

# emonitor

american association of medical dosimetrists

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Spring 2023

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# THE BIG EASY

OF TREATMENT PLANNING

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

## Plan to Be Inspired in NOLA!

By Trinh Nguyen, CMD  
Annual Conference Committee Jr. Co-Chair

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) has been hard at work since wrapping up our last meeting in Baltimore. All the focus has been on this year's [48th Annual Meeting](#) that will be held in New Orleans, June 4 - 8, 2023.

The ACC has reviewed all the abstract and poster submissions and has selected submissions focusing on the theme of "The Big Easy of Treatment Planning" for this year's meeting. We hope that attendees will find these presentations and posters interesting and even provide information that could be useful in their clinics.

Registration is now open for the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting, which will provide an opportunity to earn over 30 credits of continuing education for MDCB, and it is also valid for ARRT and MPCEC credits. For more details on the meeting and for the schedule, please visit the [Annual Meeting website](#).

In addition to all the education, there's going to be a fun social event for all attendees and guests this year. Watch for an announcement about the night out at the world-famous

Rock 'n' Bowl of New Orleans. Tickets will include food, beverages, bowling and transportation. Tickets can be purchased through the meeting registration website.

In addition to all the great sessions and posters that will be presented this year, we will have many AAMD corporate vendors in attendance. There will be opportunities to attend workshops, visit the exhibit hall, and participate in lunch symposiums to learn about all the current products and even new products which haven't been released yet.

And if you can plan a couple of extra days in New Orleans, check out all there is to see and do in the area at the [Visit New Orleans website](#). From swamp tours and jazz shows to the World War II Museum and world-class restaurants, there's something for everyone!

The AAMD and ACC are very excited to see everyone this year at the 48th Annual Meeting in New Orleans!



## President's Corner



Dear Members,

As we begin to feel the spring temperatures and see blooms on the trees, the medical dosimetry community is hard at work. The beginning of 2023 brought new members and consistent renewals of annual memberships to the AAMD. We are always grateful for your commitment to the organization dedicated to providing education specific to treatment planning professionals. We strive to offer

exciting educational content for our colleagues, including access to our growing online [CE Center](#). Continuing education is required and remains a vital aspect of how medical dosimetrists advance our skills in service to our patients. Please check out the offerings in the CE Center available with your membership.

The AAMD Board of Directors has been refocusing on strategic planning and is now working on the review of the AAMD Scope of Practice and Practice Standards documents, which were recently updated by a task group comprised of dosimetrists, radiation oncologists and medical physicists. The draft documents are currently open for public comment on the [AAMD website](#). The final documents will be shared in a featured presentation during the Annual Meeting in June.

Additionally, the AAMD provides the medical dosimetry community with many opportunities to network and learn from their colleagues. AAMD has been hosting a [Proton Planning Symposium](#) in March, providing medical dosimetrists with a dynamic program focused on proton planning. This virtual meeting is a popular option for those unable to join our in-person [48th Annual Meeting](#) in New Orleans this June. We anticipate hosting both virtual and in-person educational programs annually in the future.

Another integral part of the AAMD is the elected leadership positions in the AAMD. The AAMD relies on the dedication of our volunteers to accomplish our mission. Members who answer the call to volunteer help shape the current and future direction of the AAMD. The [2023 AAMD Election](#) is open online through March 27. Please take the time to vote for these positions: President-Elect, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, Region III Representative, and Region IV Representative. 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.

The AAMD is hyper-focused on the final stages of planning for our [48th Annual Meeting](#) in New Orleans this June. The program looks amazing, and sincere thanks to our Annual Conference Committee for their efforts in developing a diverse learning experience. Our AAMD corporate partners will also be onsite in New Orleans to highlight what is 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.

