The MedDos Infinity Task Group is exploring the infinite possibilities for your dosimetry future. The MedDos Infinity Task Group first met on July 2, 2019 and has been working on a comprehensive examination of the current state of the medical dosimetry profession and its future. Led by Task Group Chair Brian Napolitano, the group has held monthly meetings and has been conducting focused investigation of many issues impacting the profession. In this interview, Brian shares insights on MedDos Infinity activities to date.

Who are the members of MedDos Infinity?
The Task Group members were selected from a large and enthusiastic applicant pool. They represent a diverse cross-section of the radiation oncology profession. They come from a variety of clinical environments, educational backgrounds, geographic locations and industry affiliations. See the full list of our members at the bottom of this post. We are grateful for their time and dedication to this very important work.

How is the Task Group approaching the task of defining the future of medical dosimetry?
The work is being divided into 4 areas of focus within these subgroups:

Expertise: This subgroup is examining the education and skillset of medical dosimetrists and how those two things continue to evolve in the current healthcare environment. They are looking at opportunities for medical dosimetrists to diversify their skills and move into other areas of radiation oncology, such as leadership, management, research and innovation.

Technology: This subgroup is looking at how the profession evolves in the face of further automation, the integration of machine learning into routine clinical practice and the promotion of collaboration and optimization of clinical practices for optimal efficiency.

Growth and Sustainability: This subgroup is looking at new skills needed for the profession to evolve – adaptive therapy, particle therapy, etc. – and how these specialized techniques are being incorporated into clinical processes. They are examining workforce issues, such as how to graduate and train enough medical dosimetrists to meet the growing needs for patient care in light of the rising incidence of cancer. They are looking at how best to meet the training needs of the industry and the role of the certification exam in maintaining currency with technological innovations and evolving skills. Additionally, issues like the role of remote treatment planning or provision of remote services and alternative staffing model scenarios to ensure long-term clinical viability in various geographic locations are also being considered.

Advocacy: This subgroup is looking for ways to continue to advocate for the profession in the clinic and beyond and to make sure medical dosimetrists’ voices are heard. One of their main questions is: How can we effectively articulate the value of medical dosimetry to the healthcare community and the public? They are investigating whether there is a regulatory palate for promoting the need for qualified medical dosimetrists in the clinical environment. The impact of changing reimbursements is also at the forefront of their work.

What kinds of tools are the subgroups using to explore their areas?
They’re diligently collecting references and resources to produce their hypotheses for how this profession continues to evolve. They are also starting to formulate a comprehensive survey that will seek guidance from the general AAMD membership on various questions that are before the task group.
Task Group members are reaching out to sister societies for information and feedback and working to engage subject matter experts to weigh in on their particular areas of expertise for how the profession will continue to evolve.

How will AAMD members hear about the ongoing activities of the Task Group?

Our plan is to communicate quarterly with members via the AAMD website, eMonitor newsletter and email. We also have a goal to share initial findings of the Task Group at the 45th Annual Meeting in Baltimore in June 2020.

What if members have specific concerns to share?

While the Task Group has a lengthy list of questions in front of it, we’re willing to address other member concerns. Please send your questions or comments to the MedDos Infinity Task Group at aamd@medicaldosimetry.org.

President’s Corner

Greetings!

Happy Fall! This is the season that we start to see many changes outside – the temperature, the leaves, the hours of daylight – and we start to prepare for a couple of busy holiday months. The same changes happen within the field of Medical Dosimetry. It seems that each month offers new technology and better ways to treat cancer patients. The AAMD has been busy following these changes and how they affect our profession. In September, Immediate Past President Lee Hales, Executive Director Stacey Wilson and I attended the SROA Annual Meeting, which is held in conjunction with the ASTRO Annual Meeting. Lee and I gave a presentation to the administrators outlining the changes in the Medical Dosimetry profession. We discussed formal education, MDCB exam administration, what a future Dosimetrist looks like, and how A.I. affects the Medical Dosimetrist. The discussion that occurred at this presentation was very informative as we learned that many administrators are not really tuned into what is happening in our profession. We as dosimetrists are the strongest voice for our profession. Individually, we need to show our leadership within the department and speak up about the value we offer to the field of Radiation Oncology. I challenge each of you to get up from your desk to make sure every person in that department knows what a leader you are and that the Medical Dosimetrist is the core of the department.

