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american association of medical dosimetrists

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The AAMD 2021 Salary Survey Report Is Now Available

Looking for the latest information on medical dosimetry salaries and compensation? Read the [AAMD 2021 Salary Survey Report](#). This targeted report provides data based on experience level, supervisory status, geographic region, employer type, certification status, education, and other factors. You can also find links to older salary and workforce survey data on that web page.

NOTE: You will be required to log in with your AAMD Member credentials (username and password) as this report is available for free to AAMD Members Only.

Clinical Sites Needed for Medical Dosimetry Students

By Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chair

The AAPM recently published in their November/December 2022 Newsletter an outreach letter from the AAMD Formal Education Committee (FEC) informing AAPM members of the critical need for clinical sites for medical dosimetry students. Included in this letter was an outline of requirements and expectations of a clinical site. Also included was a list of clinical competencies required of medical dosimetry students. The letter and clinical competency requirements can be [viewed here](#).

The FEC is also asking medical dosimetrists to talk with their clinical leaders about potential affiliation with medical dosimetry education programs. Please contact Mellonie Brown-Zacarias at mellonieb9@aol.com to discuss how your clinic can help with this critical issue.



President's Corner



Dear Members,

As we make our way through the holiday season, I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for the difference you make in our patients' lives with your daily work and also to update you all on the many significant initiatives that are ongoing with the AAMD.

The Board of Directors is currently working on updated AAMD Scope of Practice and Practice Standards documents, with a projected timeline of Spring 2023 for publication. We are also working with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) to collaborate on the ASRT Medical Dosimetry Practice Standards, which will align these important guidance documents for radiation oncology. We also had a tremendous response to the 2021 Salary Survey and are pleased to have published the 2021 Salary Survey Report at the end of November so that all members can access this important information regarding compensation.

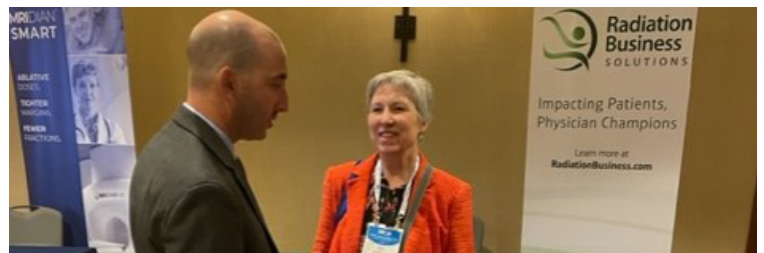
In addition, the AAMD offered a virtual symposium this fall titled "The Best of 47th Annual Meeting," which offered those unable to travel to the Annual Meeting the opportunity to listen to some great talks while obtaining those necessary continuing education credits. Suppose you missed the opportunity to participate in the fall symposium. In that case, we are also planning a spring virtual symposium focused on proton planning. Please consider participating in that symposium – as an attendee or a presenter. [The Call for Abstracts](#) is currently open.

Looking ahead, the Annual Conference Committee is already hard at work on plans for the [AAMD 48th Annual Meeting](#), which will take place next June in New Orleans. Medical dosimetrists will once again have the opportunity to get together and share clinical experiences and learn from fellow radiation oncology professionals in a fantastic environment. Be sure to mark your calendar for June 4 – 8.

Lastly, one of the most important action items for the AAMD each year is the Call for Nominations for elected leadership positions. I can tell you from personal experience that serving in one of these positions is extremely rewarding, both professionally and personally. Please take a second to check out the [open positions](#) on our website, and remember that nominations are open until December 31, 2022. If an elected position is not the right fit for you, there are multiple other [volunteer opportunities](#) on AAMD committees, so fill out a volunteer application on our website to get started. I look forward to working with you!