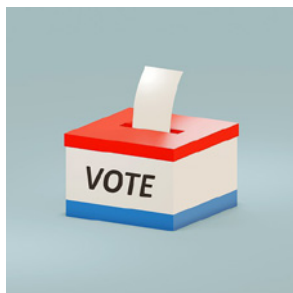
The AAMD continues to be committed to educating medical dosimetrists and will offer many excellent presentations at this meeting. Enhance your value in the radiation oncology department and elevate our profession by attending live presentations at the Annual Meeting. I hope to see you all in The Big Easy!

Respectfully,

Adam Brown, BSRT(T), CMD  
AAMD President

## It's Time to Cast Your Vote in the 2023 AAMD Election

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



Make your voice heard and cast your vote in this year's election! Voting remains open through March 27. All Full CMD Members were sent links to the online election ballot. Voting is a fun and easy way to show your support and to help your colleagues further the dosimetry profession by taking on new leadership roles within the AAMD. To learn more about each of the outstanding candidates on this year's ballot, visit the [AAMD website](#) and read the bios for each. Here are the candidates who are participating in the election:

### Board of Directors:

#### President-Elect:

Mark Littell, CMD

#### Treasurer:

Jennifer Davis, BS, CMD, RT(T)

Ryan Moroose, BA, CMD, RT(R)(T)

#### Member-at-Large:

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

Lee Culp, MS, CMD, RT(T)

Raheel Khan, CMD, MS, BS, RTT

Kathleen Sherrod, MS, CMD, RT(R)(T)(CT)

#### Region Representatives:

##### Region III Representative:

Brent Buchanan, RT(T), CMD

##### Region IV Representative:

Catherine Gagne, CMD

Mitchell Tulchinsky, CMD

## Talk Shop with Your Colleagues During a Member Meet-Up

By Brent Buchanan, CMD  
Region III Representative



The AAMD hosted a joint Region III and Region V virtual Member Meet-Up via Zoom on January 19, 2023. The event was hosted by Region III Representative Brent Buchanan and Region V Representative James Bell, along with Regional

Director Mark Littell. We had 41 AAMD members from the two regions register for 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, clinical sites for students, and the hybrid work environment. The meet-ups are a hit and we enjoy doing them. Stay tuned for emails regarding [future Meet-Ups](#) for your region.

Upcoming Member Meet-Ups:

### Regions I and II

March 23, 2023  
12:00 PM PDT

### Regions IV and VI

April 20, 2023  
12:30 PM EDT

## Membership Highlight: Use Your CE Credits!

By Mary McCauley, CMD  
Membership Committee Co-Chair

Thank you for renewing your 2023 AAMD membership! You are AAMD, and without your support, our organization would not exist. REMINDER: Don't forget to utilize your annual allotment of 12 CE credits in the [AAMD CE Center](#). These are included in your membership dues! (Member Plus members receive 25 CE credits.) CE credits expire on 12/31/23. If you don't use them, you lose them! Thank you to the AAMD Continuing Education Committee (CEC) who works hard each month to add new sessions to the CE Center. View the [Course Catalog](#) today.



**Use Your CE Credits  
by 12/31/23**

## Member Meet-Ups in New Orleans!

The [48th Annual Meeting](#) is fast approaching! After receiving positive feedback from last year, we will be organizing Member Meet-Ups throughout the meeting for networking opportunities among attendees. These will include special meeting designations for: Students, Volunteers, Solo Dosimetrists, Proton Dosimetrists, and Members by Region. Be sure to download the AAMD Mobile Meeting App before you head to New Orleans as all in-person Member Meet-Ups will be listed on the agenda on the app!



