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Winter 2010

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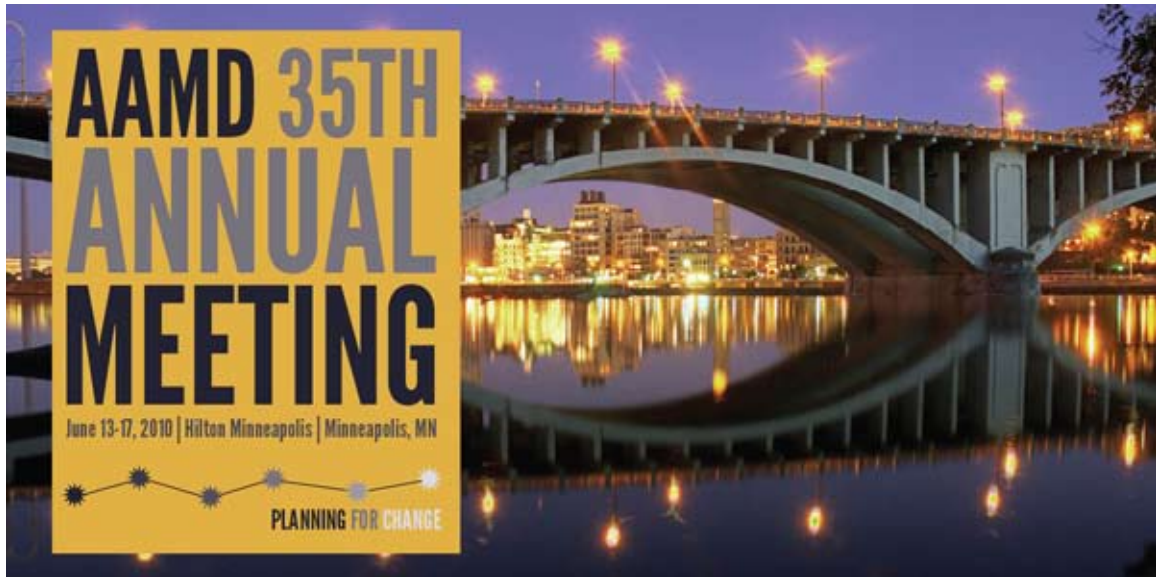
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## 2010 Annual Meeting Registration Open

By Maria Golish, CMD & Cara Sullivan, CMD  
2010 ACC Co-chairs

Registration is now open for the AAMD 35th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, June 13-17, 2010. The theme of this year's meeting is "Planning for Change." The meeting will be held at the exquisite Hilton Minneapolis hotel located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Dr. Faiz Khan will deliver the keynote address titled—Our Universe: A Scientific and Religious View of Creation.

This year's meeting offers an opportunity to attend more than 28 different presentations, panel discussions and workshops and receive credits. The exhibit hall will feature the latest technologies and products for radiation oncology professionals. This is the perfect opportunity to learn from and mingle with your peers. Register by April 16 to take advantage of Early-Bird Discounts. Don't waste any time, visit the AAMD website for complete meeting details at [www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org) and register today!



On the heels of the AAMD Board of Directors mid-year meeting, I'm excited to tell you that the AAMD has many plans and projects in place to advance our dynamic organization.

To keep all of our many activities moving forward, the Board meets every month – 10 of those meetings are by conference call and two are in-person – one in June

during our annual meeting and one during the winter at our headquarters office in Reston, VA. This year's mid-year meeting, held January 22–23, focused mainly on strategic planning for AAMD. Strategic planning determines where an organization is heading and plans on how to get that organization there.

**The AAMD has five strategic goals:**

1. Organizational effectiveness
2. Increasing member services
3. Improving the public image of medical dosimetry
4. Education and training
5. Involvement in public policy

Each of these strategic goals is important to the development and success of our organization. In these difficult economic times, the Board is investigating ways to restructure our governance, which will streamline costs. For example, the Board voted on November 11, 2009 to disband certain committees and liaison positions. As the AAMD moves forward, the majority of duties assigned to liaison volunteers and committees are now being managed by our Executive Director, Gregg Robinson, and the headquarters staff. The Board believes this shift in responsibilities is necessary to develop our organization and strengthen our bond with the radiation oncology community.

