Join AAMD for “Surfing the Wavelength of Excellence” at the 44th Annual Meeting

By Patty Sponseller, CMD, and Melissa Nolet, CMD
2019 Annual Conference Committee Co-Chairs

On behalf of the 2019 Annual Conference Committee (ACC) and the AAMD Board of Directors, we are delighted to invite you to the AAMD 44th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, June 16-20, with pre-conference workshops starting June 15 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County. Please visit the meeting website for complete details.

The 2019 ACC has put together a diverse educational program to help dosimetrists advance to the top of their profession with the ability to earn over 35 continuing education credits, while also having the opportunity to network with over 500 fellow dosimetrists. Exhibitors will be on hand to showcase their latest radiation oncology products and software. The conference's continuing education credits are not only accepted by MDCB, but also by the ARRT and CAMPEP.

We invite you to our pre-conference workshop on Saturday for Radiation Oncology Documentation and Coding. Led by the experts at Revenue Cycle, this is an in-depth workshop that will provide you with the tools to help you and your facility better understand the ever-changing, complex system of radiation oncology billing and coding.

After a flood of positive reviews, back again this year is the interactive contouring general session presented by Dr. Aaron Kusano and Dr. Matt Ladra. Time will fly by while you challenge your contouring skills against expert physicians. There will be two phases to their presentation; the first phase will launch before the conference (in early June) and will utilize ProKnow's cloud-based learning technologies to contour on critical OARs with immediate scoring results for the participants. This collected data will be presented at the meeting. An email with more detailed instructions was sent out June 3. The second phase of this presentation will be on site at the Annual Meeting, where there will be an opportunity for all attendees who bring their laptops to contour “live” on OARs. The results of the data be will be immediately processed and studied in real-time. You don’t want to miss this wonderfully designed presentation that is built to maximize learning at no expense to fun.

On Sunday, after the first full day of educational sessions, join us in the Exhibit Hall for the Welcome Reception for an opportunity to meet the exhibitors and network with other dosimetrists. Of course, we will have great food, as well as the opportunity to win prizes!

Wednesday will be a full day of concurrent sessions, so you will have more options to tailor your schedule to your preferred presentations. Also, Deformable Image Registration and Treatment Planning System (TPS) Workshops will be held Monday through Wednesday hosted by a variety of vendors. This is a great opportunity to learn tips and tricks from the experts as well as learning another TPS. These are FREE workshops (with full meeting registration), but space is limited! So register early to guarantee your spot for the workshop of your choice. See the agenda page on the AAMD meeting website for more details.

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Outside of the meeting, experience the magic of Disneyland. The hotel conveniently offers frequent shuttle service to Disneyland and Downtown Disney. Or unwind with a stroll on California’s beautiful Huntington Beach, which is just a short drive from the hotel. Also, the Hyatt Regency has a fitness center, pool and restaurants on site to help you fully enjoy your time away from the office.

We proudly invite you to attend the 44th AAMD Annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Orange County and look forward to seeing you “Surfing the Wavelength of Excellence.”

Make Connections with #AAMD2019

By Erin Murdoch, CMD
Communications Committee Member

The AAMD 44th Annual Meeting is quickly approaching! As you prepare to head to Anaheim to “surf the wavelength of excellence,” remember the important role social media can play in professional networking. The meeting flies by, but you can utilize social media to connect with dosimetrists both during and afterwards. The hashtag #AAMD2019 is already active across social media platforms, and you can search the hashtag #AAMD2018 to view posts from last year’s event!

To make sure you don’t miss any important information leading up to the event, follow the official AAMD Twitter account at @med_dosimetry. To make the most of your experience during the meeting, stay active on Twitter to interact with other dosimetrists and see posts about speakers, exhibitors and events. It’s also a great resource all year round!

The official AAMD Facebook page is another great way to stay up to date on all things #AAMD2019. Plus, with 2,000+ members, the group remains active year-round as a platform to ask questions, create polls, share tips and tricks, view job postings, and promote discussion and collaboration between radiation oncology professionals. You can also join the discussion on LinkedIn by creating a connection with the AAMD group, which will also keep you updated on the Anaheim meeting. For those who use Snapchat, be sure to use the official AAMD 2019 filter, which was created just for the Anaheim meeting and will be available all week at the Meeting.

The official AAMD2019 meeting app will be your best bet for finding all the information you’ll need in one convenient place. Plus, public posts made across all social media platforms with the hashtag #AAMD2019 will automatically be pulled into a feed on the app. The meeting app is now available for download by meeting registrants.