Respectfully,

Adam Brown, BSRT(T), CMD
AAMD President



AAMD Talked to Administrators at SROA

In October, the AAMD participated in the SROA Annual Meeting in San Antonio both as an exhibitor and presenter. AAMD Treasurer Ryan Moroosse and Executive Director Stacey Wilson talked to radiation oncology administrators in the SROA exhibit hall about recruitment and hiring of medical dosimetrists, the value of AAMD membership for their staff dosimetrists and other clinical issues.

Additionally, Ryan moderated a panel discussion, which was co-sponsored by AAMD and AAPM, focused on artificial intelligence (AI) in radiation oncology that featured medical dosimetrists Mariel Cornell and Zeke Ramirez, along with medical physicists Mu-Han Lin and Mohammad Bakhtiari. The panel talked about the capabilities and limitations of AI to give the administrators a better understanding of what AI can and can't do.

Add Your Name to the AAMD Ballot this Spring!

By Catherine Gagne, CMD, and Jessica Stanulus, CMD
Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs



Consider becoming an integral part of the success of the AAMD by running for an open position in the 2023 AAMD Election this coming spring. The open positions are:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Member-at-Large
- Region III and Region IV Representatives

Please visit our [Call for Nominations webpage](#) for detailed position descriptions and what to expect while serving in the above roles. Once you submit a nomination, you will get a chance to speak with the current leader in the role to get a better understanding of the requirements and duties.

Please contact Catherine Gagne or Jessica Stanulus, AAMD Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs, with any questions: clkgagne@gmail.com or jessica_stanulus@hotmail.com.

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD Member 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, 2023 and ending on July 31, 2026. All nomination applications need to be completed online by **December 31**.



AAMD 48TH ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 4 - 8, 2023 // HYATT REGENCY // NEW ORLEANS, LA

See You in New Orleans for the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting!

By Joseph Brock, CMD
Annual Conference Committee Sr. Co-Chair

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) is excited to be heading to New Orleans for the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting, June 4 - 8, 2023. We invite all dosimetrists, physicians, therapists, students, and clinicians to take part in exchanging ideas and techniques from your clinic. Our theme this year is The Big Easy of Treatment Planning.

The ACC has been hard at work selecting sessions from a record number of abstract submissions. We think you will find information in the sessions you can utilize in your clinic. You will have the opportunity to earn over 30 Continuing Education credits. Remember, the meeting offers not only MDCB credits but also ARRT and MPCEC (CAMPEP) credits. Many thanks to those who were able to submit an abstract despite your busy schedules. We had an amazing selection of abstracts to choose from this year! We appreciate your efforts to build a comprehensive event as our profession evolves.

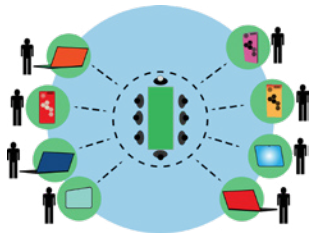
We also offer everyone the opportunity to impart their expertise through a poster presentation. [Poster abstract submissions](#) are open until February 15, 2023. This is ideal for those who want to present their research information and compare their ideas with other institutions.

AAMD corporate partners will be onsite in New Orleans to showcase what's new in treatment planning. The exhibit hall, workshops, and lunch symposiums will offer opportunities to see products first-hand. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with these companies face-to-face!

The AAMD is looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans! Through collaboration and networking, we can continue to grow as a community. Please visit the [AAMD Annual Meeting web page](#) often for updated details about the 2023 Annual Meeting! Look for the meeting agenda in December. Registration will open in late January 2023!

AAMD Members Share Insights into Clinical Issues during Virtual Meet-Ups

By Yasmin Ahmed, CMD
Region IV Representative



The AAMD hosted its first joint Region IV and Region VI virtual Member Meet-up via Zoom on November 2. The event was hosted by Region IV Representative Yasmin Ahmed and Region VI Representative Sarah McKee, along with Regional Director Mark Littell. We had 29 AAMD members from the two regions join the meet-up.

