Let's Celebrate National Medical Dosimetrist's Day, August 17, 2016!

National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day is here! 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 15 – 19. Each webinar will offer one MDCB approved credit (also valid for ARRT). Here’s the line-up:

**Monday, August 15 at 1:00 PM EDT**
Sponsored by ProKnow Systems
Contouring Accuracy: What Have We Learned, and Where Do We Go from Here?
Presented by Ben Nelms, PhD
Click here to view the full abstract and register.

**Tuesday, August 16 at 1:00 PM EDT**
Sponsored by Philips
Pinnacle® Auto-Planning: University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA)
Multi-Disease Site Evaluation
Presented by Brianna Zehren, MS
Click here to view the full abstract and register.

**Wednesday, August 17 at 1:00 PM EDT**
Sponsored by Varian Medical Systems
SBRT Planning from Start to Finish
Presented by Thomas Costantino, BS, CMD, RT(T)
Click here to view the full abstract and register.

**Thursday, August 18 at 1:00 PM EDT**
Sponsored by Elekta
Treatment Planning Efficiencies
Presented by Paul Barry
Click here to view the full abstract and register.

**Friday, August 19 at 1:00 PM EDT**
Sponsored by RaySearch
Robustness – The End of PTV?
Presented by Cameron Ditty, MSc, DABR
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, 2016 for participants to earn CE credits.

**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.
2. If you cannot attend the live session, the webinar will be available online until September 30, 2016 for registrants to watch the webinar, take a quiz and earn credits.
3. All webinar participants will be required to complete a quiz in order to earn CE credit for their attendance.
Happy National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day! We have a lot to celebrate. We are in an exciting and growing medical profession with a very promising future. The AAMD is comprised of a variety of dosimetrists, from those with several decades of experience and wisdom gained by them witnessing the rapid changes brought about by computers as they have revolutionized our field, to the new aspiring dosimetrists who are eager to conquer the latest techniques and help shape the future. Some work independently as the sole dosimetrist in their clinic, while others are part of a large dosimetry team in an academic center. We all share the same pursuit and responsibility to create the best designed and deliverable treatment plans to accurately dose the targets while optimally protecting the normal tissues of the patients. We recently gathered in Atlanta for the AAMD 41st Annual Meeting to further achieve this by learning from each other and building professional, friendly relationships with fellow dosimetrists who we otherwise, without these conferences, would probably never have the opportunity to meet. The beauty in all of this is that the more we share our knowledge with each other the better we get and the more our patients benefit from our collegial events!

We are now in the midst of National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day – Week (because a day just isn’t enough!), and I’m excited about the free webinars that will be presented each day of the week. But I’ve been getting even more excited about being a dosimetrist and participating in the AAMD. I am proud of our profession and proud of all of you, my colleagues. Most every dosimetrist I’ve met and spoken with has been a caring, passionate and intelligent professional. I am continually amazed by everyone’s dedication to improving their skills and working through the many challenges we face on a regular basis in the clinic. As we take some time this week to celebrate our profession, I encourage you to always remember we have been given the opportunity to make a difference. How we approach our jobs as dosimetrists matters to those around us and to those who come to our clinics for help and hope. I’ll also add that I am forever grateful for those who have mentored me in my technical skills and more importantly for constantly reminding me of the importance for the quality of work we perform by their selfless examples demonstrated while working together. I hope you have a great week, are able to enjoy the webinars and find time (and reasons) to celebrate. Hope to see you at an AAMD meeting soon.

Craig McKenzie, BSRT, CMD
AAMD President
cmckenzie@medicaldosimetry.org

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.

Also, if you’re still looking for ways to celebrate, how about one of the activities listed on the AAMD website – a patient education event, reception for the radiation oncology department or other hospital staffers?

Let us know how you marked National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day this year. Send us an email (aamd@medicaldosimetry.org) with a description of your facility’s activities – and include photos, if possible. We’d love to see what you’re up to! Or share your photos and activities in the AAMD Facebook group!

Enjoy your day (and week) in the spotlight!

President’s Corner

Happy National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day! We have a lot to celebrate. We are in an exciting and growing medical profession with a very promising future. The AAMD is comprised of a variety of dosimetrists, from those with several decades of experience and wisdom gained by them witnessing the rapid changes brought about by computers as they have revolutionized our field, to the new aspiring dosimetrists who are eager to conquer the latest techniques and help shape the future. Some work independently as the sole dosimetrist in their clinic, while others are part of a large dosimetry team in an academic center. We all share the same pursuit and responsibility to create the best designed and deliverable treatment plans to accurately dose the targets while optimally protecting the normal tissues of the patients. We recently gathered in Atlanta for the AAMD 41st Annual Meeting to further achieve this by learning from each other and building professional, friendly relationships with fellow dosimetrists who we otherwise, without these conferences, would probably never have the opportunity to meet. The beauty in all of this is that the more we share our knowledge with each other the better we get and the more our patients benefit from our collegial events!
The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) would like to thank all of the attendees that came to the 41st Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, GA June 12 -16, 2016. More than 500 attendees helped make this meeting a huge success. 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:

•  “Overall, a great meeting! Thank you for all of your hard work!! One of the best ever!”
•  “Great topics!! I thoroughly enjoyed meeting fellow dosimetrists and sharing our experiences.”
•  “Very enjoyable meeting with great speakers!”
•  “The AAMD meeting, in comparison to other conferences I have attended, was extremely relevant and I gained a number of ideas that I can bring back to my department.”

All presentation PDFs are available on the AAMD website. 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 highlights:

•  533 registrants (includes attendees, speakers, and exhibitors)
•  37 educational sessions (more from workshops and symposia) - provided by excellent speakers
•  Three pre-conference workshops:
  - Radiation Oncology Billing and Coding Workshop
  - Interactive Contouring Workshop
  - MDCB Item Writing Workshop
•  Four lunch symposia provided by ProKnow, Elekta, Philips and Accuray
•  Treatment Planning System Workshops for new and advanced users sponsored by Varian, Philips, Elekta and RaySearch
•  Two breakout workshops:
  - Image Registration Workshop
  - MIM Software Users Advanced Training
•  CAMPEP credits for medical physicists offered
•  Successful day of concurrent sessions
•  2016 Award of Excellence Recipient: Mark Russell
•  18 posters on display
•  30 exhibitors filled our exhibit hall
•  Excellent hotel and friendly staff
•  Great prizes given out throughout the week
•  Fantastic night out at the ProKnow Tailgate Party at the College Football Hall of Fame

Call for Abstracts Now Open
AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting
June 11 – 15, 2017
Pre-Conference Workshops: June 10
JW Marriott Hotel
Indianapolis, IN

Do you have a topic that you’d like to present to your radiation oncology colleagues? AAMD is seeking presenters for the 42nd 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, 2016

Poster Abstract Submission Deadline:
March 15, 2017

Get all the details and submit your abstract online.
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 Event Planning Concepts (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
AAMD Education and Research Foundation
Accuray, Inc.*
Best Medical/Heustis
Brainlab
CDR Systems*
CIVCO Medical Solutions
D3 Oncology Solutions
Elekta
KMed, LLC*
LAP of America, LLC
Lifeline Software, Inc.
Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB)
MIM Software Inc.*

Mirada Medical
Mission Search*
Mobius Medical Systems*
Oncology Data Systems*
Philips Healthcare*
Pinnacle Staffing*
ProKnow Systems*
QFix
Radiological Technologies University*
RaySearch Americas*
Revenue Cycle, Inc.*
Sensus Healthcare*
Siemens
Varian Medical Systems*

(*indicates AAMD Corporate Member)

The ACC is already hard at work planning next year’s Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. We are accepting abstracts for general education sessions, panel discussions, pre-event workshops and poster displays. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2016. The poster deadline is March 15, 2017. Please see the AAMD website for more details.

We hope to see even more of you in Indianapolis! Mark your calendars now for June 11-15, 2017 and plan on joining us at the 42nd Annual Meeting! You will not want to miss it!!

Educators and Students Enjoyed Special Sessions at the Annual Meeting

By Jacky Nyamwanda, MS, CMD, and Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, M.E.T., CMD, RT(T)
Formal Education Committee Co-Chairs

The AAMD Formal Education Committee (FEC) hosted two successful events at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The Educators’ event had a total of 27 attendees, including Program Directors, Education Coordinators, Clinical Preceptors, and representatives from the MDCB, JRCERT and AEIRS. A summary of the informative talks and discussions includes the following:

• Anne Greener, PhD, DABR – A summary of results from the AAMD Educators’ Needs Assessment Survey, which was conducted to gather program demographics and characteristics and to identify faculty development needs.

• Jamie Baker, PhD, M.Ed., CMD – It’s Not the Lottery: Best Practices for Medical Dosimetry Student. This was an interesting and interactive presentation, where the educators heard about selection criteria that correlate with student success. Jamie would like to collaborate further with other educators on this topic.

• Mayank Amin, MSc, CMD (MDCB President) – Provided important updates and information about current status of the MDCB exam.

• Laura Borghardt, MS, CMD (JRCERT Board Liaison to the AAMD) – Provided an overview of the site visitor process and updates on the upcoming JRCERT standards revision process.

• Mahsa Dehganpour, Ed.D., MS, CMD (AEIRS liaison to the AAMD) – Provided an overview of the AEIRS organization and the resources available to educators in the radiological sciences.