The AAMD Communications Committee is excited to see you in Anaheim and on social media using #AAMD2019!
Dear Members,

With summer fast approaching, I look forward to another sign of summer: the upcoming AAMD 44th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. We’re looking forward to yet another fantastic program of presentations, vendor workshops and exhibits, and opportunities to interact in person with your medical dosimetry colleagues from across the country and beyond! Please consider joining us in sunny California.

The AAMD has been working hard on developing updated Scope of Practice and Practice Standards documents. Both are in their final stages of editing and approvals, and we look forward to releasing both of these important and frequently requested documents this summer, starting with an educational presentation at the Annual Meeting.

We’re also excited about the upcoming formation of the MedDos Infinity Task Group. You may recall seeing a request for applications for this group, and we received many from a wide variety of well qualified applicants. We will be announcing the selected members of this group soon, and we look forward to this group getting started on their mandate to proactively look at future trends and concerns to our profession. Brian Napolitano, AAMD Treasurer, is leading this effort, and we eagerly anticipate the results.

As this will be my final presidential update, I want to take this opportunity to thank:

- The AAMD Board of Directors for always taking the time to evaluate the myriad of issues facing the AAMD with much lively discussion and insight
- Our wonderful HQ staff for not only taking care of our members’ needs but for keeping me informed and pointed in the right direction
- All of our volunteers – committee and task group co-chairs and members
- And last but not least – all of our volunteers who help with our Annual and Regional Meetings – the Annual Conference Committee and all of the on-site volunteers who scan attendees, man information desks, and take care of the hundreds of little behind-the-scenes details to make the meeting run smoothly for all in attendance

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Hales, BSc, CMD
AAMD President

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Students and Educators to Gather at the Annual Meeting

By Mahsa Dehghanpour, EdD, CMD, and Jamie Baker, PhD, CMD

A friendly reminder from the Formal Education Committee (FEC) about the upcoming Student Gathering and Educators’ Workshop during the 44th Annual AAMD Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

Medical dosimetry students are welcome to participate in the annual Student Gathering, which will commence on Monday morning, June 17. Students will hear from a representative from the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) and have an opportunity to ask questions. Medical dosimetrists and an HR professional will also share their tips for board preparation, interviewing strategies and resume construction with students. Medical dosimetry students can earn bragging rights by competing in the lively Student Bowl, and finally, students can sign up for mentoring opportunities with practicing dosimetrists for resume review and insight into the job search process.

Medical dosimetry educators are encouraged to attend the Educators’ Workshop the afternoon of Tuesday, June 18 to hear updates from JRCERT, MDCB and AAMD. There will be opportunities to obtain continuing education credits as well as an open forum to discuss matters related to medical dosimetry education.
Thank you to all of the 2019 AAMD Election candidates and all of the Full CMD Members who voted in this year’s election. Congratulations to the new leaders who will be serving the AAMD starting August 1.

**President-Elect:**
Lori Kasuske, CMD

**Regional Director:**
Kristi Smith, CMD

**Member-at-Large:**
Mark Littell, CMD

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

**Region II Representative:**
Gail VanDerbeck, CMD

**Member-at-Large Appointee:**
Ryan Moroose, CMD

Due to Lori Kasuske being elected as President-elect, there is one year remaining on her current Member-at-Large position. In order to appoint someone to that one-year term, the AAMD Board of Directors interviewed the other Member-at-Large candidates who ran for office this year and were interested in that appointment. Following the interviews, the Board selected Ryan Moroose for that one-year term.

Interested in a leadership position with AAMD? Nominations will be accepted during the 44th Annual Meeting and later this fall for these positions, which will be open for the 2020 Election:

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

See the AAMD website for more information.

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**Looking for New CE Activities?**

By Jessica Stanulus, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chair

Take a look at the [CE Center](https://www.aamd.org) on the AAMD website. The library is expanding with CE options as we are continuously adding new activities. Radiation Therapy in Veterinary Medicine was recently added as a recorded webinar. Take advantage of the 12 CE credits included with your membership dues. If that is not enough, upgrade to Member Plus and receive access to 25 CE credits annually. If you have a topic you would like to hear about or know someone who would like to present, please let the CE Committee Co-Chairs know. Lee Culp: LeeCulp@hotmail.com or Jessica Stanulus: Jessica_Stanulus@hotmail.com
# Celebrating 30+ Years with AAMD

AAMD values the long-term support and dedication of its members. A special thank you to those celebrating 30+ years of membership this year!

