applies to live webinars and recordings. AAMD is working with the MDCB so that when the new quiz policy is extended to all CE providers it will be able to maintain the academic integrity of the education and be user friendly for the participants.

Members who have participated in AAMD webinars over the past few months have already been required to complete a quiz in order to earn CE credit for their attendance. As of June 1, 2014, AAMD will not award CE credit for webinars or recordings without completion of the post-lecture quiz.

Things you need to know about this process:

- Quizzes will be posted online in the Online CE Center the day of the event and can be viewed during the live event.
- The MDCB is requiring five multiple choice questions for every 30 minutes of lecture.
- Attendees will have three chances to pass the quiz with an 80% grade.
- Completed CE credits will still be uploaded to the MDCB at least twice a month.
- Post activity quizzes will be required by the MDCB for all CE providers later this year. An exact date is not set yet.

2014 Online Education Recap

This year AAMD has doubled the amount of online education opportunities. During the first half of the year we have hosted 12 webinars, awarded 4,500 CE credits and provided education to almost 2,000 individual dosimetrists. Topics this year have
ranged from introductory TPS courses for students to advanced IMRT planning techniques. All of the topics listed below have been covered earlier this year and are available in the Online CE Center archives. The majority of these webinars have been provided for free to members as part of AAMD’s educational goals. All webinars are available for CE credit during the live event and for 3 months following the broadcast.

Archived Webinars
• Clinical Use of Bolus Electron Conformal Therapy (BECT) in the Treatment of Shallow and Irregularly Shaped Tumors
• IMRT Planning Techniques in the Treatment of Anal Tumors
• Student Webinar - Radiation Safety for Medical Dosimetrists
• Clinical Trials: Are They Really Still Necessary in 2014? Rationale, Structure and Approach to Modern Clinical Trials
• Student Webinar - IMRT Planning Concepts
• Sponsored by Philips - SBRT for Lung Cancer at the Netherlands Cancer Institute
• Sponsored by Elekta - A New Perspective on Treatment Planning Workflow in Monaco Part 2
• Treatment Planning Case Study: Chest Wall
• Quality Assurance (QA) of Linear Accelerators Used in Radiation Therapy
• Sponsored by Philips - The UTSW experience: Using the CCC Superposition algorithm for modeling FFF beams and calculating SBRT dose distributions
• Site Specific Quality Metrics in Everyday Practice
• Tips and Tricks for Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) using Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT)

Upcoming Webinars
• Treatment Planning Fundamentals Part I – August 7
• Treatment Planning Fundamentals Part II – TBD
• National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day Webinar Series – August 18 – 22
• SBRT Lung - Special Attention to Constraints and Conformity – September 10
• Contour Review of Critical Organs – October 8
• SBRT Lung-Special Attention to Constraints and Conformity – November 12
• 2 additional Philips Sponsored Webinars – TBD

We’re Here to Help You
At this time of year, AAMD is bombarded with emails from dosimetrists whose MDCB Learning Plans will expire on December 31, 2014. This process can be frustrating and downright scary for some because the processes designed to record MDCB credits leaves members in a moment of awe as they read the words that some all of their 50 hours of CE’s “have not been verified.”

AAMD is here to help you complete your renewal process, but in order to best assist you, we ask that you complete the steps listed below. As long as your credits were earned through AAMD, we have hardcopy records of them all. Any credits earned through ASRT or any other provider will need to be addressed directly through those providers.

1. Look Online – Visit www.medicaldosimetry.org
AAMD stores all of your transcripts in two locations. Use these links to locate, download and print any transcript you may need.

All webinars and meetings from 2011 - March 2013: http://mtreport.com/aamd/
Select your activity and enter the email you used to register for the event and your last name.

All Webinars, Directed Journal Readings, CEMs and meetings from 2013: http://medicaldosimetry.org/transcript/index.cfm

2. Make sure your AAMD profile includes your MDCB number. AAMD uploads CE credits earned through our educational programs directly to your MDCB Learning Plan. However, in order to do so, we must have your seven-digit MDCB number loaded into your AAMD account. Using the steps below you can verify your profile information and add or update any missing information.

