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Late Winter/Early Spring

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SAILING INTO THE FUTURE OF TREATMENT PLANNING

AAMD 45TH ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 14 - 18, 2020

BALTIMORE, MD

AAMD

45th Annual Meeting Preview – Get Ready to Go Sailing into the Future of Treatment Planning

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

The Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the AAMD Board of Directors are pleased to invite you to the 45th Annual Meeting, June 14 - 18, 2020, with pre-conference workshops June 13, at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD. Please visit the [meeting website](#) for complete details and to register.

As the field of medical dosimetry rapidly evolves, so does the content of the AAMD annual meetings. The 2020 ACC has been working hard to put together an educational program to help dosimetrists advance to the top of their profession and earn over 30 continuing education credits. For decades, the advancements in radiation oncology have paralleled technology's mighty reach. Now, with the advent of artificial intelligence being employed in the treatment planning process, the inevitable question of its effect on the role of the dosimetrist is being evaluated. Where is the future of dosimetry leading? A panel discussion with the MedDos Infinity Task Group will further explore this topic with an opportunity for Q&A afterwards. This year's meeting will quench your curiosity about remote dosimetry, plan automation, and standardization. The 2020 Plan Study will make its mighty return along with the crowd-pleasing interactive Contouring Session open to all attendees. A subject matter expert will lead the session, which will focus on the highly intricate head and neck region. Remember to bring a laptop and mouse if you want to participate in this real-time

contouring activity. In addition, there will be several case studies and safety tips that can be brought back to your clinic. The continuing education (CE) credits are not only applicable to Certified Medical Dosimetrists, but also to Radiation Therapists and Medical Physicists.

A Welcome Reception on Sunday evening, June 14, will be open to all full meeting registrants to network and relax with gourmet food and beverages. This will take place in the exhibit hall, where you will have time to visit with our corporate partners and possibly win some prizes!

The AAMD will continue the tradition of a full day of concurrent sessions on Wednesday, to help increase the range of available topics being presented. There will also be Treatment Planning System (TPS) Workshops from vendors, including Varian, Elekta, Philips and RaySearch, available throughout the conference. This is a great opportunity to learn a different TPS. These are FREE workshops (with a full meeting registration), but space is limited, so register early to guarantee your spot for the TPS of your choice. See the [Agenda page](#) on the AAMD meeting website for more details.

The ACC also invites you to participate in the Pre-Conference workshops on Saturday, which include a Radiation Oncology Documentation and Coding

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Workshop, led by experts from Revenue Cycle Coding Strategies. This is an in-depth, four-hour workshop that will provide tools to help you and your facility better understand the complexity of our ever-changing billing and coding system. Varian will also offer advanced Eclipse training on Saturday.

New this year, is an excellent opportunity to serve our proton community. AAMD and Legion Healthcare Partners will be teaming up to offer an in-depth proton planning workshop. This will be a special Pre-Conference workshop with a separate registration for those who qualify for a comprehensive proton planning certificate program. More details about this opportunity and how to apply will be posted on the AAMD website soon.

Join us in sharpening your skills this summer in Baltimore, as we explore the progressive possibilities available to dosimetrists during this new age of radiation oncology.

Be sure to leave time to see all that Baltimore and the surrounding area have to offer, including the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, Ft. McHenry and much more! See the [Visit Baltimore website](#) for highlights.

We look forward to “Sailing into the Future of Treatment Planning” with you!

President’s Corner



Greetings!

Welcome to 2020, a new year already filled with exciting activities for the AAMD. The Board of Directors is most certainly using their 2020 vision when thinking about the future of the medical dosimetry profession.

The AAMD will be hosting our Spring Regional Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, April 3-4, 2020, and our 45th Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, June 14-18, 2020. Both events provide a great way to learn, earn CE credits and network with dosimetrists from both the United States and around the world. The AAMD continues to be committed to the education of medical dosimetrists and will be offering many excellent presentations at these two meetings. The AAMD is also committed to building future medical dosimetry leaders by starting to offer more leadership webinars and presentations. Enhance your value in the radiation oncology department and elevate our profession by watching these important recorded webinars and attending live presentations at the annual meeting.

Please watch your email and participate in our upcoming Workforce and Salary surveys. As the dosimetry profession continues to change, these surveys will help guide the medical dosimetry and radiation oncology departments into the future. When you complete these surveys, the AAMD will be able to gather real feedback from working dosimetrists that reflects what’s happening in the clinic.