• The meeting concluded with an open forum discussion to include automated planning and the future of medical dosimetry, updates on the ongoing revision of the AAMD curriculum guide, and international education.

The student event hosted a total of 38 students from various programs. Attendees got insights on the job search and interview process from Lee Hales, CMD, who is the Chief Dosimetrist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Francesca Little, CMD, who is a recent graduate, provided an update of the same from a student perspective. Kelli Ross, CMD, also a recent graduate, provided tips and tricks on exam preparation tactics. The event concluded with an informal student bowl based on basic dosimetry questions.

On behalf of the AAMD, the FEC wishes to thank all who attended the above events.
The AAMD 2017 Election is Fast Approaching – Will You Run for Office?

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

What an exciting time to be a member of the AAMD! The AAMD wants to send out a great big thank you to all those who participated in this year’s annual meeting. However, it is that time of the year and election fever is in the air… and the AAMD has our own election enthusiasm taking place! Share your passion and knowledge of medical dosimetry with your peers and become an integral part of the success of the AAMD. Start by volunteering for one of the AAMD committees or task groups. After you renew your AAMD membership, click on the volunteer link and get started volunteering for your profession. We are thrilled to already have some great nominees and expect more volunteers willing to serve to help better our professional society. The positions for which we will be accepting nominations for the 2017 calendar year are:

• President-Elect
• Treasurer
• Member at Large I
• Region III Representative
• Region IV Representative

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the open positions, please contact Adam Brown (abrown@revenuecycleinc.com).

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD Member in good standing. For a Regional Representative position, the candidate must reside in one of the states covered in that region. All positions are three-year terms, beginning on August 1, 2017 and ending on July 31, 2020. Position descriptions have been recently updated and can be found on the AAMD website.

All nomination online applications need to be completed by December 31, 2016. Elections will take place in the spring of 2017. See the AAMD website for details.

Special Thanks to Our 2016/2017 Sponsors

Diamond

Diamond

Diamond

Diamond

Platinum

Gold

Gold

Silver

Silver

Bronze

Bronze

A partner for life

The benchmark for custom radiation therapy

A partner for life

The benchmark for custom radiation therapy

A partner for life

The benchmark for custom radiation therapy
As we announce Mark Russell as this year's AAMD Award of Excellence recipient, it is fitting that we reflect on his long career in radiation oncology. He began his career in 1971 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. As a new radiation oncology facility was opened, Mark worked with a radiation oncologist and medical physicist who helped shape his future as they worked through some of the earliest 3D dose calculations. After becoming a registered radiation therapist and obtaining his Master of Science in Radiologic Physics, Mark became the technical and administrative director of the new radiation oncology department at St. Louis University and Hospitals. He continued his career in management prior to launching his own treatment planning company, RAHD Oncology Products. He later returned to the clinical arena as manager of dosimetry services at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida.

Mark first became involved in the AAMD in 1983. Mark acknowledges that his involvement within the operation of the AAMD provided the best opportunity for his growth and development. Mark served on the AAMD Leadership Conference Task Group while serving as chief operating officer of RAHD. Today, though largely retired, Mark continues to serve the AAMD through his service as Trustee and Treasurer of the AAMD Education and Research Foundation.

When Mark was asked for his advice for young dosimetrists, he gave five suggestions:

1. Become an active member of the AAMD.
2. Learn, practice and develop presentation skills.
3. Do not accept duties you cannot complete and complete every duty you are assigned.
4. Always treat EVERYBODY with respect. Be kind to your colleagues.
5. Find a mentor and be a mentor.

Quick to deflect praise, Mark acknowledges the positive influences of mentors, colleagues, and even patients played throughout his career. His cumulative experiences have led him to this Award of Excellence. We salute this veteran of both the medical dosimetry industry and the US Air Force with the 2016 AAMD Award of Excellence.

**AAMD Award of Excellence Nominations Are Due November 1, 2016**

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.

**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

For details on how to submit a nomination, visit the AAMD website.
Are You Taking Full Advantage of Your AAMD Member Benefits?

By Elaine Bogner, CMD, and Lee Hales, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Whether you are a seasoned dosimetrist or just beginning your career, your AAMD membership provides a host of great member benefits! Services we offer include:

• Online access to Medical Dosimetry, the official journal of AAMD. Medical Dosimetry may be accessed online through the Elsevier Science website. AAMD Members can access the journal articles quickly by clicking on the link and logging in using your AAMD username and password.

• Member Plus is available to those who join as full CMD members at only $100 additional. Member Plus makes it easier than ever for you to maintain your certification with a variety of online continuing education activities offering CE credits.

• Career Services including:
  - Career Search, which provides information about a career in medical dosimetry and links to current employment opportunities for job seekers and job posting details for employers and recruiters.
  - InterviewStream is a web-based mock interview site offering our members the opportunity to practice and improve their interview skills.
  - Career Resources, including tips and tricks for navigating today’s job market.
  - Advice on Networking, its importance and various ways to network.

