

www.medicaldosimetry.org

Summer 2020

lookinside

President's Corner

Workforce and Salary Surveys

ARRT CE Credit Transfers
for Members

New AAMD Leaders and
Opportunities

Resume and Interview
Tips & Tricks

AAMD Foundation

Student Member Resources

Thanks to Our
2019/2020 Sponsors

Journal Associate Editor Profile

MDCB News



Sailing into the Future of Treatment Planning at the First-ever Virtual Annual Meeting

By Melissa Nolet, CMD, and Lee Culp, CMD
2020 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs

The AAMD 45th Annual Meeting was scheduled in a year that a major pandemic struck our great nation and directly affected many worldwide. The mandated quarantines, subsequent economic downturn and travel restrictions were major hurdles for the production of a national conference. However, this year the Annual Conference Committee (ACC) was adaptable in the face of a crisis and created the first-ever [AAMD Virtual Annual Meeting](#).

The ACC recognizes that now, more than ever, a venue is needed for dosimetrists to gather to promote learning, grow networks, and most importantly, build a sense of community. Thankfully, not all venues need walls and mortar. The [AAMD Virtual 45th Annual Meeting](#) will officially launch at 12:45 PM EDT on Monday, July 6, and run until Friday, July 10 at 4:15 PM EDT. The Member registration fee is just \$275 for the entire conference, which offers 30 CE credits. This is a rare opportunity indeed and one that is within reach for all!

The Annual Meeting content is much more accessible this summer. There will be live and recorded presentations of varying topics of treatment planning from Tips & Tricks, to Artificial Intelligence, and Quality Assurance, providing a diverse educational program. If you are unable to attend at the time that the content is released, no problem! You will have until August 10

to review the information on a timeline that best suits your needs. A short quiz for each presentation will be required to earn Continuing Education Credits, which will be valid for MDCB and ARRT.

This year the highly acclaimed interactive contouring workshop will return for a third time. An intricate Head and Neck Region will be discussed, and afterwards, your dosimetric contouring skills will be put to the test utilizing ProKnow's cloud-based learning technologies with immediate scoring results for the participants. Come see how you measure up!

The MedDos Infinity Task group will be discussing their work this past year on charting a course for the future of the medical dosimetry profession. The 2020 Plan Study, "Maximizing the Possibilities," will be featured on this year's program. Volunteer plan study participants will submit plans for the selected case and then the results of the analyzed data will be presented at the meeting. In addition, for the first time ever, Legion Healthcare Partners is teaming up with the AAMD to discuss the educational opportunities for the Proton Therapy community. There are many firsts for the 2020 Annual Meeting that you do not want to miss!

Interactive opportunities to network or ask questions post-presentation will be an option for the meeting

continued on page 2

registrants. The ACC recognizes the importance to engage with one another and highly encourages participation.

Many AAMD corporate partners will be represented in our Virtual Exhibit Hall, which will offer many opportunities to learn about the latest radiation oncology products and software. Sponsored sessions also provide registrants even more chances to learn about the software and technologies available now from the corporate community.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship by Varian, all dosimetry students' registration fees are covered! So, harken all ye student laborers, now is a great time to participate and join the conversation as you are, in fact, the future of dosimetry!

On behalf of the 2020 Annual Conference Committee and the AAMD Board of Directors, we are delighted to invite you to register for the [Virtual 45th Annual Meeting](#). We surely are "Sailing into the Future of Treatment Planning" in this first ever Virtual Annual Meeting. We hope that you remain safe and healthy during these times and we look forward to seeing you online!

President's Corner



Greetings, Dosimetrists!

It is hard to believe that my presidential term is coming to an end. This has been one of the most rewarding roles that I have ever filled. As I sit and reflect upon this past year, I most certainly can smile when I think about the great work the AAMD Board and volunteers have done. Even with a pandemic canceling our meetings, the AAMD took the challenge

and won – just like medical dosimetrists!

Many of us have experienced incredible changes in how we operate daily. We were told to work remotely, some stayed on the front lines, and others may have had their hours reduced or been furloughed. The strong spirit of the medical dosimetrist cannot be broken! Each of you stayed committed to the course, curing cancer.