## Task Group Addresses DEI in Medical Dosimetry

By Felita Christie, CMD, and Natasha Gump, CMD  
AAMD/MDCB Joint DEI Task Group Co-Chairs

The **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** Task Group is a collaborative created jointly by AAMD and MDCB. It was formed to promote and support culturally and sustaining career opportunities in Medical Dosimetry for underrepresented and marginalized populations. We are engaged in seeking and facilitating events and activities that promote and support ongoing professional growth in Medical Dosimetry. Here's why:

- There are over **4,300** Certified Medical Dosimetrists currently employed in the United States.
- Of all medical dosimetrists, the majority are women.
- In 2021, women still earned less than what men earned.
- The average age of an employed medical dosimetrist is **42** years old.
- The most common ethnicity of medical dosimetrists is White followed by Hispanic or Latino, Unknown, Asian and Black or African American.
- A small percent of all medical dosimetrists now identifies as LGBT.
- Salaries have increased for medical dosimetrists in the last 5 years.
- Projected job growth for medical dosimetrists is around 9% from 2018-2028.



*Source references: AAMD 2021 Salary Survey, MDCB.org, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Zippia.com*

The Task Group has created a position statement, a living document that details our shared focus. This document is not public facing but will be made available to AAMD and MDCB members in the near future.

***Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the diversity profiles of our Medical Dosimetry workforce?*** The Task Group is open to having additional volunteers to assist with various projects we are working on. If you would like to be involved, please send an email to [aamd@medicaldosimetry.org](mailto:aamd@medicaldosimetry.org).

**WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT!**

## Student and Educator Happenings

By Michelle Mundis, CMD  
Formal Education Committee Incoming Co-Chair



As we've entered a new calendar year and many of us are hard at work wrapping up our academic year, the Formal Education Committee (FEC) has been hard at work planning several events for both students and educators.

The **Student Writing Competition** is still open and continuing to accept abstracts and manuscripts until April 12,

2023. [Guidelines and submission details can be found here](#). Papers pertaining to treatment planning, localization and positioning can be entered, with the top three winners receiving monetary prizes! Winners will be announced at the [AAMD 48th Annual Meeting](#) in New Orleans.

On May 24, 2023, students will be able to attend the annual Virtual Student Gathering from 1 – 4 PM CST. The gathering will feature a message from the President of Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company, which is the 2023 Medical Dosimetry Student Sponsor. Other speakers will include a member of the AAMD Board of Directors, an MDCB representative, as well as speakers sharing their strategies for interviewing and studying for the board exam. The Quiz Bowl will again be offered to students with the top competitors winning prizes. Look for an email from AAMD to begin your registration for the Student Gathering.

We'd further like to thank Varian for offering the first Varian Student webinar, replacing our traditionally offered Spring Virtual Student Forum. This webinar will be the first of five training sessions being offered by Varian on various topics. The first will be a live session on April 27 at 7 PM EDT with a topic of Imaging in Radiotherapy. It will be available after the fact as a recorded session on the student section of the AAMD website.

For educators, the Educators' Workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 1:15 – 5 PM CDT during the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Kristen Vu, director of the medical dosimetry program at Grand Valley State University, will be presenting "Incorporating Treatment Planning Software into Dosimetry Courses" for 0.5 CE credit. Dr. Mahsa Dehghanpour, professor and program director, and Dr. Jamie Baker, associate professor and associate program director, both of the medical dosimetry program at the University of Texas MD Anderson, will present their 1.0 CE-credit talk, titled "Medical Dosimetry Virtual Clinical Education: Mentor's Perspectives."

Additionally during the Annual Meeting, the FEC is working to potentially offer an evening VERT demonstration, with the opportunity to collaborate and talk with radiotherapy instructors. Stay tuned for more information.

# Can Your Clinic Help Educate Future Dosimetrists?

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



Clinical education of medical dosimetry students is competency-based, and there is currently an urgent need for clinical placement opportunities for these students. After sufficient practice, these students are required to demonstrate competence by independently creating plans for a variety of anatomical sites and this must be completed in an affiliated

clinical setting. The following are some considerations when affiliating with a medical dosimetry educational program.