The virtual meet-up gives members the opportunity to exchange information, network, and hear about the workflow of other departments. Various topics that are submitted by the participants related to medical dosimetry are discussed. Some topics that were covered in this meet-up were staffing, hiring/recruitment, and the contour review processes. The meet-ups are a well-received success! Stay tuned for emails regarding [future meet-ups](#) for your region.

Don't Delay – Earn Your CE Credits Today!

By Shanna D Cullen, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Member
Directed Journal Reading Committee Member

It's that time of the year! As 2022 is ending, visit the AAMD [CE Center](#) to see all the offerings. During this busy time, you may find yourself in need of some CE credits, so act now to take advantage of the AAMD CE Center before we say goodbye to 2022! Check out Veterinary Radiation Therapy presentation by Catie McDonald, DVM, on the AAMD website. For December, we have a new Breast SBRT presentation that will be offered. Also, the new Directed Journal Readings for Medical Dosimetry issue 47-4 will be available starting in December. And remember AAMD transfers credits to the ARRT for AAMD members, so make sure your ARRT number and date of birth are included in your member profile.

Do you or someone you know have a request for a topic that you would like to see covered in either a webinar or a journal article? Send an email to one

of the CEC Co-Chairs, Sandra John Baptiste at sjohnb@mdanderson.org, or Linnae Campbell at linnae.campbell@emoryhealthcare.org. The AAMD needs suggestions for 30-minute webinar topics, so if you have an idea for a topic, contact the committee co-chairs.

How about becoming a volunteer for the AAMD? It is a fantastic way to contribute to your profession! Head over to the [website](#) and apply to volunteer on a committee. The AAMD has several committees to choose from, and the AAMD appreciates all volunteers!

AAMD Virtual Symposia: Best of the AAMD 47th Annual Meeting and Proton Planning

By Mark Littell, CMD
Regional Director



With the changing landscape of continuing education, AAMD continues to offer virtual symposia to help CMDs meet their CE requirements. **The Best of the AAMD 47th Annual Meeting Symposium** closed on October 31, and over 150 attendees were able to virtually experience some of the sessions offered at the in-person Annual Meeting held in Baltimore this past June.

Here are a few attendee comments:

"I really like this idea of the virtual symposium. It's a great way to feel connected to the AAMD meetings if you can't attend."

"These symposia are important to me. They allow me to listen to the presentations when it works with my hours. Greatly Appreciated."

AAMD would like to acknowledge our sponsors: Varian, Elekta, and RaySearch. Because of their support, the AAMD continues to provide outstanding continuing education to treatment planning professionals around the world.

The second **AAMD Virtual Proton Planning Symposium** will be held starting March 3, 2023. [The abstract submission](#) is currently open for this symposium and [registration](#) will open in February 2023.



Student and Educator News

By Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chair

The AAMD Formal Education Committee (FEC) is currently accepting your ideas for the AAMD Virtual Student Gathering to be held in Spring 2023 and the Educators' Workshop to be held at the Annual Meeting in June 2023 in New Orleans. We look forward to hearing from educators and students who wish to present their valuable insights or research to colleagues. Please reach out to one of the FEC co-chairs with your ideas. The deadline for submitting abstracts for the Educators' Workshop is January 2023.

The AAMD Annual Student Writing Competition is open to students wishing to participate. [Guidelines and submission can be found here.](#)

The deadline for abstract and manuscript submission is **April 12, 2023**. Enter to win the following cash prizes for papers pertaining to treatment planning, localization, and positioning.

\$500 — First Place

\$250 — Second Place

\$125 — Third Place

We look forward to hearing from you!

AAMD FEC Co-chairs:

Jamie Baker (JaBaker@mdanderson.org)

Mellonie Brown-Zacarias (mellonieb9@aol.com)

Michelle Mundis (michelle.Mundis@umm.edu)

New AAMD Student Subcommittee Offers Volunteer Opportunities

By Kathlina Teague, CMD
Membership Committee Co-chair

On November 7, the AAMD Membership Committee met with student members to establish the formation of the new AAMD Student Subcommittee. The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide student members with the chance to get more involved in AAMD, express their needs or challenges, and more importantly, build their professional network with one another. This new subcommittee currently has 20 student members. During their kick-off call, they discussed goals and ideas, one of which is to host a Virtual Poster Presentation for students prior to the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting next June.