Many of you may be aware that CMS released a proposed new RO Model for reimbursements. Upon review of this alternative payment model, the AAMD felt it was imperative to respond to the proposed changes. On behalf of the Medical Dosimetry profession, the AAMD submitted a response letter to CMS. A copy of that letter can be found on the AAMD website. We encourage all dosimetrists to become familiar with the proposed changes, watch for the final rule from CMS before the end of the year and continue to advocate for the profession.

On behalf of the AAMD Board of Directors, we would like to thank each of you for continuing to be members of our organization. We encourage you to consider becoming more involved and volunteer for the AAMD. Together we can make a difference in the Medical Dosimetry Profession!

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

AAMD at the SROA Meeting

In September, the AAMD was well represented at the SROA Annual Meeting in Chicago. As part of the AAMD Strategic Plan to increase communication with our sister societies in Radiation Oncology, the AAMD had an exhibit at the SROA meeting, where President Cara Sullivan, Immediate Past President Lee Hales and Executive Director Stacey Wilson talked to administrators from across the country about current trends and challenges in the medical dosimetry profession. Cara and Lee also gave a presentation to the administrators to educate them on the qualifications and skills of medical dosimetrists and the value they bring to the clinical care team.
Start Preparing Now for the AAMD 45th Annual Meeting in Baltimore Next June!

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

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) is setting sail for an outstanding meeting tucked away in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. We would like to cordially invite all medical dosimetrists to the AAMD 45th Annual Meeting, June 14 -18, 2020 at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. The ACC has received many exceptional abstracts and is in the process of finalizing the educational content for the meeting. The AAMD and ACC are committed to providing you with sessions that not only improve your daily skills but also provide new techniques that you can take back to your clinic.

We look forward to having the 30-minute case study presentations again, which provide an excellent opportunity for first-time presenters and increase the variation of material being introduced. We are also planning to have another live, interactive contouring session for all attendees and panel discussions on hot topics in dosimetry.

Thank you to all who took the time to submit an abstract. We recognize your commitment to better our field through shared knowledge and truly value your investment in our AAMD community through your time and talents.

Now, remember the meeting is not just limited to education through speaking. We also offer the opportunity to share knowledge with your peers through a poster presentation. Poster abstract submission is currently open until March 31, 2020. This is perfect for those who want to share their research but do not have time to put together a 50-minute presentation. The AAMD would like to encourage all members to share their techniques and expertise. It is through collaboration and education that we all can grow and become better at what we do.

Please visit the AAMD website often for updated details about the 2020 AAMD Annual Meeting. The ACC hopes you can join us as we go “Sailing into the Future of Treatment Planning!”
With all the changes in radiation oncology, there's no better time to get involved in your profession to help shape our future. If you have a desire to be a part of the AAMD leadership team, please consider running for an AAMD office. The official Call for Nominations is open for the 2020 AAMD Board of Directors and Regional Representatives Election. The following positions are open for nominations:

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

Learn more about the available positions, expectations while serving in each role, and access the nominations applications on the updated 2020 Call for Nominations webpage.

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD in good standing. For the 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, 2020 and ending on July 31, 2023.

Elections will take place in the Spring of 2020. 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

In addition, the AAMD is always in need of volunteers. Please take a look at the committees outlined on the AAMD website and get involved today!

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**AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award**

Know someone who has made an impact on the Medical Dosimetry profession? Nominate him/her for the 2020 AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award!

The AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award is the highest honor an individual can receive from the AAMD. The individual’s contributions may be demonstrated by any or all of the following:

- AAMD Board of Directors’ service
- AAMD committee service
- Publications in the radiation oncology field
- Professional presentations
- Education of medical dosimetry professionals
- Legislative efforts
- Service to the radiation oncology community.