The AAMD is also very excited about our new partnership with RAD-AID. What a great opportunity for AAMD members to share their knowledge and skills to help educate international treatment planners. Please visit the following link to learn more about the program and how you can volunteer to help make a difference. <https://www.rad-aid.org/medicaldosimetry>

Over the past eight months, the AAMD Board and committees have been working hard on all our strategic initiatives. The AAMD would not be able to accomplish these without the dedication of our many volunteers. If you have the time, and want to give back to your profession, please fill out a [volunteer application](#). I guarantee we will find a project for you, and I look forward to working alongside you!

Kind Regards,

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

The MedDos Infinity Task Group Plans Comprehensive Workforce Study this Spring

By Brian Napolitano, CMD
MedDos Infinity Task Group Chair

The AAMD continues to focus on the long-term future of the medical dosimetry profession. The [MedDos Infinity Task Group](#) was formed by the AAMD to systematically address the manner by which the profession looks forward. Comprised of a cross-section of the medical dosimetry profession as well as subject-matter experts within the radiation oncology industry, the task group has started to formulate a roadmap for the continued viability of the medical dosimetrist. This roadmap is comprised of four functional areas of focus: the continued expertise of medical dosimetrists; the role of technology in the profession's evolution; strategies for sustaining and growing the practice of dosimetry; and efforts to advocate for the profession's continued advancement.

To inform the development of this roadmap, the AAMD has commissioned a comprehensive survey of the dosimetry workforce to assess demographic makeup, professional background, supervisory status, employer type, experience level, certification status, education and training, and current salary. The MedDos Infinity Task Group has been working with the AAMD research consultants to finalize the content of the survey. This important survey will be launched in late March.



All AAMD Full CMD Members will receive links to participate in the workforce survey via email. We urge everyone to participate in order to collect data that truly reflects what is happening in today's clinical environment.

Preliminary results of this survey will be presented at the AAMD 45th Annual Meeting in Baltimore. A full report will be available this fall.

Also note that the AAMD will also be conducting our bi-annual Salary Survey starting this May. Watch your email for a link to that survey as well.

The AAMD very much appreciates the work of the MedDos Infinity Task Group volunteers in driving this important examination of the medical dosimetry profession forward. We also appreciate the participation of AAMD Members in these upcoming surveys.



RAD-AID and the AAMD Partner to Create the Global Medical Dosimetry Program

RAD-AID International and the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) recently announced the creation of the [RAD-AID AAMD Global Medical Dosimetry Program](#), a partnership designed to give AAMD members the opportunity to contribute to the health care needs of low-resource regions.

Medical dosimetrists are critical team members to advance radiation oncology in global health. To increase equity and to improve care globally in radiation oncology, RAD-AID and the AAMD are collaborating to offer funded opportunities to support medical dosimetrists interested in volunteering in underserved regions of the world.

Program volunteers will join RAD-AID's project teams in international initiatives designed to improve access to quality radiation therapy for populations in need. RAD-AID International has established radiation oncology partnerships in Kenya, Peru, western China, and Tanzania.



RAD-AID has a sustainable approach that focuses on education, training, and local infrastructure development.

Please consider applying for this opportunity to use your skills as a medical dosimetrist in service to low-resource regions of the world. The experience of working in a multidisciplinary team for radiation oncology around the world can be personally and professionally fulfilling as you learn about other cultures and health care systems and as you use your talents for improving global health. For more information on eligibility, requirements, and the application process, please visit the [RAD-AID AAMD Global Medical Dosimetry Program webpage](#).

The 2020 AAMD Election Starts in March

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

The 2020 Election for AAMD leadership is right around the corner. We are excited for the upcoming year and have some great nominees willing to serve. The positions up for election are President-Elect, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, and Region IV Representative. According to our bylaws, since no nominations were received for the Region III Representative position, the Board will appoint a qualified individual to fill the role. All Full CMD Members will be asked to vote on the position of President-Elect. The Region IV Representative will only be voted on by the members in Region IV. Like last year, we will use a third-party company, Survey and Ballot Systems, to handle the online election process. The election will start in March. Please watch the website and your email for candidate information and voting instructions.



Meet Us in Milwaukee!

AAMD Spring 2020 Regional Meeting

April 3 - 4, 2020

Milwaukee Marriott Downtown, Milwaukee, WI

Registration is OPEN for the AAMD Spring 2020 Regional Meeting. This 2-day event will offer 14 MDCB/ARRT CE credits (anticipated). See the full meeting program on the [AAMD website](#). Topics will include auto-segmentation, veterinary radiotherapy, SBRT, artificial intelligence, adaptive planning and coding updates. Also, you'll have a chance to meet with AAMD corporate partners, including Varian, MIM Software, RaySearch, Revenue Cycle Coding Strategies, Oncology Data Systems and others.