I hope many of you will participate in the AAMD's Virtual Annual Meeting. The AAMD mission is to provide our members with educational material, and even though we will be meeting virtually, that commitment does not change. The speakers and

presentations will be just as fabulous as they are in person. I will certainly miss not being able to make new dosimetrist friends and catch up with some old friends at the in-person meeting. This format is the new normal for now, but I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans next year for the AAMD 46th Annual Meeting.

When I turn the gavel over to the next AAMD President, Lori Kasuske, I know that the members will continue to have great leadership and a vocal representative for medical dosimetrists.

I want to thank all the members for entrusting me with this very special role. I appreciate all the support I received along the way from the AAMD members, board, volunteers and staff. Even as I move on from this position, I know that I will continue to volunteer my time and energy to further elevate this great profession.

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." – A.A. Milne

Kind Regards,

Cara Sullivan, BS, CMD, RT(T)
AAMD President

AAMD 2020 Workforce Survey – We Need Input from All AAMD Members

Under the direction of the MedDos Infinity Task Group, the AAMD is undertaking a comprehensive study of the medical dosimetry workforce in order to gain insights on current issues and trends in medical dosimetry as well as to examine the growth and sustainability of the profession. Topics such as remote planning, changes to work situations due to COVID-19, clinical responsibilities and the incorporation of new technologies will all be addressed.



This Workforce Survey is being sent via email on or about June 26. Please check your email inbox for this very important survey. It is critical that all AAMD members participate.

Also note that a separate Salary Survey will be distributed to all AAMD Members later this summer. Watch your email and the [AAMD website](#) for more information.

Have You Heard? AAMD Now Tracks and Transfers Credits to the ARRT

By Chesanie Beam, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Member

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) has a BIG announcement to make. Beginning May 1, 2020, the AAMD started approving, tracking and transferring CE credits earned through AAMD CE activities to the ARRT for AAMD members only. Important: The AAMD will transfer credits to the ARRT on the 14th and 28th of each month. To facilitate the credit transfers, AAMD members need to include their ARRT ID# and Date of Birth in their AAMD Profile.

The [CE Center](#) has several new recorded presentations: [Using Emergency Charts to Communicate Vital Information in a Disaster](#) and [Educational Technology for Medical Dosimetry Educators](#). Don't forget to

check back each month to see what new content has been added to the [Course Catalog](#).

Want to volunteer? Not sure how you want to spend your extra time? We are the right place for you: The Continuing Education Committee (CEC). We are looking for volunteers to share their ideas, thoughts and comments to help our dosimetry community grow. To share your ideas or comments, contact the CE Committee Co-Chairs: Jessica Stanulus at Jessica.Stanulus@hotmail.com or Sandra John-Baptiste at sjjohnb@mdanderson.edu.

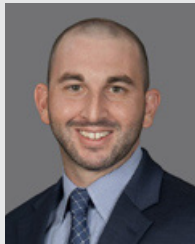
AAMD Members Elect New Leaders

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

Thank you to all those involved with this year's AAMD 2020 Annual Election. We are very pleased with the voting turnout and hopefully you are too! The following individuals will be officially beginning their terms on August 1:



President-Elect:
Brian Napolitano



Treasurer
Ryan Moroose



Member-at-Large
Valerie Coffman



Region III Representative
Brent Buchanan



Region IV Representative
Kalpana Vaidya

Interested in getting more involved in the AAMD? We encourage all Full CMD Members to consider running for Board of Directors and Regional Representative Positions as they become available. The positions for which we will be accepting nominations at this year's Virtual 45th Annual Meeting are:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Region V Representative
- Region VI Representative

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

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD in good standing. For the Regional Representative positions, the candidate must reside in one of the states covered in that region. All positions are three-year terms, beginning on August 1, 2021 and ending on July 31, 2024.

All nomination online applications need to be completed by December 31, 2020. Elections will take place in the Spring of 2021.

