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The Fab Five: Radiation Oncology women in leadership



Five colleagues in Radiation Oncology noticed that they all had something in common. It wasn't the way they studied their patients' notes; it wasn't even the way they ordered their coffee. In fact, it was something much bigger than that. They've all been serving as president of their respective professional organizations. "It's quite an extraordinary circumstance and it speaks a lot to the progression of these organizations at a national level," says Paula Berner, medical dosimetrist, Radiation Physics.

The five female leaders are:

- **Paula Berner**, medical dosimetrist, Radiation Physics, President of American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD)
- **Patricia Eifel, M.D.**, professor, Radiation Oncology, President of American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)
- **Robin Famiglietti**, shared support services director, Radiation Oncology, President of Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB)
- **Ritsuko Komaki, M.D.**, professor, Radiation Oncology, President of American Radium Society (ARS)
- **Mary Martel, Ph.D.**, professor, Radiation Physics-Patient Care, President of American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)

By holding these presidential positions, the women are making history in their professional organizations. Eifel is the third woman out of 50 presidents for ASTRO; one other woman was also from M. D. Anderson. Martel is one of only three women to serve as president for AAPM and only the second female president in 50 years. Komaki is the second woman and first female radiation oncologist in 90 years to hold the presidency in the ARS. This society is also considered the oldest society devoted to the study and treatment of cancer since it was founded in 1916.

Famiglietti says, "We're really proud of our accomplishments. Our division really empowers us at all levels. The faculty, the administrators, the practitioners are all encouraged to develop and succeed and it shows."

Pictured above, from left, are Eifel, Komaki, Famiglietti, Berner and Martel.