## Required Techniques

- The clinical site must be able to provide a sufficient variety and volume of procedures for competency achievement. At a minimum, the site should be able to train the students using the following techniques:
  - 3DCRT with wedges or field-in-field
  - VMAT/IMRT
  - SBRT
  - Simultaneous integrated boost (SIB)
- For additional information, please refer to [www.medicaldosimetry.org/resources/educator-resources](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org/resources/educator-resources)

## Recommended Techniques

Clinical sites that are able to offer any of the following techniques are highly desirable:

- SRS
- Brachytherapy (HDR/LDR)
- IORT
- TBI/TSET
- Proton therapy

However, if these procedures are not available at a particular site, some programs do rotate through students through multiple centers so they can get access to a variety of procedures.

The AAMD Formal Education Committee is asking medical dosimetrists to discuss with their clinical leaders potential affiliation with medical dosimetry education programs. Please contact Mellonie Brown-Zacarias at [mellonie9@aol.com](mailto:mellonie9@aol.com) to discuss how your clinic can help with this critical issue.

## Treatment Planning in Proton Therapy: A Call for Papers for the *Medical Dosimetry* Journal



The AAMD journal, *Medical Dosimetry*, is seeking submissions for a special issue focused on treatment planning in proton therapy.

### Guest Editors:

Stacey Schmidt, BS, CMD, RT(T)  
Jennifer Dorand, PhD, DABR

In 1946, the idea of using protons in cancer treatment was first introduced by physicist Robert R. Wilson, PhD. The first hospital-based facility began treating patients in 1990 at Loma Linda University Cancer Center in the United States. There are currently 41 operating proton centers in the United States and 106 total in operation worldwide. Proton therapy began with the use of aperture and compensator-based planning, but methods have evolved to the

majority of centers using Pencil Beam Scanning (PBS) and Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT). The variety of treatment sites has also continued to evolve as the delivery and planning optimization technology has improved. A majority of cancer diagnoses can be treated with proton therapy, with significant dosimetric differences. Current protocols are focusing on quantifying the clinical indications where these dosimetric differences may be beneficial for patients.

The focus of this special issue of *Medical Dosimetry* is to gather high quality treatment planning techniques with proton therapy and learn any “tips and tricks” or nuances from our proton colleagues.

[Click here for complete submission details.](#)

**The deadline for submission is August 3, 2023.**



## Learn about Treatment Planning Resources at the Spring International Meet-Up: Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 AM EDT

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

The International Outreach Committee (IOC) is excited to host a virtual Spring Meet-Up for all international treatment planners! The goal of the IOC is to increase collaboration among treatment planners around the world. During the Spring Meet-Up, we will highlight existing tools/resources available to our international colleagues to enhance their treatment planning skills.

This free learning event will focus on two existing resources available to international colleagues: **The Varian Global Standards and Practices in Radiation Therapy Program and the ProKnow Systems Contouring Accuracy Program and Plan Study software from Elekta.** The first part of the event will

feature an overview from Kelly Burk, MEd, CMD, RT(R)(T), who is the Clinical Director of Varian's 12-week educational program that teaches advanced level radiotherapy skills to therapy radiographers in low to middle-income countries. The second half will consist of a practical application demo of Elekta's free, cloud-based ProKnow Systems software by Rick Scherer, CMD, RT(R)(T), ProKnow Clinical Application Specialist. He will demo the free Contouring Accuracy Program and also Plan Study software that anyone can use in any part of the world. There will be time at the end for a Question & Answer period.

[Register now](#) for this free learning event!

## Special Thanks to Our 2022/2023 Sponsors

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## Course Catalog

To add courses to your library, browse or search the [Course Catalog](#) to find a course, then click "Add to My Courses."

To view your CE allowances, [Click Here](#).

As of 2/22, ARRT members can earn CE Credits for Directed Journal Readings to be based on the word count for each article. The number of CE Credits earned will be based on the number of ARRT Credits earned for each article.

Since March 2022, ARRT members can earn CE Credits for MDCB Credits. The number of CE Credits earned will be based on the 2.5 MDCB Credits earned for each article.

