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Spring 2022

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AAMD
American Association of Medical Dosimetrists

**AAMD 47TH
ANNUAL MEETING**
JUNE 19 - 23, 2022
HILTON BALTIMORE
INNER HARBOR
BALTIMORE, MD

Join Your Medical Dosimetry Colleagues for In-person Learning in Charm City!

By Jeffrey Antone, CMD, and Joseph Brock, CMD
2022 Annual Conference Co-Chairs

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the AAMD Board of Directors are pleased to invite you to participate in the [AAMD 47th Annual Meeting](#), June 19- 23, 2022, at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD. We are returning to an in-person format filled with exciting speakers.

Our field is ever expanding. We continue to strive to improve our techniques and have responded when faced with obstacles. We adjusted both professionally and personally to provide the best quality care during the pandemic. More centers were adapting to the hybrid remote/on-site approach. The ACC has been working diligently to develop topics that are both fascinating and enlightening. Some of the highlights on the meeting agenda:

- A session on managing and inspiring others to become successful leaders in the department.
- New realities in the field of dosimetry in both the Pre and Post COVID era
- Dosimetry education in the international community
- We are also returning with a challenging Pancreas and Liver Mets Plan Study sponsored by Elekta ProKnow. [Submit your plans](#) by May 20.

- There will also be a panel discussion to demonstrate tips and tricks regarding vulva cancer. Panelists will share how they made optimal plans in their respective treatment planning systems.
- **Remember to bring your laptop** if you want to learn the importance of pediatric OAR contouring during the *AAMD Contouring Session: Pediatric Focused Contouring*.

The ACC also invites you to participate in the pre-conference workshops on Saturday, June 18. Be sure to sign up to tour the Maryland Proton Center as spaces are limited. The Welcome Reception on Sunday evening, June 19, will be a time for networking and reconnecting with colleagues. There will be plenty of opportunities to visit sponsors and exhibitors who are showcasing the latest software programs and technology. Please take the time to schedule demos and drop by their booths to talk about your clinical needs.

Make time for fun while in [Baltimore](#) too! Visit The Maryland Science Center, take in a Baltimore Orioles game, and spend time at the National Aquarium. We couldn't B'More excited to see you there!

President's Corner



As we all feel the warmth of the springtime sun, a season of vibrant activity is upon the medical dosimetry community. The beginning of the year brought about renewal of annual memberships to the AAMD. We are grateful for your continued involvement in the only organization dedicated to providing education specific to treatment planning professionals. We strive to offer exciting and engaging educational content for our colleagues,

as your membership includes access to our growing online [CE Center](#). The adage that membership has privileges rings true for your AAMD participation, as 12 CE credits are included in your annual renewal. For those who wish to seek additional education, a Member Plus enrollment affords 25 CE credits annually for a modest additional fee. Continuing education is a vital aspect of how medical dosimetrists advance our skills in service to our communities, so please be sure to check out the array of offerings in the CE Center available with your membership.

This spring has already proven busy for the AAMD, with many activities providing the medical dosimetry community ample opportunities to network and learn from their colleagues. Our Regional Director and Regional Representatives hosted [virtual Member Meet-ups](#) for members located within our distinctive regions to discuss aspects of our profession unique to their geography. Having participated in these discussions personally, I look forward to more opportunities to talk to colleagues outside of my own clinical region. We held a robust Virtual SBRT/SRS Symposium in February, providing medical dosimetrists globally with a dynamic program focused specifically on stereotactic treatment. This second virtual symposium proved a popular option for those who might not be able to join our in-person [Annual Meeting](#) in Baltimore this June, and we anticipate hosting both virtual and in-person educational programs annually in the future.