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Meet Cara Sullivan, AAMD President-Elect

By Adam Brown, CMD
Nominations and Volunteer Committee Co-Chair

Do you know Cara Sullivan, the AAMD President-Elect? I recently interviewed her so we could all get to know her better. Cara works in Charlotte, NC as a medical dosimetrist for Landauer Medical Physics. Cara got her interest in medical dosimetry while she was in a radiologic technology school. She was offered the option of shadowing in a radiation therapy department, and she got very interested in the field due to her family history of cancer.

During her training in radiation therapy school, Cara was required to do a dosimetry rotation for an entire semester. That rotation was her favorite part of the entire program, and she was hooked. There was no doubt in her mind that she was going to be a dosimetrist. Cara worked for five years as a radiation therapist and then trained on the job as a dosimetrist.

I asked Cara what she was most passionate about in the medical dosimetry field and she said that was hard for her to pick just one thing. She’s proud to be a dosimetrist and is able to say she’s worked alongside some of the most talented dosimetrists. She has seen the field change a lot in the past 25 years. She thinks that dosimetrists have an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the life of a cancer patient. She is passionate about making sure our profession is seen as very essential within the Radiation Oncology department. If she had to choose what drives her passion, it would be that she really wants to give every patient a chance to be cured.

Cara likes to run, read and spend time with her family, which includes her four-legged children (two cats and a dog). Her favorite weather is the warm sunshine and is happy that she moved south, especially in the winter.

I thought it would be fun to know if she could only eat three things for the next year, what would they be? She answered: banana pudding, pasta and chicken. She wanted everyone to note that she put the dessert first.

I wanted to know what plans Cara likes to plan the most, and she said that she enjoys a good challenge. As a dosimetrist, if we always had easy plans, then a lot of us would be very bored dosimetrists. Her favorite would be Head and Neck IMRT. She says chest wall patients with entire nodal chain irradiation and bolus would be her least favorite plans, solely based on how time consuming they are.

I asked Cara what improvements she would like to see in medical dosimetry or the AAMD. She thinks the AAMD does a great job keeping up with all the changes in the field, and providing its’ members with the tools we need to keep up with those changes. Cara is most concerned about the decline in individuals entering the field for medical dosimetry. She states that we are a very small community and thinks it is essential that current working dosimetrists need to promote and elevate our profession so others see it as great career.

When I asked Cara what passion she brings to the board and what quality makes her represent AAMD members well, this is what she had to say: “I think that my fellow Board members can attest to my organizational skills and drive. I am pretty sure I drive them crazy with my emails and ideas! If only I could see their eye rolls over the phone! Dosimetrists tend to have the smallest voice in the oncology department. I do believe that dosimetrists try to have a larger impact in decisions, however we are small in numbers and the hospital administrators have a hard time understanding how essential we are to the patient flow. It is imperative that we keep our sister organizations educated and engaged with our profession and the changes in our field. I continue to be a strong advocate for our seat at the oncology table.”

We are grateful for the work Cara does with the AAMD. If you plan on going to the AAMD Annual Meeting, please introduce yourself to Cara and share your ideas for advancing the profession.

The Membership Committee Wants to Hear from You!

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

New Member Reception
The AAMD will be hosting an invitation-only reception on Monday, June 17, 2019 at the 44th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA to welcome all its new members to the organization. The event will take place in an outdoor setting, on-site from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. It’s an excellent opportunity for new members to network, ask questions, and connect with AAMD staff, Board Members, volunteers and other special guests. We encourage new AAMD members to join us and take advantage of this opportunity to learn a little more about our organization. If you recently joined AAMD, please be on the lookout for your invitation and we hope to see you there!

Member Surveys
As a member-focused organization, we love to hear what our members need to help them succeed in the medical dosimetry field. It is our goal to provide top-notch membership benefits and specialized content to our members, in hopes that our members will continue to renew their memberships and remain dedicated to AAMD. We have recently developed a survey for non-renewing members to help us better understand why they let their membership lapse. We will carefully review their feedback in hopes to identify key areas of improvement.

We are also working on a Member Loyalty Survey that will be sent to our renewing members to hear what you would like to see more of and to obtain new ideas for membership resources. We hope to launch this by the fall.
Turn Your Creative Ideas into an Official AAMD Poster for National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day

By Mark Littell, CMD
Communications Committee Co-Chair

Each year in August, the AAMD hosts a day of celebration for medical dosimetrists all around the world with National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day. This year’s official day is August 21. Starting in 2018, the AAMD has encouraged its members to design the concept of the Annual Poster to creatively celebrate and convey the mission and passion for our profession. The submission form is available on the National Medical Dosimetrist’s Day web page so that you can draft and create an idea or theme for the 2019 poster. Submissions are encouraged to provide details for the theme, a sketch, supplemental graphics, and a hashtag to be used with the event this August.