Outshine Your Competitors! Impress Your Future Employer! Visit the AAMD Career Center for Resume & Interviewing Tips and Tricks

By Cara Sullivan, CMD, and Matthew Thomas, CMD
Career Services Committee Co-Chairs

NEW: Resume Tips & Interview Tricks

**Tips & Tricks from Hiring Managers:
Perfect Your Resume**

Whether it's your first job or you're just looking to expand your horizons, searching for a new job in medical dosimetry is tough. Our Career Services team reached out to experienced managers to find out what they look for during their hiring process. We hope you enjoy these resume & interview tips!

What Are the Items that You Look for When Reviewing a Resume?

- 75% of respondents look for the candidate's years of experience
- 60% are interested in what specific treatment planning software and experience the candidate possesses
- 50% look for the number of jobs that the individual has held
- 40% look at the individual's certification status

When Reviewing a Resume, What Items Do You NOT Want to See?

- Frequent job changes
- Employment gaps
- Hobbies and volunteer work
- Site specific training strengths
- Lacking technology in which the candidate has minimal experience or proficiency
- False titles

How Can You Make Your Resume Stand Out?

- Hardware and Software Experience
- Professional Involvement
- Continued Professional Improvement
- Team Projects
- Professional Achievements
- Professional Presentations/ Journal Articles
- What Makes You Valuable, aside from Treatment Planning?

AAMD

From the AAMD Career Services Committee
Released May 2020

Are you a new graduate or a seasoned dosimetrist looking for a job? We have good news! The AAMD Career Services Committee (CSC) has surveyed administrators and hiring managers on what they are looking for when they interview a dosimetrist. They've compiled the responses into a [Tips & Tricks document](#), which is now available online. Let's face it, preparing to submit your resume and interview for a new job can be a little stressful. Educating yourself in advance can help calm the nerves and make you the perfect candidate to hire.

How can you make your resume stand out? Is it years of experience, board certification, technology experience, or professional development skills that hiring

managers want to know about? Once you schedule the interview, how do you make a good impression when you walk in their door? Do you need to be prepared to complete a treatment plan during your in-person interview?

Along with the Tips & Tricks, we encourage you to utilize the free mock interview service, [InterviewStream](#). After you record your interview, InterviewStream offers you the chance to have it reviewed by your colleagues on the AAMD CSC. They are qualified to give feedback and suggestions to help you ace your in-person interview. In this current atmosphere, COVID-19 has created a lot of new challenges for all industries. Medical dosimetry is not immune to these challenges. Many hospitals will be conducting interviews via virtual platforms. InterviewStream is a great free resource for AAMD members! Whether you are a new graduate, mid-level, or senior level dosimetrist, we have you covered with an in-depth question bank that focuses on dosimetry-related questions.

The AAMD remains committed to providing our members with resources and materials needed for their career. Be ahead of the pack and visit the [Career Resources webpage](#) today!

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
AAMD FOUNDATION
American Association of Medical Dosimetrists

Win a Trip to the 2021 AAMD Annual Meeting

Compliments of the AAMD Foundation

Entry details coming soon to your mailbox.

Prize includes registration fee and 2 nights hotel for the 2021 AAMD Annual Conference in New Orleans.



Student Members: Check Out these AAMD Resources

AAMD values the dedication and commitment of our Student Members. We know it takes a lot of hard work and focus to become a Certified Medical Dosimetrist. That is why the AAMD offers a wealth of resources and opportunities tailored specifically for students.

- Financial Assistance - [The AAMD Education and Research Foundation](#) has awarded \$333,000 in scholarships to 130 recipients to date.
- Volunteer & Networking Opportunities - Join an [AAMD committee](#) or access our member directory to network with like-minded professionals
- Professional Growth - Participate in the [Student Writing Competition](#) where you can earn cash prizes and the chance to have your hard work published!
- FREE Registration at the [Virtual 45th Annual Meeting](#) - Thank you to Varian for sponsoring student registrations!
- Career Resources – Gain direct access to Medical Dosimetry jobs in the [AAMD Career Center!](#) Additional career services include online mock interviews, resume reviews, and salary and workforce surveys.
- Social Media Connections – Join the private Facebook group ([American Association of Medical Dosimetrists - Students](#)) where we post helpful reminders, tools, and encourage networking with other students.



