

CHP Corner



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics
Website: <http://www.aahp-abhp.org>

ABHP Part I Panel of Examiners Activities

William G. Rhodes III, Chair

Each year in November, the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) Part I Examination Panel meets for two days in McLean, Virginia, to review the performance of the current year's exam and prepare a new exam for the following year. The panel is comprised of 12 certified health physicists (CHPs) from locations throughout the United States with expertise in different areas, including academic/research applications, accelerators, dosimetry, environmental and fundamental health physics, fuel cycle/waste management, power reactors, and regulations. These experienced and well-qualified CHPs work in variety of settings, such as medical facilities, universities, nuclear power facilities, and Department of Energy facilities. Panel members are appointed by the ABHP for a four-year term.

Prior to each meeting, the results of exam-question performance from the current year are tabulated in a report for review by the committee. To prepare for the meeting, members review the report and develop recommendations for changes to the exam bank within their area of expertise. Recommended changes can include modifications to existing questions, the removal of poor performing or outdated questions, and the addition of new questions. During the meeting, the members submit their recommendations to the panel for review. The proposed modifications and new questions are reviewed and, if approved by the panel, are added to a bank of existing questions for possible use on future exams.

The Part I panel's work is a significant part of the accreditation process for health physicists and has proven to be a rewarding experience for CHPs who have volunteered for this important job. Because the terms of panel members are staggered, there are frequent opportunities for new members to join.

If you are interested in contributing to our profession and enjoy working in a collegial atmosphere with fellow CHPs, please indicate your interest in serving on the Part I Examination Panel when you submit your ABHP annual dues. It is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with some of the best in field of health physics.

You may also contact panel Chair William Rhodes (wgrhode@sandia.gov) or Vice Chair Cindy Flannery (cindy.flannery@nrc.gov) at any time.

Continuing Education Committee

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

As of May 2012, there are 1,336 active certified health physicists (CHPs). This does not include the 15 new CHPs who were successful in the 2012 examinations, nor reductions from those who passed away or let their certification lapse. All of these CHPs have something in common. To maintain their status as an active CHP, they must recertify every four years by staying active in the field and accumulating at least 64 continuing education credits.

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) website (<http://www.aahp-abhp.org>) contains detailed information on just which activities qualify for credit and, by their omission, which do not. Those CHPs who have questions (and especially the newly minted CHPs) should read through

the Continuing Education Committee (CEC) guidance early in their four-year recertification period so they know just what is expected of them. Many of the activities listed (like annual, midyear, and local meetings) are preapproved. However, about half of the credits granted require submittal and review by the CEC. Forms for submittal of activities for review are contained at the AAHP website.

The committee also arranges for the eight-hour AAHP courses presented at the annual and mid-year meetings. At the Scottsdale meeting, two courses will be held on Saturday before the meeting. Art Lucas and Harry Newman are teaching "Time-Saving Spectroscopy Models." This course was taught at the Minneapolis meeting and has been updated with new material. Brian Methe' is teaching "Radiation Shielding for Medical Facilities." Both of these courses are worth 16 continuing education credits for participation. Full abstracts for these courses are in the [meeting final program](#).

At this time, the committee is still soliciting instructors and ideas for the Madison meeting and other future meetings. Instructors are granted 20 continuing education credits, and each course has an associated \$1,000 honorarium.

The Continuing Education Committee can be contacted at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

Call for 2013 McAdams Award Nominations

Pat LaFrate, CHP, ABHP Vice Chair

Nominations for the William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award are being accepted and are due by 4 March 2013. This award is presented annually by the American Board of Health Physics and the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) to honor a certified health physicist who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and to the certification process. Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination.

More details and information on the history of the McAdams Award may be found at <http://www.hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/awards/mcadams.html>. The nomination form may be found at http://www.hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/forms/McAdams_Nomination.pdf.

DID YOU KNOW that William A. McAdams, for whom the McAdams award is named, began his career as a ballistics engineer for the DuPont Company?

Professional Development Committee Update

Thomas Johnson, CHP, Chair

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is tasked with expanding and enhancing standards for American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) certification, evaluating the standards for recertification, assisting diplomats in improving their knowledge, publicizing the benefits of certification, and fostering the recognition of AAHP certification.

The most visible task the PDC has performed in recent years has been setting up and maintaining a booth at the annual meetings. Mike Davidson was the chair of this committee, and Mike worked tirelessly to develop promotional materials for the AAHP and to ensure that the booth was in place to raise awareness.

With the recent untimely passing of Mike, I have assumed the position of chair on an interim basis. The current members of the committee are Maya Keller, Richard Granberg, Claude Wimblin, and Carl Paperiello.

Our plans for the near future are to continue work on raising awareness of the benefits of certification. One method that we have under consideration is to have a student “shadow” a CHP at the booth and/or for part of the annual meeting. Continuing in the direction that was pioneered by Mike, we would also like to solicit ideas on how best to promote certification.

One of Mike’s biggest concerns was that many folks in the HPS felt the exam was unfair and that the AAHP was some sort of “club” of “old timers.” Mike worked very hard to dispel this notion. As for the AAHP being a club, I will (playfully) defer to Groucho Marx.

*“I don’t care to belong to any club
that will have me as a member!”*

Please contact the committee (Thomas.E.Johnson@colostate.edu) if you have any ideas that help to promote the AAHP.

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