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Fall 2023

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Best of the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting

LIVE SESSIONS: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



THE BIG EASY

OF TREATMENT PLANNING

AAMD Virtual Symposium: Best of the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting

By Madison Fletcher-Mason, CMD
Regional Director

Join AAMD for the next virtual event on September 15, 2023, at 12 pm EDT. The Best of the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting Symposium features favorite sessions offered at the in-person Annual Meeting held in New Orleans this past June. This virtual opportunity offers 10.5 CE credits (MDCB and ARRT pending approval). The symposium format includes four live sessions on September 15 and access to seven additional pre-recorded

sessions. If you miss the live sessions, you can view the recordings on-demand until October 16th. AAMD would like to acknowledge our sponsors: [Varian](#), [Sun Nuclear](#), [Beekley Medical](#) and [RaySearch](#). Because of their support, the AAMD continues to provide outstanding continuing education to treatment planning professionals around the world. [See the complete agenda and register today!](#) Note that registration will remain open through October 10.

You're Invited to Our Next Member Meet-up

By Madison Fletcher-Mason, CMD
Regional Director

AAMD would like to invite all AAMD members from all the regions to join the Region Representatives for our next Virtual Member Meet-up, on October 12 at 1 pm EDT. Member Meet-ups are part of a series of members-only events discussing your daily planning challenges, sharing best practices and meeting other AAMD members. Jump on Zoom to exchange ideas with your medical dosimetry colleagues during this FREE AAMD Member Meet-up. The event will be hosted by Region III Representative Brent Buchanan and Region VI Representative Sarah McKee, along with Regional Director Madison Fletcher-Mason. Participants will be given the opportunity to submit various topics to be discussed in an open forum. Feel free to ask questions and hear from other dosimetrists. Be on the lookout for an email regarding this event or visit the [Member Meet-Ups](#) page on the AAMD website for details.



President's Corner



Hello Fellow Dosimetrists,

My name is Kristi Smith and I have the privilege of serving as the President of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists for this next year. What an exciting time of the year for the AAMD! I hope each of you had a wonderful and happy National Medical Dosimetrist's Day! We recognize the dedication of our colleagues worldwide as #MedDosKnowsNoBorders. On behalf of myself and the rest of the Board of

Directors, we want to say, "Thank You" and tell each of you how much we appreciate your hard work and continued efforts in the fight against cancer. I hope you were able to enjoy the free webinars that our awesome corporate partners helped provide for us.

We were able to have an amazing Annual Meeting in New Orleans! We would like to celebrate the many volunteers and the remarkable success of the conference. With over 535 total registrations, including attendees, presenters and a wide variety of corporate partners, the quality and professionalism was unmatched, and it was so good to see colleagues in such a great city! While many were able to attend in New Orleans, there were many requests for a virtual component. So, if you were unable to attend the in-person meeting in New Orleans, you will now have a chance to experience the sessions that were highly rated by your colleagues. The AAMD will hold a Fall Virtual Symposium titled, "[Best of the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting](#)," which will feature some of the highly-rated sessions from New Orleans and offer 10.5 CE credits. The live sessions (which will also be recorded) will be held on September 15. The recorded sessions will be available until October 16. Registration is now open!

It is never too early to consider presenting at next year's Annual Meeting in St. Louis, so please think about sharing your knowledge with your peers at that event. The [Call for Abstracts](#) is open! The meeting will be held at the famous Union Station hotel. This is a magnificent place, so start making plans to attend!

One of the important happenings at the Annual Meeting each year is the opening of the [Call for Nominations](#) for elected leadership positions with the AAMD. I can tell you from personal experience that serving in one of these positions is extremely rewarding, both professionally and personally. Please take a second to check out the open positions on our website and remember nominations are open until the end of the year. If an elected position is not the right fit for you, there are multiple other volunteer opportunities on AAMD committees, so just fill out a [volunteer application](#) on our website to get started!