If your poster concept is selected, you will earn a $100 Amazon Gift Card. Submissions will be accepted through July 5 at wodonnell@medicaldosimetry.org and will also be accepted in person at the AAMD booth at the Annual Meeting in Anaheim. We look forward to having another member contribute a great poster concept this year!
New this year - Pelvic Irradiation Symposium, on Friday, September 6, 2019

Irradiating the pelvis comes with a unique set of challenges—for both the patient and radiation therapy team. How do you maximize comfort, limit side effects and ensure the best possible outcome for patients receiving radiation to this area of the body? During our 2019 Radiation Oncology Conference symposium, you will discover new ways to help your patients tolerate treatment to the pelvis with maximum comfort and quality of life for the best possible outcome.

This activity is approved for 14.5 MDCB CE credits (also valid for ARRT Category A credits).

See the complete agenda and register online!
Early Bird Registration ends August 23.

See You in Niagara Falls!

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and its Department of Radiation Medicine and the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD), look forward to welcoming you to Niagara Falls, New York as we host the 19th annual ROC Niagara.

Each year, hundreds of our radiation therapy and dosimetry colleagues from around the United States and Canada attend this conference to learn about creative solutions and resources to address the clinical and administrative issues you face and introduce you to innovative breakthroughs in cancer treatment.

You and your colleagues will learn from experts in radiation oncology about:

• Increasingly complex and changing treatments
• The latest research
• Treatment planning
• Quality assurance
• Patient safety
• Clinical and administrative support issues

Special Thanks to Our 2018/2019 Sponsors
The AAMD Board of Directors, Headquarters Staff and the Regional Representatives would like to thank all of the attendees who came to the AAMD Spring 2019 Regional Meeting held in Charlotte, NC April 5-6, 2019. It was a huge success with record-breaking registration and attendance. All presentations PDFs are available on the AAMD Website. MDCB credits are posted in the AAMD CE Center.

Thank you to everyone who completed the post-meeting survey. It is your feedback that helps improve our meetings every year. We strive to bring our members a meeting that is well balanced with variety of topics and engaging speakers. Based on the excellent reviews we received, I think it is safe to say we were successful! Here are some of the comments we received:

“This was a great meeting. Impressive attendance!”

“All the volunteers that made the meeting possible were fabulous, helpful and friendly.”

“Good mix of topics and meeting flow.”

Meeting Highlights:

• 105 registrants (includes attendees, speakers and exhibitors) - largest AAMD regional meeting ever
• 14 educational sessions provided by excellent speakers
• 9 exhibitors
• Friday night Networking Event
• Fantastic location

As the Chair of the 2019 Spring Regional Meeting, I would like to thank our regional committee members who volunteered their time and efforts in order to help make the regional meeting a success! I would also like to thank the AAMD Headquarters Staff for all the guidance and help they provided these last couple of months. Lastly, AAMD would like to thank our sponsor, Varian, and our exhibitors: CDR Systems, Elekta, LAP Laser, MIM Software, Oncology Data Systems/MuCheck, Qfix, RaySearch, and Revenue Cycle for supporting our meeting and the medical dosimetry community.

Be on the lookout for the Spring 2020 Regional meeting dates and location. We hope to see you there!
MDCB at the AAMD 44th Annual Meeting and Other Updates
By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

Visit the MDCB Booth in the Exhibit Hall – The MDCB will be participating in the exhibit hall from Sunday, June 16 through Tuesday, June 18. Come visit the MDCB. Have your questions answered. Participate in the MDCB Prize Drawing.

Student Gathering – Students are encouraged to attend the gathering on Monday, June 17 to learn about the MDCB exam and the application process, maintenance of certification support and speak one-on-one with members of the MDCB Board.

Educators’ Workshop – The MDCB will be participating at the workshop on Tuesday, June 18 and will be providing updates regarding the MDCB exam and soliciting feedback from the JRCERT Medical Dosimetry Program Directors.

Maintenance of Certification Update
CMDs are reminded that MDCB accepts “Personal Credit Requests” for Academic College Coursework. Five (5) continuing education (CE) credits will be awarded per academic course for courses relevant to the practice of medical dosimetry for which a passing grade in a pass/fail system or a grade of C or better is earned.

Documentation required is:
• an official transcript
• course catalog description.

Other personal credit requests that are approved for continuing education credits are journal authoring, editing or reviewing and speaker presentations. For more details regarding CE eligible activities click here.