Develop your skills, network with your peers, visit with vendors and explore all that [Milwaukee](#) has to offer! Full meeting registration is \$275 for AAMD Members and \$325 for Non-Members if registered by **March 3, 2020**.

[Register today!](#)

The meeting will be held at the Milwaukee Marriott Downtown. The AAMD room rate is \$159 per night plus tax. [Reserve your room](#) by March 3, 2020. We hope to see you in Milwaukee!





2020 AAMD Student Writing Competition

Attention Student Members:

Don't miss out on the chance to win a cash prize and have the opportunity to become a published author. We encourage all AAMD Student Members to enter the 2020 AAMD Student Writing Competition. Topics for submission can include treatment planning, localization or positioning.

- **First Place:** \$500 and publication in the AAMD journal, *Medical Dosimetry*
- **Second Place:** \$250 and abstract publication in the AAMD journal, *Medical Dosimetry*
- **Third Place:** \$125 and abstract publication in the AAMD journal, *Medical Dosimetry*

Abstract submission deadline: **April 15, 2020**

Final manuscript submission deadline: **May 1, 2020**

[Review the AAMD Writing Competition Abstract Submission Form.](#) Note: This form is only accessible to current AAMD Student Members. For additional details, read the Guidelines for Submission.

If you have any questions, please contact the Student Writing Competition Co-Chairs: Mellonie Brown-Zacarias, mellonieb9@aol.com or Jacky Nyamwanda, jnyamwanda@suffolk.edu.

The winners will be announced at the 45th Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

2020 Educators' Workshop and Student Gathering Events at the 45th Annual Meeting

by Jacky Nyamwanda, CMD, and Jamie Baker, CMD

The AAMD 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 Educators' Workshop by contacting the FEC Co-Chairs via email (jabaker@mdanderson.org or jnyamwanda@suffolk.edu).

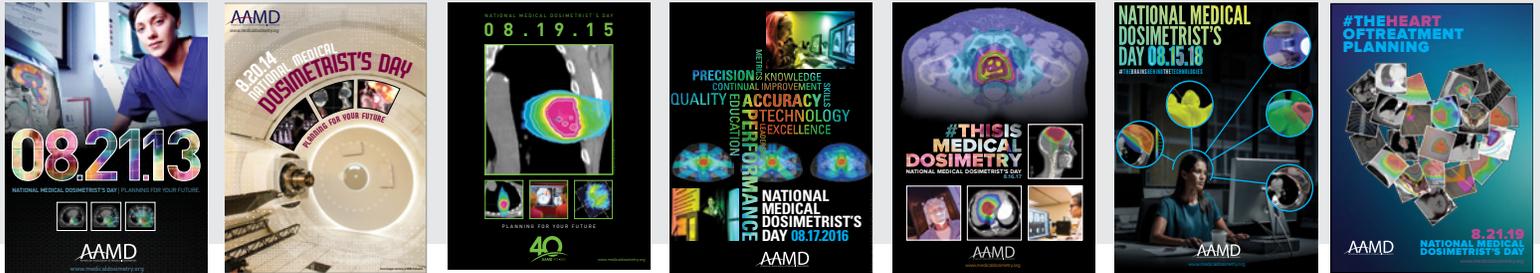
National Medical Dosimetrist's Day Poster Contest – Win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

By Kalin Shipman, CMD
Communications Committee Co-Chair

Each year in August, the AAMD hosts a day of celebration for medical dosimetrists all around the world, [National Medical Dosimetrist's Day](#). This year's official day is August 19, 2020. The AAMD Communications Committee invites Members to design the concept of the poster to creatively celebrate and convey the mission and passion for the medical dosimetry profession. Last year's theme, "The Heart of Treatment Planning," was submitted by 2 members, who surprisingly had the same concept. Thanks to Jill Brislin, CMD, and Amanda Murray, CMD, for their submission last year, [#theheartoftreatmentplanning](#).

[The new submission form](#) is available online and can be emailed to Whitney O'Donnell at wodonnell@medicaldosimetry.org. Submission details should include a theme, sketch, supplemental graphics, and social media hashtag. If your poster concept is selected, you will earn a \$100 Amazon gift card. The submission deadline is **February 28**.

We look forward to having another creative poster concept this year!