This is an exciting time for our profession, filled with both opportunity and challenge. In the past year since our last celebration, the AAMD has been hard at work on several considerations facing the field right now. The results of the latest AAMD Workforce Study brought to light a major issue. That issue is staffing demands. A huge shortage of dosimetrists is looming in the not-so-distant future. Supporting our formal education programs is a vital piece of continuing the advancement of our profession. The Board of Directors has been diligently working to serve as an advocate for our formal education programs and announced at the Annual Meeting that every formal education program would be eligible to receive a grant from the AAMD to support their programs. Our formally educated students are the lifeblood of our profession, and we need to help give them the clinical insights to succeed in their careers. We highly encourage you to consider the ability to support a student in your institution. If you would like to discuss further opportunities to become involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to the AAMD directly at aamd@medicaldosimetry.org. We are also working with our corporate partners to assist the AAMD in these important endeavors.

The AAMD Board of Directors appreciates the ability to represent the needs of our profession. Your trust in us is a considerable responsibility, so we will continue to advocate for our profession. I am honored to be given an opportunity to be your President and I look forward to a wonderful and exciting year!

Respectfully,

Kristi Smith, BS, CMD, RT(R)(T)
AAMD President

Meet Your Newly Elected AAMD Leaders

Thank you to all those involved in the AAMD 2023 Election this past Spring. We are very pleased with the voting turnout, and hopefully you are too! Congratulations to this year's election winners. The following individuals officially began serving in their terms on August 1, 2023:



President-Elect:
Mark Littell, CMD



Region IV Representative:
Catherine Gagne, CMD



Treasurer:
Ryan Moroose, CMD



Regional Director:
Madison Fletcher-Mason, CMD
(Board-appointed to fill vacancy left by Mark Littell's election to President-Elect)



Member-at-Large:
Linnae Campbell, CMD



Region II Representative:
Jennifer Davis, CMD
(Board-appointed to fill vacancy left by Madison Fletcher-Mason's appointment to Regional Director)



Region III Representative:
Brent Buchanan, CMD

These leaders join others continuing their service:

President:
Kristi Smith, CMD

Immediate Past President:
Adam Brown, CMD

Secretary:
Crystal Bull, CMD

Member-at-Large:
Rick Scherer, CMD

Region I Representative:
Zeke Ramirez, CMD

Region V Representative:
James Bell, CMD

Region VI Representative:
Sarah McKee, CMD



Medical Dosimetrists Rocked New Orleans during the 48th Annual Meeting

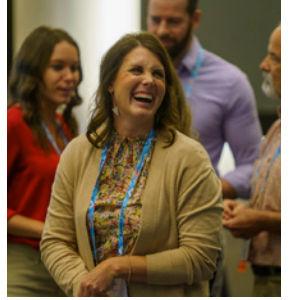
By Joseph Brock, CMD, Past Annual Conference Committee Co-Chair, and Trinh Nguyen, CMD, Senior Annual Conference Committee Co-Chair

The AAMD Board of Directors and the Annual Conference Committee (ACC) would like to thank all of the attendees who joined [the 48th Annual Meeting, "The Big Easy of Treatment Planning", June 4 - 8, 2023](#). An awesome time was had by all at the 48th Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

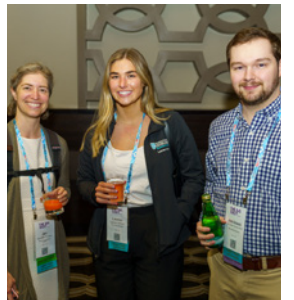
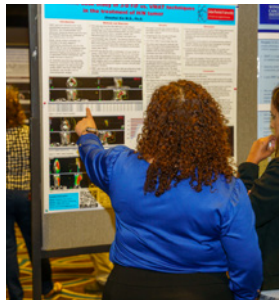
So good seeing familiar faces and those new to the conference. This year we had 535 attendees at the conference with representation from 7 countries. A total of 44 educational sessions were offered, and 9,464 credits posted! The Rock 'n' Bowl was a big hit, and proved once again that while dosimetrists work hard, we sure know how to have fun as well. Thank you to all who completed the post-conference survey. This has already been reviewed by the conference committee and will be instrumental in the development of next year's meeting. A big thank you to all the members of the ACC who dedicated their time to making this conference possible, hard work makes good friends. A heartfelt thank you to the AAMD staff who make it all look so easy, and kept us all on track. You are rock stars!