Visit: https://medicaldosimetry.site-ym.com/members/manage_profile.asp to manage your profile and click on “Edit Bio” to update your personal information and add your MDCB number.

3. Make sure you are using your new AAMD ID number on all educational events.
New AAMD ID numbers were issued in June 2013 with the launch of the new education system. All active member and non-member accounts are automatically assigned an ID number. Your AAMD ID number can be found either on your membership card under “Manage Profile” or by clicking on “Find My AAMD ID” link under the Online CE Center. Visit http://www.medicaldosimetry.org/userinfo/index.cfm for direct access to your AAMD ID.

If you are not using your ID for AAMD activities it will be your responsibility to send your transcripts to MDCB or ARRT.

4. Contact AAMD Headquarters for missing credits or upload assistance
At any time during the year if you are missing credits or are having trouble getting your credits through your MDCB learning plan, please call AAMD HQ at 703-677-8071. We will be able to help you track down any missing AAMD activities and provide you with a form that will help us upload your credits directly to the MDCB.

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While AAMD is here to support our members and the medical dosimetry profession, we do have to emphasize individual accountability. If you do your part, we can do ours even better. We look forward to continually improving your education experience so that you can better serve your patients.

Quick Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about AAMD Online Education

How often are AAMD credits uploaded to the MDCB?
Credits are uploaded every Monday as long as attendees have their MDCB number in their AAMD profile.

How quickly can I access the Medical Dosimetry Journal and take Directed Reading Quizzes?
AAMD has established a “quick access” link to all Medical Dosimetry journal articles. This link is available under the Publications tab on the AAMD website and requires your AAMD login to view the content. This link is active the moment you join AAMD.

Where can I find the Member Plus webinars registrations, recordings and CE Modules?
Member Plus content, registrations and handouts have been consolidated into one location under the AAMD CE Center. Click on the link on the AAMD homepage and enter your AAMD login to access the resources. This content is linked to your AAMD member profile and is available as soon as you join or purchase a Member Plus subscription in the AAMD Store.

Can I subscribe to Member Plus throughout the year?
A Member Plus subscription is available all year long in the AAMD Store. Previous webinars are available for credit for 90 days after the live session, and over 10 hours of CE Modules are available all year long. Member Plus subscriptions are $100 for members.

Does the MDCB limit the number of AAMD educational activity credits that can be applied for CMD renewal?
The MDCB has absolutely no restrictions on AAMD educational activities. CMDs could earn all 150 credits offered by AAMD throughout the year, and every point would be accepted by both the MDCB and ARRT.

Congratulations to the New AAMD Fellows!

Paula Berner, CMD, FAAMD, and Anne Marie Vann, MEd, CMD, RT(R)(T), FAAMD, were honored as new AAMD Fellows during the AAMD 39th Annual Meeting in Seattle. The AAMD honorary designation of Fellow is bestowed upon members who have made outstanding contributions to the medical dosimetry profession and to the AAMD. To read about the achievements of Paula and Anne Marie and to learn more about how you can become a Fellow, visit the AAMD website.

AAMD Honors Anne Marie Vann with the 2014 Award of Excellence

AAMD President Chris Gainer, BS, CMD,RT(R)(T), presented Anne Marie Vann, MEd, CMD, RT(R)(T), FAAMD, with the 2014 AAMD Award of Excellence at the recent AAMD Annual Meeting. Read about Anne Marie’s outstanding achievements in medical dosimetry on the Award of Excellence page.
This year, the Formal Education Committee (FEC) hosted two events geared towards educators and students. The FEC is making a concerted outreach effort towards these two groups, and we were delighted to use these events toward that purpose.