• The Salary and Workforce Surveys are available to provide assistance in determining salaries for different regions of the United States.

• The AAMD CE Center helps you meet your needs for for continuing education (CE) and maintenance of certification (MOC). Activities include online add journal self-assessment modules, live webinars, virtual meetings, recorded lectures that may be completed to satisfy your recertification requirements. Members receive free access to many of the activities and discounts to some others.

• Meetings in places across the country to help you learn and develop your skills. You also have the chance to talk with other dosimetrists to share experiences and learn from each other!

For a full overview of AAMD membership benefits, see the AAMD website.

RPCI/AAMD Meeting

Register by August 31 and Save $50!

Roswell Park Cancer Institute and AAMD are pleased to present the 2016 Radiation Oncology Conference for Therapists & Dosimetrists, September 8 – 10, 2016 in Niagara Falls, NY.
This unique educational event aims to expand your knowledge of today’s:

• Increasingly complex treatments
• Treatment planning
• Clinical and administrative support issues

Feel engaged with your career and invigorated by keeping current with new trends and technologies, as well as by learning innovative approaches from colleagues at other institutions. Attending the program will enable you to meet and interact with industry professionals and technical experts from around the world. Earn up to 14 MCDR/ARRT CE credits.

Early Bird rates end August 31. Register today!
Earn, Learn and Play this Fall in Vegas!

By Mary Ann Hagio, CMD
Region I Representative

What happens in Vegas? Earn up to 14 continuing education credits for your MDCB and/or ARRT certification. Meet up with your friends and colleagues for learning by day and playing by night.

Program highlights include:

- Sessions focusing on the very latest developments in radiation oncology. Topics include: SBRT Planning, Contouring, AAMD Salary Survey Preliminary Results and Implications for the Workforce, ASTRO Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (RO-ILS), Proton Planning, Adaptive Planning, Medical Dosimetrist Scholarly Publications, VMAT

Final topics subject to change.

- 14 MDCB CE credits anticipated (also valid for ARRT)
- Networking with colleagues
- Exhibits

The Platinum Hotel is just a short distance away from the center of the Las Vegas Strip. The AAMD room rate is just $139 per night plus tax and resort fees. Reserve online by September 6 to get that special rate.

Take advantage of the easy access location of Las Vegas for your continuing education needs. See the AAMD website for more information and to register.

OCTOBER 7 – 8, 2016
PLATINUM HOTEL
LAS VEGAS, NV

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 AAMD STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION!

1st Place: Anatomical Contouring Variability in Thoracic Organs at Risk
Authors: Ross McCall, MS; Grayden MacLennan, MBA, MSM, MS; Matthew Taylor, MS; Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD, FAAMD; Benjamin Nelms, PhD; Matthew Koshy, MD; Jeffrey Lemons, MD; Ashley Hunzeker, MS
Institution: University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse

2nd Place: Auto-Planning: A Dosimetric Comparison of Phillips Pinnacle Autoplanning Tool for Lung, Brain, Abdomen, Head and Neck and Prostate Treatment Sites
Authors: Hasti Hesami; Amalia Flores; Sanya Makahani; Ancy Mathew; Elizabeth Medrano; Hirra Siddiqui; Jordan Sutton, CMD; Peter Balter, PhD
Institution: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions

3rd Place: Analysis of Inhomogeneous Dose Distribution Using Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT) for Prostate, Glioblastoma Multiforme, and Lung Patients and the Effect on Organs at Risk
Authors: Stacy Peterson; Pasquale Montanaro, MS, DABR
Institution: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions
Maintenance of Certification Update

CMDs whose five-year cycles end on December 31, 2016 are reminded to submit their learning plans for completion. Documentation for approval should be in an acceptable format (pdf, tif, jpg, png) and include:

• Your name
• The provider’s name
• The MDCB activity number
• Activity date within your five-year cycle and within the approved start and end date

Thank you!

The MDCB extends its sincerest thanks to the attendees of the Item Writing Workshop at the AAMD Annual Conference. Participants at the workshop learned how to develop well-structured questions and the item development and review process.

CMDs interested in participating in item writing can complete an application located here. Item writers will be required to execute a confidentiality agreement. Both MDCB and CAMPEP CEUs are issued for item writing.

2017 CMD Exam

• Effective for 2017, all United States candidates will be required to apply as Route 1 candidates, hold a Bachelor’s Degree and have graduated from a formal dosimetry program accredited by JRCERT.
• Re-applicants will be required to submit 8 “new” continuing education credits for each re-application attempt.
• Dates for the 2017 Exam will be posted in late August.
• Complete details regarding eligibility.