Need CE Credits? Log into the CE Center!

By Jessica Stanulus, CMD, and Sandra John-Baptiste, CMD, Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs, and Cornelia Galloway, Director of Education

Did you know that your AAMD membership provides you with a variety of opportunities to earn 12 CE credits? You can also earn up to 25 total CE credits if you choose Member Plus membership. The online [Course Library](#) offers options such as Directed Journal Readings, Recorded Presentations, Virtual Meetings and Live Webinars. Eight Virtual Meeting recordings from the AAMD 44th Annual Meeting are currently available for earning MDCB credits in the CE Center.

What's new for spring? Take a look at the recorded and virtual meeting presentations that have been recently added or will be soon:

- MR-Linac: The MD Anderson Experience and the Dosimetrist's Role in the Adaptive Workflow (January 2020)
- Casting Leaders: Using Bolman and Deal Frames to Enhance Your Leadership Style (January 2020)
- Failure Mode and Effect Analysis: A Practical Approach for the Clinical Professional (January 2020)
- Daily Huddle - Improving Communication, Coordination & Quality Patient Care in a Department (February 2020)
- Updated Guidance for the Management of Radiotherapy Patients with Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices (February 2020)
- Just Culture in Radiation Oncology (March 2020)
- Nuances of Leadership – Building a Cancer Institute (March 2020)



If you have ideas about content that you would like to see added to the [CE Center](#), send us your feedback. Sharing your ideas and experience can help our dosimetry community grow. We appreciate all comments; the committee will use them to make improvements and additions to the CE Center. To send your content ideas or comments, contact the CE Committee Co-Chairs: Jessica Stanulus at Jessica.Stanulus@hotmail.com or Sandra John-Baptiste at sjohnb@mdanderson.edu

AAMD Members by the Numbers

By Felita James-Christie, CMD, and Adele Philippides, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

For 45 years, the AAMD has been the only organization serving medical dosimetrists and treatment planning professionals around the world. Our members range from students and senior-level Certified Medical Dosimetrists, to educators and vendors/service providers. We are extremely thankful for the support of our Corporate Members, who help make our events and programs possible, and the more than 100 volunteers who serve on various AAMD committees and in leadership positions. Here are some general facts about our members:

- 570 individuals have been AAMD members for 20+ years.
- Approximately 90% of our members are Full CMDs.
- 153 members reside outside the United States, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and more.

In 2019, we had 3,150 active members of the AAMD and look forward to surpassing that number in 2020. Be sure to follow AAMD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for up-to-date news and information.

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WILL GUARANTEE THAT OUR PROUDEST MOMENTS ARE YET TO COME!

Associate Editors Needed for the AAMD Journal

By Cory J. Neill, CMD
Editor-in-Chief, *Medical Dosimetry*

The Journal Editorial Board for the *Medical Dosimetry* journal is seeking two associate editors. Journal Editorial Board members will assess manuscript relevance and make publication recommendations based off independent reviews. Participation is ongoing, and members can expect to spend about one hour each week fulfilling duties. Your name

will appear in each hard copy of the journal and online. This is a great opportunity to be at the helm of steering the medical dosimetry profession. For consideration, complete the Volunteer Application for the Journal Editorial Board on the [AAMD website](#).

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AAMD Leaders Speak on Behalf of Medical Dosimetrists at SROA Meeting

By Tracey Serrentino, CMD, and Mark Littell, CMD
Communications Committee Member and Co-Chair (respectively)

Last fall, Cara Sullivan, AAMD President, and Lee Hales, AAMD Immediate Past President, spoke at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Radiation Oncology Administrators. Their mission was to educate radiation oncology administrators about changes to the medical dosimetry profession and the role of the dosimetrist in the department.

Cara and Lee discussed the changes to dosimetry formal education and routes to board eligibility, as well as how the role of the dosimetrist has changed over time and what that means for individual departments currently. Many in attendance were not from a radiation oncology clinical background and often do not understand both the cost effectiveness and clinical skills that a CMD brings to treatment planning. Listeners were educated on some of the differences between the AAMD and the MDCB, with the AAMD being the primary professional development resource for dosimetrists globally and the only professional organization dedicated to treatment planning, and the MDCB being the exclusive recognized certifying agency for medical dosimetry. They spoke on the importance of the JRCERT and the status of the 18 currently approved JRCERT dosimetry programs in the U.S., as these educational programs provide the only pathways for becoming eligible for the MDCB exam.