Under the guidance of the AAMD's newly formed International Outreach Committee (IOC), we increased our professional activities globally. In March, we hosted our global members in a virtual meet-up, which provided them with a forum to discuss issues pertinent to their circumstances. With a healthy dialogue on the growing worldwide demands for treatment planning education, we anticipate the IOC will be busy cultivating more content for our colleagues outside of the United States as they seek further development of their skills. We also collaborated with the 8th Southeast Asia Radiographers Conference to support their education of treatment planning professionals within their region. Kudos to the conference organizers for the development of an engaging program. We hope to collaborate further in support of their meeting next year in Seoul. The AAMD likewise looks forward to the 4th Meeting of the Associação Brasileira de Dosimetristas in May, where our Brazilian colleagues will meet to share their expertise among a growing population of treatment planning professionals. Best wishes to our Brazilian colleagues as they seek to provide more outlets for education to their medical dosimetry community.

Of course, the AAMD is focused on the final planning for our [47th Annual Meeting](#) in Baltimore this June. The program looks amazing, and sincere thanks to our Annual Conference Committee for their efforts in developing a diverse learning experience. I have heard from so many colleagues of their excitement for our return to an in-person educational program. While we have learned a great deal in a virtual environment over the past two years, I sincerely look forward to interacting with old friends and new colleagues in a few short weeks. Perhaps enjoying some crabcakes or taking in an Orioles baseball game might afford us the opportunity to socialize while soaking up the knowledge shared from the subject-matter experts due to present their experience. I hope to see you all at our return to in-person education in Charm City!

Respectfully,

Brian Napolitano, MHL, CMD
President, AAMD

AAMD 2021 Salary Survey Is Coming in August

The AAMD will be launching the 2021 Salary Survey this summer. The purpose of the survey, which is conducted every 2 years, is to gather the most accurate salary information and trends throughout the medical dosimetry community. The study will commence in August. The final report will be published in late Fall.

Watch your email for the survey notification and a link to the questionnaire. Your participation is very important to the AAMD and will allow us to provide you with the most accurate salary data.



2022 AAMD Election Results

By Catherine Gagne, CMD
Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chair

Thank you to all those involved with the [AAMD 2022 Election](#). We are very pleased with the voting turnout, and hopefully you are too! Congratulations to this year's election winners. The following individuals will be officially beginning their terms on August 1, 2022:



President-Elect:
Kristi Smith, CMD



Regional Director:
Mark Littell, CMD



Member-at-Large:
Rick Scherer, CMD



Region I Representative:
**Ezequiel (Zeke)
Ramirez, CMD**



Region II Representative:
Madison Fletcher, CMD

Interested in getting more involved in the AAMD? We encourage all Full CMD Members to consider running for Board of Directors and Region Representative positions as they become available. We will begin accepting nominations for the 2023 AAMD Election during the 47th Annual Meeting. The positions available will be:

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

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the open positions, please contact AAMD Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chair Catherine Gagne at clkgagne@gmail.com.

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD in good standing. For the Region Representative positions, the candidate must reside in one of the states 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, 2022. Elections will take place in the Spring of 2023.

Talk Shop with Your Colleagues during Member Meet-ups – A New Member Benefit

By Gail VanDerbeck, CMD
Region II Representative



Region II had a Brown Bag Virtual Meet-up on March 24. Overall, it was a great conversation among 25 members of Region II. Thank you to all who participated. It is always interesting to hear about challenges other centers are experiencing and hear how others in similar situations handled these challenges.

Region II is one of the largest regions, and I would like to invite dosimetrists and physicists throughout the region to join us for our next Brown Bag forum. It is a great venue for getting advice, sharing your frustrations, and learning more about what others are doing in their centers.

Next Member Meet-up:
Region I
July 28, 2022 at 12:30 PM PDT

This Member Meet-up is part of a series of members-only events for discussing your daily planning challenges, sharing best practices and meeting members in your region. Grab your lunch and jump on Zoom to exchange ideas with your medical dosimetry colleagues during this FREE AAMD Member Meet-up. These casual events are open discussions led by your Region Representative and AAMD Regional Director Kristi Smith. Feel free to ask questions and pick the brains of other dosimetrists.

Get all the details about upcoming Meet-ups by visiting the [Member Meet-ups page](#) of the AAMD website.