Lastly thank you to our exhibitors and corporate sponsors – with your support these conferences operate at a world-class level, and serve as a vital resource to our discipline.

With the close of the 48th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the ACC has already gotten the ball rolling for the planning of the 49th Annual Meeting in St. Louis. The ACC had interviewed and invited a new Member-at-Large, a local volunteer, and a student volunteer for the 49th Annual Meeting. The ACC will soon brainstorm and discuss different themes and concepts for St. Louis. The 49th Annual Meeting will be hosted at the [Union Station Hotel](#), which was named one of the best hotels in the world! It's an exciting time for the committee with the [Call for Abstracts](#), which is now open. Please consider submitting an abstract and share your knowledge and experience with fellow dosimetrists.



SCENES FROM THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE AAMD 49TH ANNUAL MEETING

June 9 - 12, 2024
St. Louis Union Station Hotel
St. Louis, MO



Do you have a topic that you'd like to present to your radiation oncology colleagues? AAMD is seeking presenters for the 49th Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. We will accept abstracts for general education sessions, panel discussions, workshops and posters.

Specific topics of interest include:

- Review of clinical anatomy and contouring
- Practical tips for community-based dosimetrists
- Safety culture in radiation oncology departments
- Case studies on IMRT, VMAT, image registration
- SBRT/SRS treatment planning
- General interest – future of medical dosimetry, new technologies, reviews, professional development, leadership

Abstract submission deadline: **October 26, 2023**

See the AAMD website for complete details.

www.medicaldosimetry.org



Back to Class for Students and Educators

By Mellonie Brown- Zacarias, CMD, and Michelle Mundis, CMD
Formal Education Committee Co-Chairs

The end of the academic year was full of successful events for AAMD educators and students alike. The Student Writing Competition had 25 submissions with the winning paper being submitted by Bryan Stump, MHA, RT(R)(T); Paige Solie, MLS (ASCP); Cortney Cashner, RT(R); Nishele Lenards PhD, CMD, RT(R)(T), FAAM; Ashley Hunzeker MS, CMD; and Sabrina Zeiler, MS, CMD, RT(T) from University of Wisconsin La Crosse. The annual Virtual Student Gathering was held on May 24 with roughly 81 students and educators attending. The winner of this year's quiz bowl was Rebecca Todd from Grand Valley State University.

Also this summer, the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting in New Orleans was attended by both students and educators, with several educational-focused talks during both the main session and during the Educators' Workshop. A big thank you to [Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company](#), for being the 2023 Medical Dosimetry Student Sponsor. Dosimetry educators were also able to engage with therapy educators at this year's annual meeting during the Educators' Night Out at Delgado Community College, held on Tuesday, June 6.

As we enter the month of September, the shelves in your local stores are likely emptied out of back-to-school supplies, as medical dosimetry programs resume along with other academic programs. Varian resumes its Student Webinars Series, wrapping up the 4th presentation on August 31 of "Advanced Planning



Tips and Velocity" and the 5th installment scheduled for October 26. A reminder that the recorded webinars are available to AAMD Student Members in the [AAMD CE Center](#) of the website.

On a final exciting note, AAMD announced during this year's Educators' Workshop the [2023 Education Grant!](#) This is their way of investing in the education of future dosimetrists in order to help sustain and advance the profession as well as improve the quality of patient care. Up to \$20,000 is available for JRCERT-accredited or applicant programs, and applications will be accepted until September 15.