The Outstanding Achievement Award replaces the AAMD Award of Excellence, which was established in 2007. Prior to that, the award was named the Varian Award of Excellence.

Nominations are due by December 31, 2019.

Download a Nomination Form Here

Email the completed nomination form to aamd@medicaldosimetry.org.

Be sure to include “Outstanding Achievement Award” in the subject line. If you have questions about the award, contact Award Committee Chair Kristi Smith at ksmith@alyzenmed.com.
Renew Your Membership for 2020 and Continue to Grow
By Felita James-Christie, CMD, and Adele Philippides, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

AAMD membership dues have remained the same for the past 11 years!
Unlike other organizations that have increased their dues each year, we are proud to announce that the AAMD has NOT increased dues since 2009. As an organization that values the support of its members, we understand that the cost of membership is an important factor in deciding whether or not to renew your membership. Therefore, we wanted to be sure that you knew that we are NOT increasing your dues for the 11th year in a row. What we ARE committed to increasing, however, are the educational offerings, professional resources, volunteer and leadership opportunities, and much more! We kindly ask that you renew your membership by December 31 and remain dedicated to the only organization that supports and advocates for the medical dosimetry profession.

And the Winners Are….
Thank you to the 567 members who renewed their AAMD memberships for 2020 before October 31! Congratulations to the following five members who were randomly selected as winners of our “Renew Early & Win” drawing:

Nancy Thompson
Yaguang Pei
Akira Nakamura
Jeffrey Flick
Anthony Menzies

Each will receive a FREE Member Plus upgrade, which gives them the opportunity to earn up to 25 CE credits online in the AAMD CE Center.

Meet AAMD in Milwaukee Next Spring for a Weekend of Learning and Fun!
By Kristi Smith, CMD
Regional Director

The AAMD is excited to host the AAMD Spring 2020 Regional Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The meeting will be held April 3-4, 2020 at the Milwaukee Marriott Downtown. On behalf of the AAMD Headquarters, Board of Directors, and Regional Representatives, we invite you to attend this dynamic conference. Not only will you be able to earn 14 MDCB CE Credits (anticipated), but you will also have the opportunity to network with over 100 fellow dosimetrists and see the latest radiation oncology products in our exhibit hall.

The Regional Representative Committee is working hard to develop a program that will make the Spring Regional Meeting a memorable learning experience. Specific topics of interest this year 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, the future of medical dosimetry, new technologies, reviews, professional development, and leadership. We are planning a great meeting with the intent of helping dosimetrists to continue planning the impossible and impressing our radiation oncologists. Registration is expected to open in early January 2020.

Plan on joining your fellow attendees Friday evening for networking, relaxing, good food, and company in Downtown Milwaukee!

Important Note: We are still accepting abstracts. The deadline for the abstracts is January 8, 2020. Click here to submit an abstract. If your abstract is selected, you will receive free meeting registration and one night at the Milwaukee Marriott Downtown. In addition, you will also receive two MDCB CE credits.

Come stay with us at the Milwaukee Marriott Downtown. Located in the heart of East Town, downtown’s thriving district, the hotel is just steps from several of the city’s most popular attractions, including the Wisconsin Center, Lake Michigan, Fiserv Forum, and the Historic Third Ward.

The AAMD Board of Directors, staff, and the Regional Representatives Committee look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee!
My 5-Year MDCB Cycle Is Coming to an End. What Should I Do Now?
By Valerie Hoehner, CMD, Communications Committee Member and Mark Littell, CMD, Communications Committee Co-Chair

It's that time of year again, when 20 percent of the AAMD membership is ending their 5-year MDCB cycle. We are both ending our first cycle this year and decided to clear some things up when it comes to collecting credits, submitting for approval, and finally completing your MDCB Learning Plan for recertification.