Help with a Challenging Plan Is a Click Away in the Resource Database on the AAMD Website

By Valerie Hoehner, CMD
Communications Committee Chair

Have you ever been working on a difficult plan and wished you had more information to guide you in the right direction? AAMD provides members with an amazing Resource Database full of documents ranging from Treatment Planning Tips and Tricks, VMAT Planning, Dynamic Conformal Arc Planning, Contouring, SBRT, gEUD, Adaptive Radiation Therapy, Treatment Planning Competency Form, Reirradiation Planning, DIBH, RapidPlan, Brachytherapy, Hippocampal Sparing, Leadership, RO-ILS and so much more!

The document types include Annual Meeting presentations, articles, newsletters, posters, Regional Meeting presentations, resource documents, webinar presentations, and lecture recordings. You can do a simple search by typing in a keyword(s) or conduct a more advanced search.

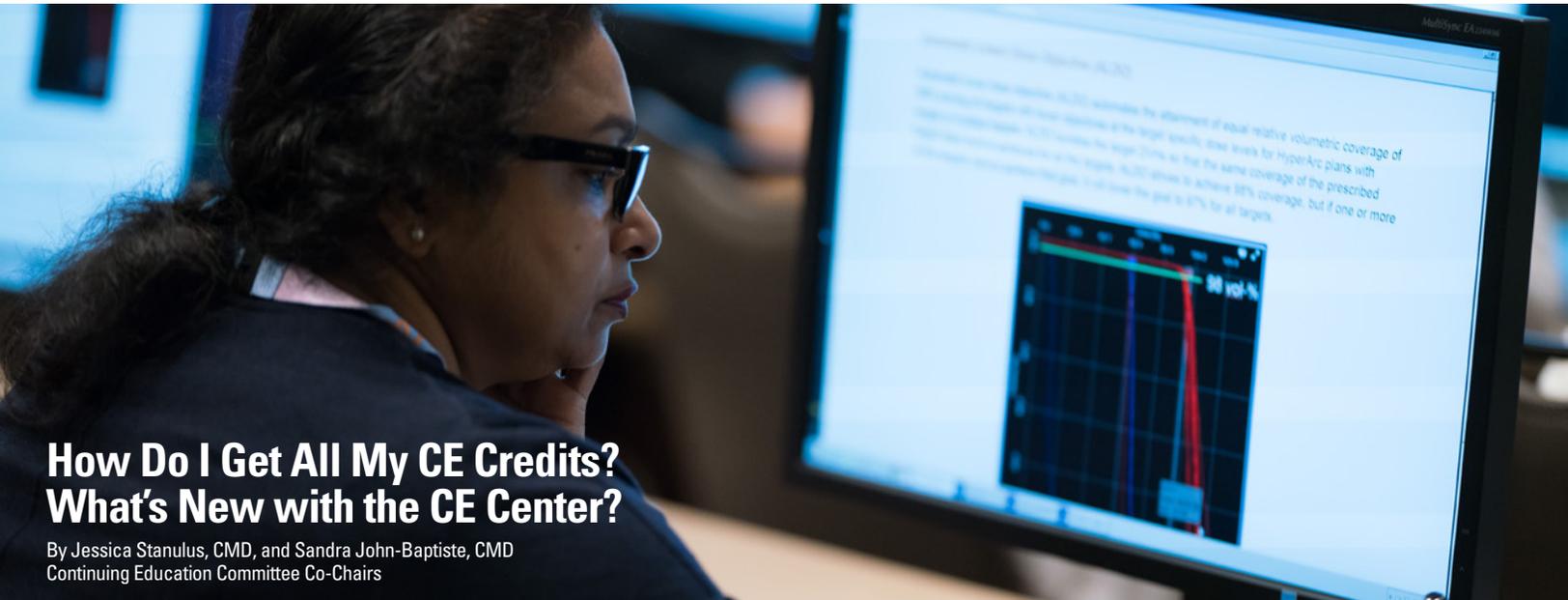
Visit the AAMD website now to explore the [Resource Database](#) under the Resources tab.

Do You Have to Contour a Hippocampus?

Visit the AAMD Resource Database for extra help!