The continuing prosperity of the AAMD is a result of the services and contributions of our dedicated volunteers and staff. Together, they have been spearheading projects that provide the membership with even more member services. I am very proud of all our committee members who have been helping us to reach our goals, including: offering more online CE opportunities; creating an online membership application; building an online professional resource library; increasing the number of regional meetings and adding workshops to our annual meeting.

The AAMD must raise awareness of the medical dosimetry profession. We are striving to educate the public, patients and other medical professionals on the role of medical dosimetrists as key members of the Radiation Oncology team. Our goal is to create educational materials for patients, employers and academic institutions to heighten their awareness of our profession.

The AAMD, along with the MDCB, is exploring a collaborative effort to educate administrators and hospitals about medical dosimetry and the importance of hiring a Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD). As the voice of the medical dosimetry profession, AAMD needs to continue to work with the MDCB monitoring healthcare practices that affect the practice of medical dosimetry and to clarify the state licensing issue regarding the ARRT. I am hoping to form a task group with members from other oncology organizations to resolve this issue. This will be a big undertaking. If the CARE bill passes, it will strengthen our position on certification of dosimetrists with the MDCB and give precedence over an ARRT certification.

The Board is also reviewing information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) outlining steps to enroll medical dosimetry in the Direct Match Title File of the Standard Occupational Classification. Just like any profession, if we are recognized by the IRS and the BLS, we will be able to plan for our future with accurate projections of supply and demand of medical dosimetrists. We could project an oversupply of dosimetrists, which could lead to unemployment and lower wages, or an undersupply, which could lead to higher wages, but bigger workloads for dosimetrists. We would also have more leverage as an organization to help push bills through Congress that would promote growth in the profession, similar to what other organizations have done.

As you can see, the AAMD Board is focused on many issues impacting our profession. We welcome your support and involvement in all that we do. Together, we can insure a solid future for medical dosimetry.

**Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, RT(T), BS, CMD**  
AAMD President  
tmkwiat@live.com



*AAMD Board of Directors and Staff at the Mid-Year Meeting:  
Front Row (left to right): Spencer Boulter, Laura Earley, Theresa Kwiatkowski, Susan Cagle, Keitt Mobile, Randy Merrill, Gregg Robinson  
Back Row (left to right): Nishele Lenards, Stacey Wilson, Heather Gabrish, Craig McKenzie, Melanie Dempsey, Matt Palmer, Chris Moore*

## Are You Up for the Challenge?

Win a \$200 Visa Gift Card and Receive CE Credits

The AAMD and Radiation Oncology Resources (ROR) are pleased to announce the AAMD/ROR 2010 Challenge Plan. The challenge is expanded this year to include Eclipse, Pinnacle<sup>3</sup> and CMS treatment planning systems. Here's how you can participate:

To win one of the three \$200 gift cards—Visit the ROR website at <http://www.roresources.com/aamd.html> and download the dataset (GYN IMRT), instructions and application. Then return your plan and application materials by the April 15 deadline. One participant from each planning system category will be awarded a \$200 gift card and have bragging rights as the AAMD/ROR 2010 Challenge Plan winners.

The winners and their plans will be announced on June 13 during the AAMD 35th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. (Winners need not be present... but it sure would be fun if they were!)

To receive MDCB credit—Attend one of our special Challenge Plan Workshops at the AAMD 35th Annual Meeting or attend one of our web-based review sessions this summer (exact dates and details will be announced at a later time). All workshop and review session participants will be awarded MDCB credits even if you do not participate in the Challenge Plan.

AAMD/ROR Challenge Plan Workshops: Three vendor-specific breakout workshops will be held on June 14 at the AAMD 35th Annual Meeting. Workshops will include an informative, hands-on discussion examining the 2010 AAMD/ROR Plan Challenge (GYN IMRT). Sign up for the workshops when you register for the annual meeting.