The MDCB requires 50 approved credits be submitted for each 5-year cycle. Credits are uploaded into your Learning Plan on the MDCB website via the “CE Center Login” from the top of the MDCB webpage. If you have activity from the AAMD CE Center or from an AAMD meeting, credits will automatically be uploaded. If you have activities from a partner organization, you will need to select the blue button, “Add Activity.” Each category of credit has this selection: Course/Lecture/Seminar/Webinar, Journal Readings, Applications Training Courses, or Personal Credit Requests.

If you are still in need of credits, you may have actually earned credits you might not realize have not been applied to your Learning Plan. If you have attended a training from your vendor, whether on-site or in a training center, a maximum of 16 CE credits will be accepted for applications training courses for any 5-year cycle. Be sure to retrieve your certificate of training and upload it to your Learning Plan. Individual Credit Requests include speaker presentations, journal authoring, editing and reviewing, academic coursework and exam item development. One CEU will be awarded for each course credit hour to a maximum of 15 CEs for any 5-year cycle. In addition, ensuring your MDCB member number and demographics are accurately on file with the AAMD and ASRT will allow an automatic transfer of credits to MDCB.

A convenient way of earning credits is through the online AAMD CE Center. An AAMD membership includes the opportunity to earn 12 CE credits each year in the AAMD CE Center. Should you want to access additional content, you can upgrade your membership to Member-Plus for $75 and receive an additional 13 credits for the year for a total of 25 credits. The AAMD CE Center has a variety of content to earn credits, and the regular membership fee of $200 hasn’t increased in over 10 years, while the value of membership has increased substantially, including increasing from 10 annual credits included to the current 12 per year. Another great way of earning credits is through the 5 free webinars sponsored by vendors for the AAMD celebration of National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day. The week includes a free one-credit webinar each day for a total of five free credits each year in August.

Once you have uploaded your credits and reached 50 approved, uploaded credits, you are able to submit your Learning Plan by pressing the orange “Complete Learning Plan” button at the top or bottom of your credits page. Congratulations!

AAMD 44th Annual Meeting Recordings Are Now Available!
By Jessica Stanulus, CMD, and Sandra John-Baptiste, CMD, Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs, and Cornelia Gallow, Director of Education

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) has been very busy this summer and fall, working on bringing you new additions to the CE Center Course Catalog. For the fall, there will be two new Journal SAMs that you can read. The recorded presentations that have been released this fall are: “Failure Mode and Effect Analysis: A Practical Approach for the Clinical Professional” and “A Practical Guide for Eclipse Scripting in Dosimetry”.

If you missed the AAMD 44th Annual Meeting, you still have an opportunity to watch some of the virtual meetings in the CE Center. Two presentations have already been released, and more are scheduled to follow. You can currently view “A Guide for Creating Optimal Breast Plans Utilizing EX-Flattening-Filter-Free Tangential Fields,” and “Working Cohesively with RO-ILS in A Multi-Centered Institution” in the Virtual Meetings section of the CE Center Course Catalog. In November, you will be able to view “Pancreas SBRT: Shaping Plan Quality Evaluation Metrics the Johns Hopkins Way,” as well as “The Secrets to Planning Previous Treatments.”

As always, take a look at the “Available Until” dates in the Course Catalog. There are several recorded presentations, virtual meetings, and Journal SAMs that will be expiring by the end of December 2019. Don’t forget to check back each month to see what new content has been added to the CE Center Course Catalog.

The CEC still needs volunteers. Do you want to be of great service to your dosimetry community? Then come and join our committee and help us grow. We would love to have your input and fresh ideas on presentation suggestions. Feel free to contact the CE Committee Co-Chairs: Jessica Stanulus at Jessica_Stanulus@hotmail.com or Sandra John-Baptiste at sjohnb@mdanderson.edu
Medical Dosimetry Education Updates
By Jacky Nyamwanda, CMD, and Jamie Baker, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chairs