The educators’ event, held on Tuesday, June 3, had 16 people in attendance, including educators from at least eight different programs. Also in attendance were: Leslie Winter, JRCERT CEO; Beverly Riley, MDCB President; and Laura Borghardt, the AAMD nominee to the JRCERT Board of Directors. Educators were able to discuss various topics with these representatives and have their questions answered in an open forum format. Laura Borghardt also gave a brief presentation on the role of the JRCERT as a resource for programs.

There were two additional presentations that provided the educators with three continuing education credits. The first, by Jamie Baker, MEd, CMD, Education Coordinator at University of Texas MD Anderson’s dosimetry program, was titled “Professional Peer Review: It’s Not Personal- Using Instructional Technology to Teach Medical Dosimetry Students to Give and Receive Constructive Criticism in a Clinical Environment.” The second presentation by Kevin Powers, Ed D, (RT)(M), ASRT Director of Education, was titled “Transitioning From a Paper-Based to an Electronic System for Managing Student Data.” It provided an overview of a student electronic management system that can assist programs to function in a “near paperless” environment.

The student event, held on Monday, June 2, was also very well attended with over 25 students present. Students were provided with an overview of the student section of the AAMD website to ensure that they are familiar with the offerings. The highlight of the event was a very informative and inspirational talk given by Madison Fletcher, who is a newly employed dosimetrist. She provided valuable insights into the job search process by sharing her personal journey from graduation, volunteering and finally landing a staff dosimetrist position. Her talk was very well received with students asking very good questions both during and after the event. Susan Cagle, co-chair of AAMD Career Services Committee, also gave a short presentation to introduce InterviewStream, which is an online interview preparation tool that students can explore on their own. The event concluded with a “students only” tour of the exhibit hall, which allowed students to get an overview of the offerings from the different vendors.

Overall, the FEC was very happy with the turnout at both events, and attendee survey responses about the events will be used as input for future gatherings.
AAMD Provides Excellent Educational Opportunities for Our International Community

By Rachel Hackett, CMD, and Elaine Bogner, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

As the AAMD approaches its 40th anniversary, we are continuing our extensive efforts to support our international community of medical dosimetrists and treatment planners. In many countries outside of the United States where the field of medical dosimetry is in its infancy, treatment planners include radiation therapists, medical physicists, radiation oncologists and some other categories otherwise recognized in some foreign countries. Any individual serving in this treatment planning capacity and who lives outside of the United States is eligible for AAMD membership. Our International Membership category provides these valued members of our global medical dosimetry community with the same excellent membership benefits our American members enjoy.

Many of our international members have expressed a need for increased educational opportunities in the field of treatment planning and medical dosimetry. We are proud to be able to provide such education to all of our international members. After becoming a member, whether certified by the MDCB or not, an international member will receive all normal membership benefits including Member Plus and the journal of Medical Dosimetry. This includes access to all webinars and previously recorded CE modules. Each member is able to view every webinar for up to three months after the original live date, even if they were not able to attend the live event.

It is a great privilege to work alongside our international members, and the AAMD is thrilled to provide our international colleagues with many educational opportunities in the field of treatment planning. For a complete list of webinars and CE modules available to you, please visit the Online CE Center at www.medicaldosimetry.org for more information and access.

Socialize with 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
Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Hales, CMD

Region IV Representative, AAMD/CAMRT Liaison, 
Member of Formal Education and Membership Committees

How long have you been volunteering for the AAMD? I have been a member of the AAMD Membership Committee since 2011 and the Formal Education Committee since 2012. I was appointed the AAMD Representative to the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) in early 2013. I began a term as Region IV Representative on August

What are your responsibilities with this position and about how many monthly hours do you spend working on AAMD projects? Being active on the Membership Committee and Formal Education Committee involves participating in various committee projects and telephone calls/meetings as assigned by the committee chairs. My work as the AAMD representative to the CAMRT involves promotion of AAMD services and membership benefits to the CAMRT members involved in medical dosimetry. I attended the 2013 CAMRT meeting in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and co-presented on the differences between dosimetry education in Canada and the USA with a Canadian colleague (Sarah Kristensen) at both the CAMRT and AAMD annual meetings. I am currently working to assess the educational needs of CAMRT members practicing in dosimetry. I probably spend approximately five to 10 hours a month working on the projects, but this number may increase considerably if I have an active project.