Staying Safe and Up to Date on Continuing Education

By Linnae Campbell, CMD, and Jessica Caselli, CMD
Continuing Education Committee Co-Chairs

The AAMD is proud to present new content monthly in the [CE Center](#). Pick up safety tips in the month of September when *Enhancing Patient Safety in Radiation Oncology; Challenges, Resources, and Clinical Perspectives* by Daniel W. Bailey, PhD, DABR, is released to the CE Center. With increasing staff shortages in the dosimetry workforce, safety will continue to be paramount in our workplaces.

Besides the CE Center, members can register for the [AAMD Virtual Symposium](#) - Best of AAMD 48th Annual Meeting. This symposium has sessions available to registered attendees until October 16. The virtual symposium gives members a chance to earn 10.5 CE credits.

The AAMD is committed to helping members fulfil the Continuing Qualification Requirements or (CQR) to maintain their ARRT certifications. Members can reference their prescribed continuing education information based on the results of the ARRT's [CQR Structured Self-Assessment \(SSA\)](#) to see what categories of CE are necessary to maintain certification. Within the AAMD CE Center, AAMD members can click on the name of a presentation within the Course Catalog to view more information about the session. At the bottom of the page there's a section dedicated to ARRT CQR Credit Distribution to help members understand how this will help them achieve their CE goals.



Here's an example of the ARRT CQR details in the course listings:

ARRT CQR Credit Distribution

Radiation Therapy 2017:

Procedures

Prescription and Dose Calculation = 0.50

Treatments = 0.50

Radiation Therapy 2022:

Procedures

Prescription and Dose Calculation = 0.50

Treatments = 0.50

For members who 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 into the AAMD CE Center. It will appear in the top right-hand corner if AAMD has it on file.

AAMD Membership Benefits Remain Despite the Change in Seasons

By Rebecca Barrett, CMD, and Kathlina Teague, CMD
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Throughout the year, we have been promoting our AAMD Student Webinar Series. We are grateful to Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company, who has been sponsoring these 5 free training sessions for students. We are working with additional sponsors to continue these educational opportunities for students moving forward.

During the hot summer months, we saw many familiar faces at the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We enjoyed several Member Meet-ups over the course of the week to build our connections with other treatment planners. Our fun night out was a big hit with meeting attendees at Rock n' Bowl. Great memories were made on the dance floor AND in the meeting space in The Big Easy!

As fall and winter approach, don't forget to take advantage of your annual CE allowance that is included in your membership dues. Full CMD Members receive 12 CE credits to utilize in the [AAMD CE Center](#). Don't forget those credits will expire on December 31. If you upgraded to a Member Plus membership that includes 25 CE credits to utilize in the AAMD CE Center by year-end. NOTE: Your CE credit balance does not transfer to 2024.



80+ Practice Interview Questions for CMDs

By Kara Lehman, CMD
Career Services Committee Member

Have you ever googled, “dosimetry-related interview questions” only to find little help? Due to the specificity of the field of medical dosimetry, the Career Services Committee found it beneficial to compile a document of practice dosimetry related interview questions. In total, the committee collected over eighty dosimetry specific interview questions that could possibly be asked to anyone seeking a medical dosimetry position. The list of questions was compiled with careful delineation and questions were pulled from resources and dosimetry colleagues across many institutions and positions. The questions are broken



down into four categories according to the specific dosimetry position one is interviewing for. The four categories are for:

- a new dosimetry hire
- a current dosimetrist who may be switching to a new center or location
- a senior or chief dosimetrist applying for a leadership position
- a general category of dosimetry related interview questions that could be asked to any dosimetrist at any stage in one’s career

We hope that if you are preparing for a dosimetry interview, you utilize the [Practice Medical Dosimetry Interview Questions](#) as your “go-to-resource.” Visit the [AAMD Career Resources webpage](#) for additional resources.

Election 2024 – Candidates Needed

By Jessica Stanulus, CMD, and Christina Paul, CMD
Nominations & Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs



In the wonderful city of New Orleans, we had the pleasure of officially opening the Call for Nominations for the 2024 AAMD Election. We invite all Full CMD Members to consider serving as a leader in AAMD. It’s a great way to meet other medical dosimetrists, share your knowledge and experience, and give back to the profession. Not sure if you are ready? We’re happy to put you in touch with current Board members to discuss “what really happens on the Board.”