Call for Clinical Sites for Student Rotations and Applicant Observations
AAMD and the FEC would like to encourage all practicing medical dosimetrists to consider serving as a clinical site for student rotations or allowing interested medical dosimetry applicants to observe in your workplace. Many JRCERT-accredited medical dosimetry educational programs express a dire need for additional qualified radiation oncology clinics willing to accept students for clinical rotations. Learning from knowledgeable mentors and experiencing patient care are integral components of a successful clinical learning environment, and you can contribute to the education of your future peers by serving as a clinical site. In addition, allowing interested medical dosimetry applicants to shadow practicing medical dosimetrists in your clinic would also increase awareness of our field, expose potential students to the job responsibilities and duties of our profession, and offer insight concerning the rewards and challenges of working as a medical dosimetrist. Please consider serving as a clinical site for an accredited medical dosimetry educational program and/or allowing potential applicants to shadow in your clinic. Feel free to reach out to the FEC Co-Chairs via email for more information (jabaker@mdanderson.org or jnyamwanda@suffolk.edu).

2020 Educators’ Workshop and Students Gathering Events
The Formal Education Committee (FEC) is planning the next Student Gathering and Educators’ Workshop to take place the morning of June 15, 2020 and the afternoon of June 16, 2020, respectively, during the 45th Annual AAMD Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Medical dosimetry educators are encouraged to submit abstracts for continuing education talks during the educator's workshop by contacting the FEC Co-Chairs via email (jabaker@mdanderson.org or jnyamwanda@suffolk.edu).

Special Thanks to Our 2019/2020 Sponsors

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The interview process can be an intimidating task whether you are a new grad or a seasoned dosimetrist. Being successful in an interview is not a skill that comes naturally for most. The Career Services Committee (CSC) now offers a dosimetry-specific practice interview tool to help you. It’s live in our customized interview skills portal called InterviewStream. This membership benefit is FREE and available to AAMD members only.

InterviewStream is an online mock interview service. It allows you to record yourself answering questions that are tailored to dosimetrists. You can also create your own interview by selecting from a library of over 7,000 prerecorded interview questions. Once recorded, you can grade yourself, re-record your answers, or request that your interview is critiqued.

To access InterviewStream you must first log into your AAMD member account, Navigate to the Career Center, scroll to Featured Services, and select Interview Resources. This will take you to InterviewStream. First, create a free InterviewStream account by selecting “Sign Up Now.” To take the dosimetry-specific interviews created by the CSC, click “Conduct an Interview” then “Created for Me.” You will be able to select from the following types of interviews: basic, student or recent graduate, entry-level, mid-level, or senior dosimetrist. These pre-made interviews will have 7-8 dosimetry related questions. If you select the “Custom Interview” option, you can build an interview of your own. It's important to note that utilizing this service will involve activating your webcam to video yourself answering questions. So dress to impress and practice away!

Why Should We Hire You? Ummm. Well.

By Ashley Walsh, CMD
Career Services Committee Co-Chair
As Editor-in-Chief of the AAMD journal, Medical Dosimetry, I am privileged to recognize and welcome the new Co-Chairs and committee members of the Directed Journal Reading Committee. I wish to thank outgoing Co-Chairs Grayden MacLennan, MBA, MSM, MS, CMD, and Bert Wood, CMD for their previous tenure.

The current committee is comprised of two Co-Chairs: Eric Lobb, MS, CMD, DABR, and Ashley Rochester, BS, CMD, R.T(R)(T), along with six other committee members: Ontida Apinorasethkul, MS, CMD; Raymond Chan, CMD; Laura Brady, CMD, R.T(R)(T); Anjenette Milligan, MS, CMD, R.T(R)(T); Jeanine Turner, CMD, R.T(R)(T); and Robyn Wallace, BS, CMD, R.T(R)(T).

Eric Lobb is an MDCB-certified and ABR-certified medical physicist providing clinical service to the Ascension Northeast-Wisconsin Hospital Network as well as PRN support to the University of Chicago Department of Radiation & Cellular Oncology. Eric was previously an AAMD volunteer member of the Directed Journal Reading and Continuing Education Committees, along with holding AAPM volunteer positions with the Work Group for IMRT, Membership Committee, and Online Learning Services Subcommittee. Eric completed his graduate training at the University of Kentucky and has been involved in radiation oncology for approximately 10 years with a primary clinical interest in the areas of stereotactic radiosurgery and prostate seed brachytherapy, and a primary professional interest in continuing education for medical dosimetrists and medical physicists.