We welcome your feedback, as we know the journey to becoming a CMD has its challenges. Our members and staff are here to help! If you have ideas or ways we can be of greater assistance to you, please send them to aamd@medicaldosimetry.org.

Thank you for being an important part of the AAMD and we hope to see you virtually at the 45th Annual Meeting, scheduled on July 6 - 10, 2020.

Special Thanks to Our 2019/2020 Sponsors

varian

Diamond

PHILIPS

Platinum

Elekta

Platinum

ACCURAY®

Platinum

**RaySearch
Laboratories**

Platinum

mim
SOFTWARE

Gold

REVENUE CYCLE
CODING STRATEGIES

Silver

AMP | ASSOCIATES
IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

Bronze

CDR Systems
Precision patient positioning products
www.cdrsys.com

Bronze

MISSION SEARCH
CONNECTING HEALTHCARE TALENT WITH OPPORTUNITY
Joint Commission® Certified

Bronze



Meet *Medical Dosimetry* Associate Editor Spencer Arnould

The *Medical Dosimetry* journal is very fortunate to have an engaged group of Associate Editors that have various backgrounds and experience. Associate Editors are responsible for assessing a manuscript's relevance and make publication recommendations based off independent reviews. I would like the AAMD membership to be introduced to each of these editors. Starting from the top of the alphabet I have asked Spencer Arnould to introduce himself. – Cory Neill, Editor-in-Chief, *Medical Dosimetry*

A lot of people ask me either “How did you get involved in dosimetry?” or “Why did you go into the dosimetry field?” My journey through radiation oncology started with radiation therapy. I graduated with a bachelor's degree from The University of Michigan and began working as a staff simulation/therapist at Michigan Medicine for a couple years. Soon after I began to desire more of a direct role in the cancer treatment planning process, which ultimately led me to medical dosimetry. I graduated with a master's degree from The University of Wisconsin Lacrosse and again started my second career at Michigan Medicine.

My role as an associate editor for the *Medical Dosimetry* journal started practically by accident. Ever since completing my graduate degree, I've had an overwhelming sense of desire to not only give back to the medical dosimetry profession, but also add what I can to make it better. I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself, while enhancing, developing, and shaping our dosimetry field. As I was exploring some of the volunteer opportunities within our profession, the proposition of becoming an associate editor opened and I scooped it up without ever looking back.

Being an associate editor for the *Medical Dosimetry* journal has given me everything I was looking for and more. I have learned the nuts and bolts of an organization and what it takes to produce the quality and professional information that our profession wants and needs. I also feel that working at the journal allows me the freedom to learn (with or without realizing) about all of the new and upcoming practices, protocols, and treatment planning procedures in our field. Although this position has afforded me all of these opportunities, it has also been a very steep learning curve. Even after five years of editing, I still find challenges throughout my daily work. I revise and edit manuscripts, juggle numerous reviews, and ultimately suggest submissions for publication.

I firmly believe that in being an associate editor for the *Medical Dosimetry* journal, the pros outweigh the challenges. I welcome these opportunities to add what I can to our field. It's my responsibility as an editor and I owe it to every person that reads our journal.

When I'm not working I am enjoying life on our wooded oasis we call home in Michigan. My wife is a Registered Dietitian. I have 3 boys under the age of five (yes, I know what you're thinking) and 2 dogs – Kevin, who is a Basset Hound, and Winston, a 200-lb+ St Bernard. Some of my hobbies include skiing/snowboarding, running, house renovations, and travel.



Certification News

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

September 2020 Exam

- The MDCB Exam Application is now available.
- The late application deadline is July 6, 2020 (U.S. Candidates Only).
- Note that the early application deadline was June 22, 2020. All International Applications must have been submitted by this deadline.

Exam applicants are encouraged to carefully [review the applicant handbook](#) for complete details on application submission and testing details.

Maintenance of Certification

CMDs are reminded that in addition to planned learning activities, credits can be earned for personal credit activities:

- Academic Coursework
- Journal Authoring
- Journal Editing & Reviewing
- Speaker Presentations

Additional information on how to request approval for personal credit [can be found here](#).