What advice would you have for members considering volunteering for the AAMD? Do it!! I have met so many colleagues who are positive forces for our profession during my volunteer activities. It’s great to be able to do anything from help shape the future of our profession to simply having a discussion about how other CMDs handle day-to-day tasks.

What was the main reason you decided to become involved with the AAMD? After more than 10 years in the profession, I felt it was time to try and give something back to the field.

What have you found to be most rewarding about this position? Meeting and working with the other dosimetrists that have volunteered their time to the AAMD. It’s easy to become cynical about the day to day grind of your job, and I find that working on AAMD projects, attending the AAMD Annual Meeting or just sitting in on a committee phone call refreshes my enthusiasm for medical dosimetry.

How do you think serving this position for the AAMD has helped you in your current job? I certainly feel like a member of an international community of like-minded professionals, which helps me keep the day-to-day struggles of my job in perspective.
Registration Is Now Open

By Susan Ratteree, CMD
Region V Representative

Region V is gearing up for a fantastic regional meeting in beautiful Raleigh, NC, October 3 – 4, 2014. The program will feature speakers covering topics ranging from SBRT/SRS and veterinary radiation oncology to gynecological cancer treatment and radiation safety. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn up to 14 CE credits (MDCB approval pending).

Raleigh is well known for the Research Triangle, but it has numerous shopping, dining and cultural opportunities as well. Bring the family and take advantage of not only the meeting, but also a beautiful area with something for everyone to enjoy!

Meeting details and the online registration link are on the AAMD Regional Meetings page.

Hope to see you in Raleigh!
Congratulations to the 2014 AAMD Writing Competition Winners!

By Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, BS, CMD, RT(T), FAAMD
2014 Writing Competition Chair

AAMD Dosimetrist Writing Competition

1st Place: Dosimetric Comparison of Intensity Modulated Solutions for Intact Prostate Cancer
Author: Cory J. Neill, BS, CMD, RT(R)(T)
Institution: Carson-Tahoe Radiation Oncology Associates

2nd Place: The Use of Proton Radiotherapy for the Treatment of Advanced Stage Breast Cancer: An Experience-Based Review of Treatment Planning, Delivery, and Dosimetric Advantages
Authors: Stacey Schmidt, CMD; Megan Dunn, PhD; Mark Pankuch, PhD; Lauren Curran, RT(T); Rachel DeLongpre, RT(T); Megan Marshall, RT(T); Dawn Smith, RT(T); Rachel Sewell, RT(T)
Institution: Cadence Health

3rd Place: Radiation Treatment for the Right Naris in a Pediatric Anesthesia Patient Using an Adaptive Oral Airway Technique
Authors: Patricia Sponseller, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T); Nicole Pelly, MD; Andrew Trister, MD; Eric Ford, PhD; Ralph Ermoian, MD
Institution: University of Washington Medical Center

AAMD/CIVCO Medical Solutions Student Writing Competition

1st Place: Is There a Clinical Benefit with a Smooth Compensator Design Compared to a Plunged Compensator Design for Passive Scattered Protons?
Authors: Alireza Tabibian; A.Powers; K.Dolormente; S.Oommen; A.Tiwari ; M.Palmer, MBA, CMD; X.R. Zhu,PhD; H.Li,PhD; N.Sahoo,PhD; P.Wisdom; K.Velasco, CMD, RT(T); K.Erhart, PhD; H.Stanley, BS; B.T.Nguyen, BS, CMD
Institution: University of Texas School of Health Professions at MD Anderson

2nd Place: Dosimetric Comparison of 3D-Conformal, Brachytherapy, and Proton Modalities for Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation (APBI)
Authors: Lori Simmons, BS; Darrin Nikolaisen, AS; Valli Sivabhaskar, DCA; Tyler Williamson; Mayankkumar Amin, MSc, CMD; Adam Melancon, PhD; Simona Shaitelman, MD, EdM; Pamela Allen, PhD; and Dominique Roniger, BS, CMD
Institution: University of Texas School of Health Professions at MD Anderson