The positions for which we will be accepting nominations for the [2024 AAMD Election](#) are:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Region V Representative
- Region VI Representative

If you would like to nominate someone or self-nominate, please visit the [Call for Nominations webpage](#).

To be eligible, the nominee must be a current AAMD Full CMD in good standing. For the Region Representative positions, the candidate must reside in one of the states covered in that Region. All positions are three-year terms, beginning on August 1, 2024 and ending on July 31, 2027. All nominations must be completed online by December 31, 2023. Elections will take place in the Spring of 2024. We look forward to receiving your nomination!

Join an AAMD Committee: If that sounds like a bit too much for you, why don’t you just dip your toes into volunteering by signing up for a committee? Most committees meet monthly and only require 1-2 hours of service per month. Submit an [AAMD Volunteer Application](#) today!



2024 AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award Nominations

By Ryan Moroosse, CMD
AAMD Treasurer, Outstanding Achievement Award Selection Committee Chair

Know someone who has made an impact on the Medical Dosimetry profession? Nominate him/her for the 2024 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 of the following:

- AAMD Board of Directors' service
- AAMD committee service
- Publications of Medical Dosimetry articles
- Professional presentations
- Education of medical dosimetry professionals
- Legislative efforts on behalf of the profession
- Service to the radiation oncology community
- Significant professional accomplishments in the radiation oncology field
- Outstanding years of clinical service- 10 years or more

Nominations are due by December 1, 2023.

Nomination forms are on the [AAMD website](#). 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 Selection Committee Chair Ryan Moroosse at ryan.moroosse@akumin.com.

2023 AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award Presented to Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD, R.T.(R)(T)



Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD, R.T.(R)(T), (left) accepts the 2023 AAMD Outstanding Achievement Award from AAMD President Adam Brown, BSRT, CMD, at the AAMD 48th Annual Meeting. To read about Christopher's achievements, visit the [AAMD website](#).

Special Thanks to Our 2023/2024 Sponsors

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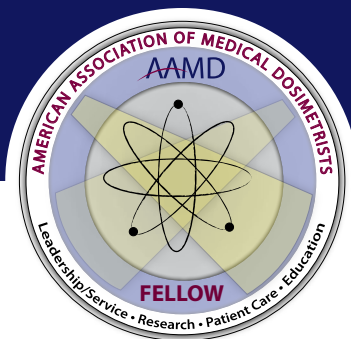


SILVER



BRONZE





AAMD Fellows Pathways and Resources

By Paula Berner, BS, CMD, FAAMD, and Melanie Dempsey, PhD, CMD, RT(T), FAAMD
AAMD Fellows Advisory Group Members

While the AAMD standing committees have been providing the AAMD membership with a look at the committee activities, this article will focus on an advisory group within the AAMD, the AAMD Fellows Advisory Group. This group is made up of those AAMD members who have achieved the highest honor that can be bestowed on an AAMD member, being named a Fellow of the AAMD. The honorary category of Fellow is bestowed upon members who have made outstanding and meritorious contributions to the medical dosimetry profession and to the AAMD professional organization.

To be eligible to apply for [AAMD Fellow](#) one must have a minimum of 10 years of consecutive Full CMD membership with the AAMD, maintain a current MDCB certification, and have meritorious service to the profession of medical dosimetry and to the AAMD professional organization.

Pathways to AAMD Fellow:

There are 6 major categories that have minimum point requirements, that the applicants' contributions to the profession and the AAMD are evaluated on:

- **Professional Experience** – Workplace – clinic, supervisor, educator, industry – You get points for doing your job in your workplace.
- **Education** – Certificate programs, degrees, MDCB certification – maybe you began your journey with certificate programs or an associate's degree, or you have a bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctorate – Once again you earn points for your education and for that MDCB certification.
- **Professional Activities** – Service to the AAMD – This is just what it sounds like, volunteering with the AAMD, service to your professional organization
- **Scholarly & Professional Contributions** – Presentations and publications – This one can sound scary, but the Fellows have a program in place to assist you.
- **Awards, Scholarships, and Grants** – The application allows you an opportunity to claim points for these honors, but they are not required.
- **Membership** – This is where the 10 years of consecutive Full CMD membership with the AAMD is recognized, along with membership to AAMD affiliated organizations.