Search Keyword: Hippocampus

The graphic features two axial brain CT scans side-by-side. The left scan shows the hippocampus highlighted in red. The right scan shows the hippocampus highlighted in yellow. A blue circular button with the text 'Search Keyword: Hippocampus' is positioned to the right of the scans. The background is white with a green circular shape on the right side.



How Do I Get All My CE Credits? What's New with the CE Center?

By Jessica Stanulus, CMD, and Sandra John-Baptiste, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs

Spring is in full bloom, and new webinars are sprouting up in the [CE Center](#). Take advantage of the AAMD CE Center to get your CE credits done before those summer vacations get started. Did you know with your annual AAMD membership, you get 12 free CE credits a year, and if you are a Member Plus, you get 25 free credits? Credits also transfer to the ARRT, so don't forget to update your membership information to include your ARRT number.

Newly added recordings to the [CE Center](#) include:

[Teaming in the Radiation Oncology Environment](#)

Presented by Linnae Campbell, MSHA, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T)

[Automatic Planning of Whole Breast Radiation Therapy](#)

Presented by Yang Sheng, PhD

If webinars aren't your preference, we also have new Directed Journal Readings available. Check out the newest additions:

[DJR 47-1A: Fully automated planning and delivery of hippocampal-sparing whole brain irradiation](#)

[DJR 47-1B: Dosimetric effect of intensity-modulated radiation therapy for postoperative non-small cell lung cancer with and without air cavity in the planning target volume](#)

There is something for everyone, and new things are added every month. You say you don't have a full hour to give to a webinar and prefer something you can complete at lunchtime? We have a 30-minute webinar that was just released.

Gain Insights into Your Career with New Member Resources

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

As dosimetrists, we work hard every day knowing how important it is to create the best plan for our cancer patients. Have you ever wondered about the importance of your role as a dosimetrist beyond the treatment plan? This past February, the Career Services Committee (CSC) held a panel discussion, titled *The Value of a Dosimetrist: Insights from RadOnc Professionals*, on this very topic. If you were unable to attend this live event, the AAMD encourages you to listen to the recorded panel discussion. In this discussion, you will learn what the team looks for in a good dosimetrist, how other team members feel about remote dosimetry, and much more. Follow this link to view this very valuable discussion: <https://www.medicaldosimetry.org/membership/career-resources/>

Are you interested in getting involved in medical dosimetry education? Would you like to give back to your profession and help train future dosimetrists? The CSC and Formal Education Committee are currently working on a panel discussion on these very topics. The presentation will take place during the week of National Medical Dosimetrist's Day in mid-August. Stay tuned for more information!

#AAMDVolunteer

By Jessica Stanulus, CMD
Nominations & Volunteer Committee Member

During the week of April 17-23, AAMD celebrated National Volunteer Week. The AAMD has much gratitude for all volunteers who give their time, energy, ideas, and expertise to help contribute to the overall success of the organization. This year, approximately 120 AAMD volunteers (including the Board of Directors, Region Representatives, AAMD committee Co-Chairs and members, the Journal Editorial Board and the Outstanding Achievement Award selection committee) received insulated mugs as a token of appreciation. Much fun was had posting images on social media with #AAMDVolunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please view all committee descriptions and complete an online Volunteer Application on the [AAMD website](#).



Special Thanks to Our 2021/2022 Sponsors

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Meet Journal Associate Editor Yusing Kim, PhD, DABR