If you are an AAMD student member who would like to join this subcommittee, please complete an [application](#) on the [volunteering opportunities webpage](#). The next Student Subcommittee meeting will be held on January 10, 2023 at 12 pm EST. Hope to see you there!

Renewing Early Pays Off!

By Kathlina Teague, CMD and Mary McCauley, CMD
Membership Committee Co-chairs

During the month of October, dosimetrists who joined or renewed their AAMD membership were automatically entered into a prize drawing. The winners of the randomly selected drawing received a complimentary upgrade to Member Plus. Our five lucky winners are:

- Windy Mayberry
- RaeAnn Shedleski
- Leanne Kellogg
- Elizabeth Azar
- Cathi Smith



With Member Plus, they will have access to earn a total of 25 CE credits online for the next year. CE activities include: directed journal readings, live webinars, virtual meetings, and recorded presentations. Congratulations again to Windy, RaeAnn, Leanne, Elizabeth, and Cathi!

If you would like to upgrade your membership to Member Plus, you can do so for \$75. [If you have not renewed your membership, please do so today!](#)



What International Treatment Planners Had to Say!

By Cara Sullivan, CMD, and Niki Olanrewaju, CMD
International Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

This past July, the International Outreach Committee (IOC) surveyed international treatment planners to gain insight on how treatment planning is performed overseas. We received responses from 101 individuals representing 28 different countries. We learned that there are many countries with treatment planners that operate very similarly to US-trained dosimetrists. Numerous responses noted that many countries lack the tools and training needed to successfully treat cancer and cure patients. In some countries, there are no academic institutions that provide dosimetry-focused education. One respondent stated that their dosimetry program had unqualified dosimetrists teaching with outdated treatment planning software, which is very slow, and they are only doing 3DCRT. Overall, it was concluded that training is needed for planners overseas to acquire more practical skills in new treatment techniques.

The committee continues to work with leadership in the AAMD on ways that we can help these individuals become better dosimetrists and continue to bring treatment planners from around the world to learn from each other. If you have the passion and ideas to help further the committee's mission, please fill out a [volunteer application](#) today. We look forward to working with you.

Considering the Move to Proton Dosimetry?

By Erica Fidler, CMD, Career Services Committee Co-Chair, and Kara Lehman, CMD,
Career Services Committee Member

Have you ever thought about making the move to planning proton treatments but have a lot of questions? We have 2 resources to help you find some answers. First, view the [Keys to Transitioning from Photons to Protons: A Positive Panel Discussion](#), a recorded presentation in the AAMD CE Center. The panel provided some valuable insights into the differences between proton and photon dosimetry from people who have made the switch, as well as those that provide education for aspiring proton dosimetrists. They also discussed an exciting online certificate program that is designed to provide dosimetrists at any level with the tools they need to make that switch. Secondly, if you are short on time, read the [panel discussion summary \(PDF\)](#) created by the Career Services Committee. It's the CliffsNotes version of the presentation.

Special Thanks to Our 2022/2023 Sponsors

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Meet Journal Associate Editor **Stacey Schmidt, BSc, CMD, R.T.(T)**

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 on independent reviews. I would like the AAMD membership to be introduced to each of these editors.