Resources for those desiring to be elevated to the honorary category of AAMD Fellow:

In 2022 the AAMD Fellows began a mentoring program to encourage and assist AAMD members in the areas of the AAMD Fellows application where the potential applicant is lacking points. Mentoring may include guidance in areas

of service to the AAMD, or maybe helping the potential applicant develop a presentation and submit an abstract for an AAMD Annual Meeting, or working to develop their idea for original research and eventually publishing that research. The AAMD Education and Research Foundation has also stepped in to assist AAMD members in the Fellows mentoring program by providing a grant that can be applied towards meeting attendance expenses, if you are in the mentoring program and giving your first presentation, or to help with expenses related to conducting research for publication, and for attending workshops that are directed towards, research, publications or presentations. Visit aamdfoundation.org/scholarships for more information and to apply.

Resource for medical dosimetry students and those who are just beginning their careers in medical dosimetry:

The AAMD Fellows application is an excellent tool to use as you develop your short-term and long-term career goals. The application will provide guidance to the activities that are available for service to your professional organization. The section on Scholarly & Professional Contributions can provide direction to the avenues that are available for sharing your knowledge with your colleagues as you gain experience in the profession. In the most basic of terms the AAMD Fellows application can be used as a guide for obtaining the lifetime achievement award in the profession of medical dosimetry – AAMD Fellow.

Challenge to the Membership:

Take the time to visit the [Fellows page](#) on the AAMD website under the Membership tab. Follow the directions on the Fellows Application Decision Tree, download the application and discover all that is considered meritorious service to the profession and to the AAMD by reviewing the AAMD Fellows application. The application is a free download. Once you have completed a quick pass through the application, reach out to the current AAMD Fellows chairman. Together you will determine if you are ready for a sponsor, or if you need to engage a mentor, to encourage and assist you with completing the minimum points needed to have a successful application for AAMD Fellow.



Certification News

By Felicia Lembesis, CAE
Executive Director, MDCB

Important Reminders

Updating Your Profile Information

CMDs are reminded to update contact information if it has recently changed in advance of the 2024 credential renewal cycle to ensure delivery of important notifications:

- After logging in to the [CE Center](#), click on “My Account” in the upper right-hand corner of the web page.
- Click the “pencil and paper” icon next to the contact information you’d like to change.
- Once you’ve updated the information, click the orange “Save” button.

Does Your 5-year CMD Cycle End on December 31, 2023?

CMDs whose five-year cycle ends in the current calendar year are reminded to submit their learning plan transcripts to confirm completion of CEU requirements.

Please remember to submit your learning plan for completion by November 30 to ensure approval of your learning plan by December 31. Review of learning plans submitted after December 18, during the weeks leading up to and following the Christmas and New Year holidays, may be delayed.

Credential fees can be submitted after October 1 once learning plans are approved. The fees will be submitted on the learning plan generated that includes 2024.

January 2024 Exam

The application for the January 2024 exam opens on September 22 and will be available in the [CE Center](#). Before starting the application, applicants are required to read the [Applicant Handbook](#) regarding all details of application.

The late application will close on November 17.

Update for Continuing Education Providers

Providers are now able to renew a Request for Evaluation (RFE) that has been previously submitted. On the Provider tab, choose Activities from the drop-down, and select “Add Activity.” You can select an activity from one of several types. Read the descriptions carefully to make sure you submit your request with the correct activity type. *Be sure to review the previous submission to be sure no aspects of the activity have changed. You can upload documentation from a previous RFE by clicking on “choose from library.”*