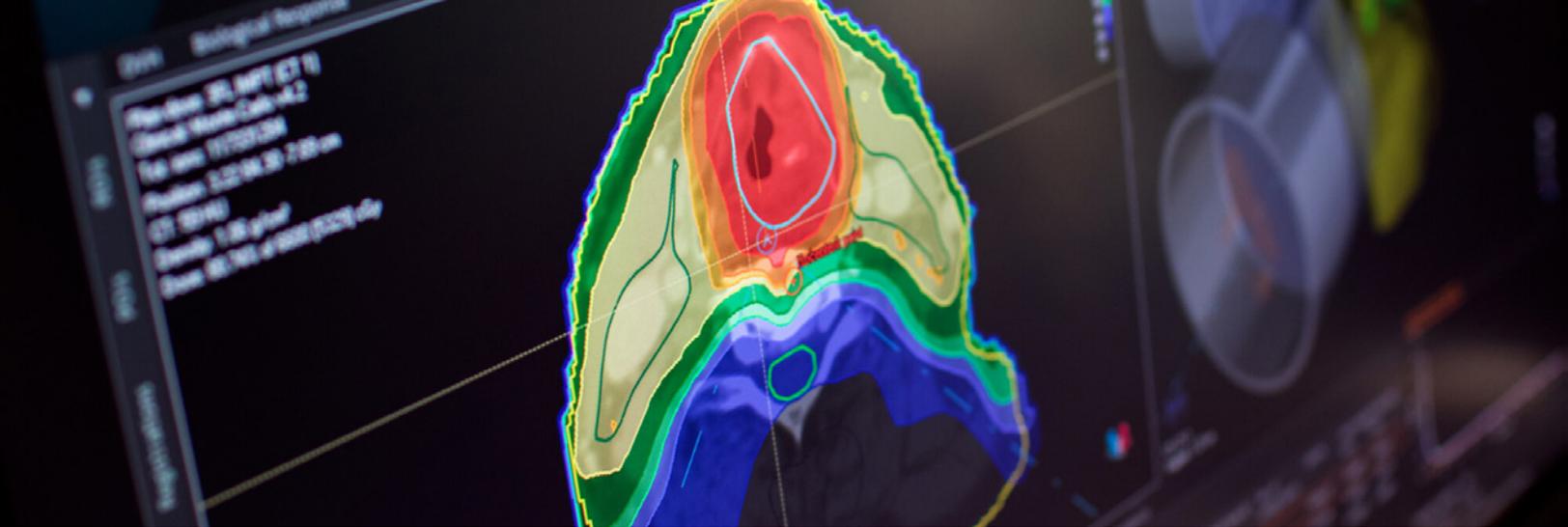
The Medical Dosimetry journal is very fortunate to have an engaged group of Associate Editors that have various backgrounds and experience. Associate Editors are responsible for assessing a manuscript's relevance and make publication recommendations based off independent reviews. I would like the AAMD membership to be introduced to each of these editors.

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

Dr. Yusing Kim was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the South Korean Army as an NBC (Nuclear, Biology, Chemistry) officer, receiving an award from the four-star general of Korean Army when completing his service. He entered the Medical Physics graduate program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and earned his Master's degree in 2005 and PhD in 2007. During the course of his doctoral studies, he first-authored manuscripts in the "Red Journal" (International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics) and the "Green Journal" (Radiotherapy and Oncology), two of the field's most prestigious journals. He published six peer-reviewed papers during his PhD training, including an invited paper. He joined the University of Iowa Department of Radiation Oncology as a faculty member in 2007 and has remained there since. He has published more than 55 peer-reviewed papers, a book chapter, a book, and owns five patents. He is a well-funded researcher having received over \$2.6 million in research grants from the NIH and industry, where he has served as the PI, co-PI, or co-investigator.

Dr. Kim has served as an Associate Editor for the Medical Dosimetry journal since 2011. Additionally, he has served the continuing education sections at ASTRO annual meetings as a faculty. He led the AAPM task group (TG) 236 as a vice chair, along with TG 337 and TG 303 as a committee member, and served as a research grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK.

Outside of work, Dr. Kim enjoys playing tennis, reading books, and writing book reviews on his blog. He has a passion for outreach for missions and medical physics, having completed four short-term mission trips to Indonesia and Panama, as well as planning to visit developing countries to conduct medical physics outreach as a member of the AAPM outreach subcommittee.