Ashley Rochester is a CMD who has worked for the past 11 years at the Erlanger Cancer Institute in Chattanooga, TN. She started at Erlanger as a radiographer then obtained her radiation therapy certification, where she treated for five years before transitioning to the physics/dosimetry department. She has been married to her husband for 10 years. They enjoy one son, who is eight years old, and one cat, who is seven months old. Ashley is currently in the last semester of her graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where she is working towards a Master of Science in Medical Dosimetry. In her free time, she enjoys going to the lake, painting, skiing, really anything outdoors, and spending time with family and friends.

The DJR Committee is responsible for selecting two articles from each issue of the journal and writing 12 questions per article. Choosing two articles out of 10 to 15 in an issue can be quite challenging. The Co-Chairs are mindful to select an article most closely resembling what practicing dosimetrists can benefit from. Formulating reliable and effective questions can also be difficult, especially when the time frame for production is only about two weeks.

We welcome these new Co-Chairs and committee members and are privileged to offer high-quality learning materials to benefit your everyday practice in the field of medical dosimetry.
Among the many decisions we make in our lives, identifying our philanthropic priorities and choosing to act on them remains the most personal. Your decision to support the Foundation through donations or participation in our fundraising campaigns is a reflection of your priorities and values. I am humbled by those of you who have found your passion in creating educational opportunities for individuals in our profession.

There are three simple ways to help the AAMD Foundation:

- Donate on our website. During the AAMD dues renewal period, all member donations will be matched. [www.AAMDFoundation.org/donate](http://www.AAMDFoundation.org/donate)
- Shop on Amazon Smile and designate the AAMD Foundation as your charity. Amazon will donate a portion of your spending to the Foundation at no cost to you.
- Join our Facebook page and help us spread the word about the foundation.

**Thank You for Your Ongoing Support!**

By Theresa Kwiatkowski, CMD
Chair, AAMD Education and Research Foundation

Among the many decisions we make in our lives, identifying our philanthropic priorities and choosing to act on them remains the most personal. Your decision to support the Foundation through donations or participation in our fundraising campaigns is a reflection of your priorities and values. I am humbled by those of you who have found your passion in creating educational opportunities for individuals in our profession.

**Other Foundation News**

The Foundation has partnered with Stony Brook Hospital in implementing a new initiative, “Dosimetry for Africa.” This grant will assist in supporting individuals who are in the Radiation Oncology profession in sub Saharan Africa further their education by obtaining a Medical Dosimetry degree. Stay tuned for forthcoming details.

The 2020 Scholarship/Grant applications will be opening soon (January 2020). Theses scholarships/grants include:

- Continuing Education Scholarships for Students and CMDs furthering their education.
- Vendor related training for treatment planning systems. These grants are open to all – Students and Dosimetrists!
- Travel reimbursement for Regional or Annual Meetings.

We are excited to have added several new Trustees this year: Fellow dosimetrists, Keitt Mobile and Adam Brown and radiation oncologist, Dr. Marc Posner.
MDCB Updates
By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

2020 Credential Renewal is Now Available
Credential renewal is available at https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com/. CMDs can log in to submit payments by navigating to My Cycle and selecting the learning plan that includes 2020 to “Pay Fees.”

Learning Plan Submission
CMDs whose five-year cycle ends on December 31, 2019 are reminded to submit learning plans for completion by November 30, 2019. Once learning plans are completed, the annual credential fee can be submitted. Certificates for practitioners who have met the requirements for credential renewal will receive a new certificate in mid-January 2020.

January 2020 Exam Applicants
U.S. and international applicants will be notified of exam status on November 25. Approved exam candidates will have access to a practice test on the exam platform and the new performance-based testing (PBT) items to become familiar with the testing environment. Access to the practice environment will become available in mid-December.