The updated AAMD Scope of Practice for a Medical Dosimetrist and the Practice Standards were explained in detail. An emphasis was placed on the role of the dosimetrist in the department, and how the dosimetrist is key in translating the physician's vision for each patient's treatment plan into a deliverable plan for each patient. Cara and Lee further discussed the tasks that dosimetrists do, including simulation, contouring, treatment planning, treatment preparation, and pretreatment/on-treatment support.

They also spoke on the "extra" things that dosimetrists often do, which can include IT support, clinical trial documentation, and record requests from outside clinics. Many administrators are often not aware of the many tasks dosimetrists take on in a clinic.

Administrators see a gray area with dosimetrists as there are no federal or state laws that require dosimetrists to be board certified, while there are laws that require certification or licensure for physicians, physicists, nurses and radiation therapists. Legislation for medical dosimetrist licensure was introduced in the state of Massachusetts in 2015 but stalled in the senate.

Upcoming technological advances will have drastic effects on the field of radiation oncology in general, with the most significant of these being adaptive planning and machine learning. Adaptive planning may change the staffing requirements in radiation oncology facilities and will change the workflow of the department.

It is very important for administrators to understand the role of a dosimetrist in a department, what their job entails, what education and certification must be obtained, and what to expect from a dosimetrist of varying experience. Thank you, Cara and Lee, for being advocates for all dosimetrists through your role with the AAMD and educating the members of the SROA about the field of medical dosimetry.

Career Center Activity on the Rise

The [AAMD Career Center](#) should be at the top of your list if you are seeking a new job or looking to hire a qualified medical dosimetrist. We know the demand for medical dosimetrists is on the rise because our Career Center has gained a lot of momentum recently. We've seen a 46% increase in job postings and acquired more than 40 new employers on our site. We've also had a 131% increase in resume views.

What does this mean? Employers/hiring managers are utilizing the AAMD Career Center as a primary resource to fill their open medical dosimetrist positions. Therefore, if you are looking for a new job or ready for a change, we encourage you to create a Job Seeker account, upload your resume, set up job alerts, and utilize other tools, like InterviewStream (an online mock-interviewing platform). Or if you are an employer with an opening in your clinic or department, visit our Career Center for ways to get your listing in front of our members: Job Flash email, job posting packages, and access to our AAMD resume database.

Explore the possibilities today in our newly re-designed [Career Center](#).



AAMD FOUNDATION

A bridge between those who care, and those who need, in the field of medical dosimetry.

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- Gunilla Bentel Scholarship
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- Travel Grant For AAMD Meeting
- Eclipse Treatment Planning Grant

Deadline : March 15th 2020

To learn more visit www.aamdfoundation.org
email us at scholarship@aamdfoundation.org



MDCB Updates

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

Learning Plan Review Schedule for 2020

To assist CMDs in maintaining their learning plans, in 2020, the MDCB will be reviewing learning plans based on the following schedule:

- **Year 5 of Cycle:** Monthly review for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2020.
- **Year 4 of Cycle:** January, April, July and October for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2021.
- **Year 3 of Cycle:** February, May, August and November for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2022.
- **Year 2 of Cycle:** March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2023.
- **Year 1 of Cycle:** March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2024.

When updating your learning plan, please remember the top five reasons that Learning Plan activities are not approved:

- The documentation is not in an acceptable, unalterable format, i.e. pdf, tiff, bmp, jpg.
- The activity was not completed during the current five-year cycle.
- Your name is not on the documentation.
- The MDCB activity number and activity name is not on the documentation or the activity number does not correspond to the activity number downloaded to your Learning Plan.
- The date the activity was completed is not within the start and end dates indicated. To determine an activity start and end date, in Learning Builder click on the blue box to the left of the activity to determine the approval period.

CMDs are reminded:

- AAMD activities are automatically transferred to learning plans.
- To calendar credential renewal. Credential renewal is available annually from October 1 – January 31. Credential renewal submitted after January 1 is subject to a late fee.
- To whitelist info@mdcb.org
- Save the CE Center, <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com> to your web browser favorites.

September 2020 Exam Dates

Exam: September 17-19, 2020

Late Application Deadline: July 6, 2020 (U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: June 22, 2020

Application Opens: April 17, 2020

Exam Handbook Posted: March 27, 2020

Common Pitfalls of Exam Application:

- Failure to read the exam handbook
- Failure to “Submit Application”
- Improper documentation, i.e. program diplomas not in pdf format, program transcripts are not official in scanned pdf format corresponding to diploma confer date, no name change documentation where appropriate