ARRT Credits will only be transferred to AAMD members. Non-members need to self-submit.

## Spring into Action: Earn Fresh CE Credits in 2023!

By Sandra John-Baptiste, CMD, and Linnae Campbell, CMD  
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs

The AAMD is excited to announce new additions to the [Course Catalog](#) in the CE Center. In March, the CE Center released "An Overview of Gynecologic Brachytherapy" by Carolina Fasola, MD, MPH. This course is an excellent opportunity for medical dosimetrists to learn about the latest techniques and practices in gynecologic brachytherapy. In April, keep an eye out for a recorded presentation on "Breast Boost Planning" by Antoinette Connor, CMD, and Jessica Stanulus, CMD. This course will cover the latest advances in breast boost planning and will be a valuable addition to any medical dosimetrist's professional development.

In addition to these courses, there are plenty of opportunities to earn additional CE credits outside the CE Center. For example, if you register for the 2023 [Proton Planning Symposium](#), you can earn up to 7 MDCB and ARRT (Category A) CE Credits. All recorded sessions are available until March 31, and you can register up to March 28, so there is still time to earn those credits.

Looking ahead, the [AAMD 48th Annual Meeting](#) will be held in New Orleans from June 4 - 8, 2023. This conference is an excellent opportunity to earn over

30 MDCB, ARRT, and MPCEC CE credits. The AAMD is committed to providing its members with the latest education and professional development opportunities, and the Annual Meeting is a great example of this commitment.

If you are certified in RT, CT, or MR, don't forget to share your ARRT information with AAMD. If you are a current AAMD Member, your CE credits will be automatically transferred to ARRT for those AAMD members who have provided their ARRT ID Number and Date of Birth in their AAMD profile. To verify that AAMD has your ARRT number, log-in to the AAMD CE Center. It will appear in the top right-hand corner if AAMD has it on file.

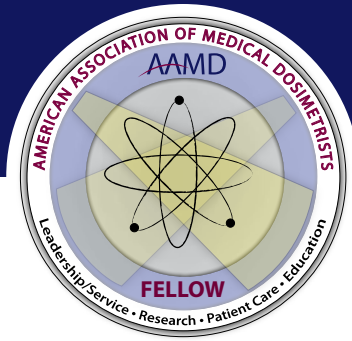
The [AAMD CE Center](#) provides medical dosimetrists with valuable opportunities to earn CE credits and expand their knowledge and skills in the field. With new courses being added to the catalog and exciting events on the horizon, there has never been a better time to be a member of the AAMD.

## Free Job Seeker Account in the AAMD Career Center

Your skills are in demand! Whether you are actively seeking a new job or curious as to what is available in the market, use your free Job Seeker account that comes with your AAMD membership. [Career Center](#) highlights:

- **Uploaded Resumes Are Anonymous:** Employers cannot see your name. They can only view your skills and job history. If they want to discuss opportunities with you, they must first send you an electronic "Contact Request." Unlike other sites, the AAMD Career Center was designed to keep your privacy.
- **Real Jobs and Real Employers:** The AAMD Career Center is the primary resource for medical dosimetry jobs. There over 1,100 employers registered in the AAMD Career Center.
- **Storage for Future:** Upload your resume in the AAMD Career Center for free. It's a safe, secure location.





## Update on the AAMD Fellows Mentoring Program

By Paula Berner, BS, CMD, FAAMD

In the fall of 2021, the AAMD Fellows Advisory Group introduced the [Fellows Mentoring Program](#) to assist AAMD members work on gaining points needed to make a successful application for AAMD Fellow.

In the spring of 2022, the [AAMD Education & Research Foundation](#) announced a grant to assist AAMD members who were participating the AAMD Fellows Mentoring Program by providing funds to assist them with expenses incurred while working on tasks needed for applying for AAMD Fellow.

I asked our most recent AAMD Fellows Mentoring Program participants why they decided to become involved in the program.