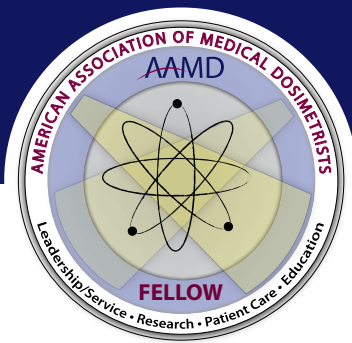
– Cory Neill, CMD, Editor-in-Chief, *Medical Dosimetry*

Stacey Schmidt is the Manager of Medical Dosimetry at the Northwestern Medicine Proton Center, Warrenville Cancer Center, Delnor Cancer Center, Lake Forest Hospital, Grayslake Hospital, and Kishwaukee Cancer Center. She has been in this role since 2010. Stacey graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy with Honors from the Indiana University School of Medicine. After working as a registered radiation therapist for about five years, Stacey became a medical dosimetrist in 2005, and has been a Certified Medical Dosimetrist since 2008. Stacey was also chief therapist at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge while she was still a radiation therapist.

Stacey has made multiple oral presentations on international, national, and regional levels during her career at meetings such as PTCOG-NA, PTCOG, AAMD, ASRT, and the Target Insights Conference in Toronto, CA. She recently was a moderator at PTCOG for a dosimetry session regarding breast planning with proton therapy. She has also authored/co-authored articles in publications such as the *Journal of Radiotherapy and Oncology*, ASRT's *RADIATION Therapist*, the *International Journal of Particle Therapy*, and *Indiana Journal of Radiologic Technology*. Her work has also been seen in poster presentations at PTCOG, PTCOG-NA, ASTRO, AAPM, and AAMD. She is the AAMD representative for the AAPM Task Group 288 on Incident Reporting. Among her professional accomplishments, Stacey won the 2nd place award in the AAMD Writing Competition in 2014, the ASRT Silverman Distinguished Author Award for best-published article of 2002, and the 1st place Scientific Essay Award from the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists in 2000. She also won the CART scholarship for a publishing radiation therapist, and was the Essay Committee Chair for the CART bowl in 2003.

Stacey became an Associate Editor for *Medical Dosimetry* in 2021, primarily handling the articles that pertain to proton therapy. She was previously an article reviewer for the journal since 2018. She is an active member of the AAMD, ASRT, and PTCOG-NA.

Outside of work, Stacey stays active by owning her own virtual fitness business, teaching PiYo, Strong30, and Zumba classes 5 days a week. She has been a guest fitness instructor at resorts in Cozumel, Curacao, Cabo San Lucas, Costa Rica, and the Maldives! She and her family are all black belts in Isshinryu karate, and she is an active member of her church choir.



AAMD Fellows – Fact or Fiction?

By Paula Berner, BS, CMD, FAAMD

Is this statement about the AAMD Fellow designation fact or fiction? *You have to have served on the AAMD Board of Directors (BOD) to be eligible to apply for AAMD Fellow designation.* **FICTION**

While one of the four pathways on the AAMD Fellows application is Leadership/Service, **one does not** need to have served on the AAMD BOD to accumulate points that are accepted for the Leadership/Service portion of the AAMD Fellows application.

In the Fellows application, Section C. Professional Activities, is where you will find the volunteer service activities for the AAMD, and the number of points awarded for that service. A total of 17 points is needed in section C. Professional Activities. Some of these activities are listed below:

- AAMD President (this includes incoming president, president, and immediate past president)
- AAMD BOD (non-presidential)
- Regional Representative
- AAMD Committee Co-chair, AAMD Committee Member
- AAMD Task Group Member, AAMD Liaison to External Organization
- Editor for the *Medical Dosimetry* journal, Associate Editor for *Medical Dosimetry* Journal
- AAMD Education & Research Foundation Board of Trustees

Leadership/Service to The AAMD and the Profession of Medical Dosimetry

Service to the AAMD takes a willingness to be involved and the risk of learning new skills. Every AAMD Fellow felt called upon to serve their profession and or their professional organization while they worked full time and had family commitments, just like you. Several AAMD Fellows began their service as a committee member, eventually becoming a committee co-chair. Other AAMD Fellows saw something about the professional organization that they wanted to improve and applied to become a member of the AAMD BOD. You will be surprised at the number of opportunities that open up for service once you take that first step.