3rd Place: Brachial Plexus Dose Limitations in Apical Lung Cancer: A Case Study
Authors: Ashley Pyfferoen, BA; Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T), FAAMD
Institution University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

As Chair of the 2014 Writing Competition, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to everyone who participated in the 2014 AAMD Dosimetrist Writing Competition and the 2014 CIVCO Medical Solutions Student Writing Competition. I want to acknowledge the contributions from the judges, who by their generous commitment of time and enthusiasm for judging the competition manuscripts each year, have ensured the Writing Competitions’ success.
Today, the interview process is very complex, tedious and extremely competitive. There are several types of interviews in which you may be asked to participate, from phone to group to webcam or video conference. The categories of questions have also expanded in complexity. Behavioral and situational questions have become a popular component of the interview process. These questions give the interviewer insight into your analytical and problem solving skills, past performance and how you handle certain situations.

So how can you set yourself apart from the competition?

The AAMD recently launched a NEW tool for our members called “Interview Stream.” We are very excited to provide this innovative technology to assist you with the interview process. Whether you are a seasoned dosimetrist or just starting your career, the AAMD Career Services Committee can help.

The “Interview Stream” technology utilizes a webcam to help you improve your interview performance through practicing mock interviews. The web-based design allows you to select pre-recorded questions, then record, review and retry your responses. You can also email your interview link to family, friends or professionals in the field for feedback. Check out the helpful resources tab for user guides, tips and strategies to assist you through the interview process.

To access “Interview Stream” from the AAMD website, click on the Career Center tab, select the “Interview Stream” link from the drop down menu and follow the link to create your free account. Once the dashboard appears, select the easy step-by-step tutorial on how to conduct an interview. The CSC has created two folders of pre-recorded mock interview questions for New Grad and Senior Dosimetrists. We are currently developing additional interview questions related to the medical dosimetry field which will be added in the near future.

The Career Services Committee would like to encourage you to check out the helpful resources, tips and strategies “Interview Stream” offers to help you improve your interview performance!
Scholarship funds entrusted to the AAMD Education and Research Foundation were donated by individual patrons and corporate benefactors who desired to support deserving students striving towards their career goals in medical dosimetry. The vast majority of medical dosimetry students are working adults with busy lives, often juggling school, careers, and childcare or eldercare responsibilities.

Financial aid is limited, especially for those individuals that are in need of additional assistance to attain their lifelong dream. For those of you that have supported the Foundation, please accept my most sincere thanks. And may I suggest to those of you who may have not had the opportunity to give, to please consider making a tax deductible contribution to support a student in need that is currently walking in your footsteps.

As you think about the importance of education, and how it changes lives and communities, your act of philanthropy, large or small makes a positive difference. Your ongoing support helps us open doors and change lives.

As Chair of the AAMDEducation and Research Foundation, it is my pleasure to inform you of those individuals that have been selected to receive financial awards from the Founders, Rudi J. Bertrand Veteran’s, and the Gunilla Bentel Scholarships.

The scholarship committee would like to commend all of the applicants on their commitment to medical dosimetry and their achievements. Congratulations to the award recipients below:

The Founders Scholarship for Medical Dosimetry Students

- Patricia Hua (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) was awarded $1500.
- Cezanne Narcisse (University of Texas MD Anderson) was awarded $1500.
- Sam Miller (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) was awarded $1500.
- Grayden MacLennan (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) was awarded $1500.
- Kristin Martin (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) was awarded $1500.
- Gabriella Avila (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) was awarded $500.
- Stephanie Olson (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) was awarded $500.

The Rudi J. Bertrand Veteran’s Scholarship for Medical Dosimetry Students

- Andrew Dorfmeyer (Cleveland Clinic Medical Dosimetry Program) was awarded $450.