### **From Kimberley Marter, CMD:**

- For me as a seasoned dosimetrist, I feel the accolade of becoming a Fellow is the pinnacle of a dosimetrist. As you reflect on your duties over the years, one examines how they made a difference in the field. It's much more than just creating treatment plans – it's the educating of student and entry level dosimetrists; it's the sharing of new technologies and tips in national presentation; it's the abstracts and publications in the dosimetry journal that assist others in better ways to accomplish organ sparing; it's the volunteer hours contributed to enhance members and the association as a whole; it's the years of loyal service.
- In my opinion, becoming a Fellow is the ultimate acknowledgement and suggests a recognition of stellar and focused performance in the field of dosimetry. It designates one not necessarily as an expert but a dedicated and knowledgeable member of the AAMD. It is something worth striving for after touching upon the many aspects of dosimetry!

### **From Stacey Schmidt, CMD:**

- To be honest, I had not heard of the Fellows Program until about 3 years ago. When I started digging around to see what it was all about, I realized that I had already inadvertently met many of the requirements! I decided that it seemed senseless to not attempt it when I had already fulfilled the majority of the requirements. Plus, it forced me to try new ways to contribute to the profession, which so far have been beneficial to me by providing personal and professional growth opportunities. Being involved in the Mentoring Program has opened new avenues for me to get to know other medical dosimetry colleagues and contribute to the field outside of the walls of my clinic.

If you have not reviewed the [AAMD Fellows application](#), please do so. You may find, like Stacey Schmidt did, that you have more points than you realize. Second, I challenge you to take the step to become involved in the AAMD Fellows Mentoring program, so that you may one day earn the honorary designation of AAMD Fellow. Being named a Fellow is the highest honor that an individual can achieve in their profession, indicating that you have been acknowledged by your profession for outstanding and meritorious contributions to the AAMD as an organization and to the profession of medical dosimetry by contributing to the knowledge base of the profession.

## AAMD Foundation News

By Theresa Kwiatkowski, CMD  
AAMD Foundation Chair



### Amazon Smile

Many of you have supported the [AAMD Foundation](#) generously in recent years using AmazonSmile. In February, Amazon stopped offering the program.

The key benefit of AmazonSmile was that on a regular cadence, you and I got to donate to the AAMD Foundation.

We are honored that many of you chose to support the AAMD Foundation through the years with your purchases. The end of this program creates a gap that we need to fill.

Can you help us bridge the gap by making a one-time or monthly gift to the Foundation?



### Volunteers Needed

The AAMD Foundation is looking to recruit additional volunteers to help achieve our mission. Volunteers will assist in increasing our social media presence.

Contact [info@aamdfoundation.org](mailto:info@aamdfoundation.org) for more information.





## Certification News

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE  
Executive Director, MDCB

### January 2023 Exam

The results of the January exam are now available at <https://mdcb.org/certification-exam-information/exam-results>. 103 candidates challenged the exam. The pass rate for the exam is 85%.

Congratulations to the successful candidates. The five-year cycle CMD credential cycle will commence on January 1, 2024. The following important steps will assist new CMDs in maintaining the credential:

- **SAVE** [mdcb.learningbuilder.com](https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com) to your web browser favorites.
- **ADD** [info@mdcb.org](mailto:info@mdcb.org) to your email address book to ensure you are receiving all notifications.
- **CALENDAR** your credential renewal date. You can log in and pay your renewal fee annually beginning on October 1.

### September 2023 Exam Dates

Dates for the administration of the 2023 September exam have been posted to the MDCB website: <https://mdcb.org/certification-exam-information/exam-dates-and-fees>.

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 3, 2023.

### Now is a good time to . . .

- Log in to the MDCB LearningBuilder CE Center at <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com> to update your contact information.
- Once logged in, click on the blue “My Account” button on the upper right-hand corner of the web page.
- Update your email address, phone number or mailing address.
- Remember to save each time you update a contact information field.