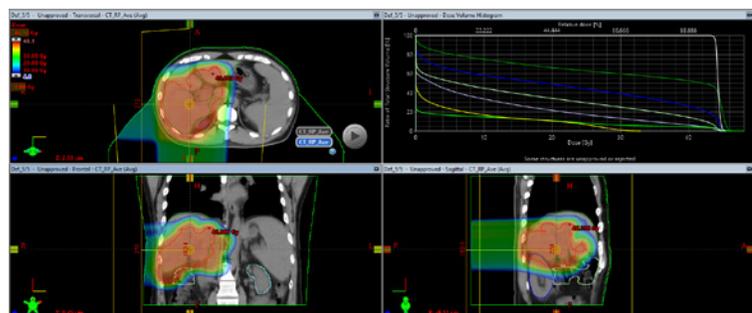
AAMD Student Virtual Forum: Proton Dosimetry 101

By Ottmar Lezama, CMD
Membership Committee Member

On April 12, the AAMD Membership Committee hosted another successful Student Virtual Forum. On this occasion, the two speakers discussed proton dosimetry. I feel very fortunate to have learned from proton dosimetrists who are willing to share their experiences and first-hand knowledge in this format. Our presenters elaborated on different treatment modalities such as passive scattering, uniform scattering, and pencil beam scanning. The intricacies of proton planning, such as apertures, range shifters, and air gaps, were also discussed.

I personally found the case studies very interesting, specifically how junctions were dealt with in the CSI case and the drastic improvement in conformity that aperture treatment allowed in the brain re-treatment case.

For any students who were not able to watch the live events, all Virtual Student Forums are available on the AAMD website under the [Resources tab](#).



In addition to Proton Dosimetry, there are also recordings for Tips and Tricks for Head and Neck Cancers, Advanced Breast, and the MDCB Exam. Please stay tuned for future announcements regarding upcoming forums and other events from the AAMD.

Several Upcoming Events Feature Content for Students and Educators

By Lori Simmons, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chair

The annual **Virtual Student Gathering**, scheduled for June 8, 2022, from 1-4 PM CDT, will once again feature John Kowal, President of the Americas for Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company. Varian is generously sponsoring students to attend the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Michael Manteuffel from MDCB will speak to the students about the board exam, and two recent graduates will share their strategies for landing that first job and studying for the exam. We will also host a quiz with prizes for the top competitors, and the winners of the Student Writing Competition will be announced. Look for an email from AAMD to begin your registration for the Student Gathering.

The **Educators' Workshop** will be held in person in Baltimore on Tuesday, June 21, from 12-4 PM EDT. Kristen Vu, director of the medical dosimetry program at Grand Valley State University, will discuss her program's approach

to fostering research projects with medical dosimetry students. Michael Manteuffel, representing the MDCB, Mahsa Dehghanpour, representing JRCERT, and AAMD President Brian Napolitano will also speak.

Interested in mentoring a recent dosimetry graduate? The **Mentoring Program** is gearing up for a new group of graduates. The program will begin registering recent graduates and soon-to-graduate students who need your experience and guidance as they navigate the job market and settle into their clinical positions. The time commitment is 1-2 hours over a few weeks, and most of your interaction with your mentee will be through email or text, though it's possible you may meet your mentee in person at the Annual Meeting. Not sure how to mentor? Ask the FEC for its mentoring guide.



AAMD Reaches Out to Treatment Planners Around the World

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

Even though the International Outreach Committee (IOC) is relatively new, we have been very active with global outreach. On March 19, the AAMD had the first ever Virtual International Meet-up. The dialogue and collaboration between the AAMD and our international treatment planners was outstanding. There were 47 attendees, representing 14 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. We look forward to our next virtual event, which will take place this fall.

The IOC collaborated with the 8th Southeast Asia Radiographers Conference (SEARC 2022) in March. Brian Napolitano, AAMD President, recorded an introduction to the AAMD and participated in a live Q&A session. The AAMD also invited Dr. Laurence Court to speak at the meeting on the topic of Artificial

Intelligence in Treatment Planning. The meeting had 318 registrants. The committee looks forward to working with the SEARC again for next year's event.

The AAMD is also collaborating with the Association of Brazilian Dosimetrists (ABD). They will be hosting their annual meeting in May. Additionally, we helped them secure a speaker, Jeffrey Antone, who recorded a presentation for a live webinar they held on April 13.