The Gunilla Bentel Scholarship for Medical Dosimetrists

- Titus Kyenzeh CMD, (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) was awarded $1500.

Titus is pursuing a master’s degree in Medical Dosimetry through University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
And the Winner of the 39th Annual Meeting Survey Drawing Is….

Congratulations to the winner of the 39th Annual Meeting Survey drawing: Suresh Kissoondyal, CMD, of Gainesville, FL. Suresh won an AAMD meeting registration that can be used for an annual meeting in the next two years or a regional meeting plus one night of hotel accommodations.

Support Our Corporate Members

By Stacey Wilson
AAMD Director of Marketing

AAMD is fortunate to have excellent support from the corporate radiation oncology community. Each year, we have numerous companies who join our association as Corporate Members in order to offer their resources to our members and to gain better insights into the medical dosimetry profession. Many of these members also provide additional funding to AAMD programs and activities through exhibits and sponsorships.

As your clinic or facility reviews potential product purchases, please consider supporting the companies that support AAMD!

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Advanced Radiation Physics Inc.
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Radiological Technologies University VT
RaySearch Laboratories
RBSE
Revenue Cycle, Inc.
Varian Medical Systems, Inc.
Velocity Medical Solutions
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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
MDCB Update
By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

Job Task Analysis
The 2014 Job Task Analysis (JTA), also known as a role delineation study, has been completed. MDCB conducts a JTA every five years to assure the certification exam maintains relevance to current medical dosimetry practice.

Results of the JTA and the new test blueprint will be published in early fall. In addition, please keep a lookout for a call for CMD volunteers for participation in the in-person Cut Score or Standard Setting Study. Best practices require a Standard Setting Study be completed after the JTA. Participants in the study follow a rigorous approach to help determine the passing score for the exam.

Eligibility Requirements for 2017
Effective for 2017, there will be one Route to eligibility for all first time candidates for the CMD exam. All United States candidates will be required to have a Bachelor’s Degree and have graduated from a formal dosimetry program accredited by the Joint Commission on Certification Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

International candidates (including Canada) will be required to hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiation Therapy, Radiation Science or Radiography. In addition the international candidate will have to have completed specific course work and clinical hours in treatment planning during the completion of the Bachelor of Science degree. Details of required coursework and the clinical hours requirement can be viewed here.

Maintenance of Certification Updates
CMDs whose cycles end in December 2014 are reminded to submit their Learning Plans for completion by November 30. Congratulation to the 288 CMDs whose current cycle ends in December and have completed their Learning Plans!
The AAMD initiative to establish a stronger relationship with our Canadian colleagues enters its second year. As the AAMD representative to the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT), I can report on several projects currently ongoing:

1. We continued our established exchange of promotional materials at our annual meetings. The CAMRT continuing dosimetry education flyer was included with our handouts at the AAMD Annual Meeting. For those of you who did not attend, this information is available at: http://www.camrt.ca/cpd/specialtycertificateprograms/dosimetry/

2. Our effort to encourage Canadian participation at our Annual meeting was a great success, with 17 Canadian attendees and two Canadians delivering talks. The majority of the AAMD Membership Committee and members of the Board of Directors were able to have an impromptu “Meet and Greet” with some of the Canadian attendees, as well as some of our other international attendees, at the Annual Meeting. We heard some great suggestions from our international friends for future directions in international collaboration.

3. I have initiated a survey group (through Survey Monkey) to canvas the CAMRT members practicing dosimetry. I am currently analyzing the results of the first survey and plan to conduct several more over the next year to get a better picture of how the AAMD can serve Canadian members and non-members.

4. Thanks predominantly to the efforts of Keitt Mobile of the AAMD Board of Directors, I can report that the MDCB website now has clarified CMD exam eligibility information for Canadian (and international) applicants. This information can be found at: http://www.mdcb.org/certification-exam-information/eligibility

It is my privilege to serve as the AAMD Representative to the CAMRT, and I hope to have more exciting developments to report on over the next year.