A few years ago, the AAMD BOD changed the committee co-chair term from 3 years to 2 years. This allows for co-chairs to gain leadership skills through a more manageable volunteer time commitment. This also helps volunteers to obtain additional points towards the Fellows application. Also, several of the AAMD committees now have an incoming co-chair position that helps transition a committee member into the role of a committee co-chair.

So now to a few facts about the nine AAMD Fellows and their service to the AAMD:

- 1) Two Fellows never served on the AAMD BOD
- 2) Five Fellows served as AAMD President
- 3) Six Fellows served as committee co-chairs
- 4) Two Fellows served as the editor-in-chief of the *Medical Dosimetry* journal
- 5) Four Fellows served as committee members
- 6) Three Fellows served on the AAMD Education & Research Foundation Board of Trustees
- 7) Three Fellows co-chaired AAMD Annual Meeting before the ACC took over all duties

So, if you are currently or in the past have served as a volunteer with the AAMD, print out the AAMD Fellows application and see how many points you already have accumulated in Section C. Professional Activities.

If you have never volunteered with the AAMD, take a look at the committees and find one that interests you, or consider running for a position on the AAMD BOD during the next election cycle.

Finally, if you have any questions about AAMD Fellows, please visit the [Fellows page](#) on the AAMD website, and reach out to the current AAMD Fellows chairman.

AAMD Foundation Board Position

Do you want to make a difference in your profession?

Each year, individuals dedicate their time and expertise to shape the future of the AAMD Foundation through board service. Board members provide critical intellectual capital and strategic resources to power nonprofit success and strengthen the Foundation.



You could be one of those individuals.

Are you committed to sharing your time and talents to help make the dosimetry community a better place?

Do you have specialized skills and expertise that could benefit the Foundation's board's work?

Are you willing to be an enthusiastic advocate for an organization and encourage others to get involved?

Please submit your resume for consideration to:

tmkwiat@aamdfoundation.org



The AAMD Foundation would like to introduce you to our newest Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee: Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, Ed.S., MET, CMD, R.T.(T) and Lori Simmons, MSRS.

Mellonie has been a medical dosimetrist for almost 30 years. Ten of those years she served as a program director for radiation therapy and medical dosimetry education programs. She is currently working with several educational institutions to start new medical dosimetry programs across the United States. She is excited about the opportunity to serve as co-chair of the scholarship committee for the AAMD Education and Research Foundation.

Lori taught 7th and 8th grade science and math for several years before earning her bachelor's degree in medical dosimetry. She is an education coordinator for the medical dosimetry program at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and she previously served as a co-chair on the AAMD Formal Education Committee. Lori is an avid reader and a fan of live music. She looks forward to serving students through the AAMD Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Committee.



Certification News

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

2023 Annual Credential Renewal Reminder

Credential renewal is now available at <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com>. To submit your credential renewal fee for 2023, navigate to the Payments section of your Learning Plan.

If your 5-year cycle ends in 2022, once you have successfully achieved a minimum of 50 documented CEUs, submit your Learning Plan for approval. When your Learning Plan has been approved, annual credential renewal fees can be submitted on your 2023-2027 Learning Plan.

Payments received after December 31 will be subject to a late fee in addition to the renewal fee. CMDs who do not renew before January 31 of each year of the 5-year cycle risk losing the CMD credential.

Successful 2022 exam candidates must submit the credential renewal fee to remain certified through December 2023.

Personal Credit Requests for CEUs

In addition to course/lecture/seminars, journal readings and applications training courses, the MDCB accepts personal credit requests for the following:

Category	Documentation Required
Academic Coursework related to the practice of Medical Dosimetry	Official transcript
Journal Authoring for peer-reviewed journal articles	Copy of the article
Journal Reviewing/Journal Editing	Confirmation letter from the publisher
Speaker Presentations	Confirmation letter from the provider

See <https://mdcb.org/continuing-education/credit-hour-assignments> for CEUs assessed for each activity.