The IOC continues to be very active in supporting treatment planning professionals worldwide. If you feel like you can help us advance our mission, please fill out a volunteer application on the [AAMD website](#).

2022 Scholarships for Medical Dosimetry Students

By Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, BS, CMD, RT(T), FAAMD
Chair, AAMD Education and Research Foundation

As members of the AAMD many of you took the opportunity to join in this success and donate to the Foundation in conjunction with your due's renewal. During the past year, the Foundation has made big strides in raising over an additional \$3,200 from your renewals and securing \$50,000 in scholarship grants from Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company. However, donations are accepted at any time and can be made throughout the year allowing the Foundation to support the future of the medical dosimetry profession.

In 2022 the Foundation will be active in launching the following programs:

- Awarding over \$50,000 in new scholarships to medical dosimetry students.
- Providing new graduates and unemployed dosimetrists with the opportunity to attend the Varian Eclipse/IMRT training.
- Providing individuals grants to pursue the designation of AAMD Fellow.
- Giving travel grants to dosimetrists to attend the AAMD's 47th Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

These AAMD Foundation scholarships are provided thanks to individuals and corporations who understand the importance of highly skilled professionals and the power of education to create a brighter future.

Descriptions of the programs and application materials can be found on the [AAMD Foundation website](#). Two of the grants are highlighted here:

Annual Meeting Education Travel Grant

Sponsored by AAMD Foundation

Purpose

The AAMD Education and Research Foundation has established the Education Travel Grant program to subsidize the costs of meeting attendance for members who could not otherwise participate in an AAMD event. Travel awards will not exceed \$2,500 for the 47th Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. The total amount awarded will be based on the financial needs of the applicant.

What's Covered

Grant funds will be used to cover meeting registration, flight or ground travel and hotel reservations for up to 6 nights (if attending the pre-conference workshops). Food and incidental charges from the hotel are not covered by grant funds.

Criteria

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply for an Education Travel Grant:

- Maintain active AAMD member status (during application and award process)
- Demonstrate financial and CE credit need
- Endorsement of their current Administrator

Fellows Grant

Purpose

The AAMD Education and Research Foundation has established the Fellows Grant program to subsidize the costs to members who are working to achieve the status of AAMD Fellow. Awards will not exceed \$2,500. The total amount awarded will be based on the financial needs of the applicant.

What's Covered

Grant funds will be used to cover flight or ground travel and hotel reservations for up to 6 nights at the Annual Meeting (if attending the pre-conference workshops). Food and incidental charges from the hotel are not covered by grant funds.

Criteria

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply for the Fellows Grant:

- Maintain active AAMD member status (during application and award process)
- Endorsement of their sponsor of Fellow status

The Foundation Board of Trustees would like to thank you for your commitment and dedication to the foundation.

Our scholarships would not be possible without support from companies and individuals who care about helping medical dosimetrists enhance their professional skills and education.



Certification News

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

September 2022 Exam

The application for the September exam is now available. Before beginning the application, applicants are required to read the Applicant Handbook and familiarize themselves with:

- Requirements and procedures related to the exam application
- Dates related to the application and exam
- Fee policies
- Ethical standards
- Exam content domains
- Exam reference materials

The final deadline to submit the application is July 2, 2022.

2023 Exam Dates

Dates for the administration of the 2023 January and September exam have been posted to the [MDCB website](#).

The exam is administered at Prometric Test Sites around the world. Please visit “Locate a Test Center” at www.prometric.com.

Beginning May 1, 2022, Prometric lifted its masking mandate at test centers. Candidates and test center personnel will no longer be required to wear masks unless required to do so by building management or local government. If masks are mandated in a particular locale, Prometric will follow local guidance in test centers as well. Any candidate or staff member that prefers to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so.

Prometric will continue to require COVID attestation regarding exposure. If a candidate has tested positive for COVID or reports exposure to someone who has COVID, they will be asked to wait 5 days and be symptom-free prior to testing.