What are you waiting for? Start your plan today! For complete details, visit: <http://www.roresources.com/aamd.html>

## PERK IT UP – SPRING IS COMING!

The snow may still be falling, but you're probably already thinking about spring. Why not buy a new AAMD t-shirt so you're ready when the temperatures start to rise? Or maybe you'd like to warm up your commute with a new AAMD travel mug? Check out the cool AAMD merchandise at [www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org). The short-sleeve t-shirts, baseball shirts and mouse pads display the winning slogans from the "Top 10 Ways to Know You're a Medical Dosimetrist" contest. The travel mugs and USB drives feature the AAMD logo.



## Membership Record Set

By Susan Cagle, CMD  
Membership Secretary

In 2009, AAMD had its highest number of members ever – 2,467! This represents a four percent increase over the previous year and reflects the continuing commitments of medical dosimetrists to their profession. Thanks for being a part of our dynamic membership and continuing to tell your medical dosimetry colleagues about all that AAMD has to offer.

## Education Travel Grant Established

AAMD has established a fund to subsidize educational meeting attendance for individuals in the medical dosimetry profession who could not otherwise attend an AAMD event. Travel awards will be in the range of \$250 for regional meetings and \$500 for annual meetings. The total amount awarded will be based on the type of educational event and financial and CE needs of the applicant. Criteria and submission requirements are posted on the AAMD web site at [www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org)

# Celebrating 30+ Years with AAMD

The AAMD would like to recognize the following individuals who have been members for over 30 years and take the time to thank them for their long-standing support of this organization and our profession.

Ronald FitzGerald  
Kailua, HI  
Join Date: 2/13/1976

Thomas Philip  
Colleyville, TX  
Join Date: 1/7/1977

Pamela Naplachowski  
Winter Park, FL  
Join Date: 5/8/1978

Judith Turner  
Louisville, KY  
Join Date: 6/12/1979

Carolyn Dicker  
Stamford, CT  
Join Date: 2/23/1976

Margaret Peterson  
Baltimore, MD  
Join Date: 1/21/1977

Carolyn Johnson  
Lake Worth, FL  
Join Date: 6/13/1978

Joseph Iannitto  
Philadelphia, PA  
Join Date: 8/1/1979

Patricia Steed  
Menlo Park, CA  
Join Date: 2/24/1976

Jan Jensen  
Fairfield, OH  
Join Date: 4/11/1977

Kathleen Fong  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ  
Join Date: 10/16/1978

Catherine White  
Louisville, KY  
Join Date: 9/18/1979

Heather Dam  
Naples, FL  
Join Date: 3/13/1976

Laura Knezevich  
Menomonee Falls, WI  
Join Date: 7/13/1977

Rhonda Scheller  
Barboursville, VA  
Join Date: 11/1/1978

Cynthia Audet  
Waterbury, CT  
Join Date: 3/5/1980

Sherry Meyer  
Ooltewah, TN  
Join Date: 5/26/1976

Sharon Arbo  
Hopkinton, RI  
Join Date: 11/21/1977

Sharon Bocaranda  
Arroyo Grande, CA  
Join Date: 11/15/1978

Erkki Korpivaara  
Albany, OR  
Join Date: 4/1/1980

Gregory Craycraft  
Palmyra, PA  
Join Date: 6/11/1976

Thomas Devlin  
Boxford, MA  
Join Date: 3/6/1978

Preston Wakefield  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Join Date: 1/30/1979

D Kevin Lew  
Albany, CA  
Join Date: 8/15/1980

Helen Stoddard  
San Francisco, CA  
Join Date: 6/21/1976

Alfred Roth  
San Jose, CA  
Join Date: 3/7/1978

Joan Gignac  
Killingworth, CT  
Join Date: 3/6/1979

Rose Santangelo  
Naples, FL  
Join Date: 10/3/1980

Peter Sanchez  
New Haven, CT  
Join Date: 9/3/1976

Karen Stook  
West Hartford, CT  
Join Date: 4/5/1978

William Mould  
Phoenix, AZ  
Join Date: 3/28/1979

Watch your email for news about  
the launch of the New AAMD  
Career Services Center.

# Meet The Board

By Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD



**Craig McKenzie, CMD**  
Region V Director

**CJM** – Let's start by telling the membership what prompted you to run for office.

**Craig** – I attended an AAMD annual meeting in 2007 and was impressed by the professionalism and organization that was exhibited during the conference. This inspired me to get involved. I began by joining a committee which eventually led to me being on the Board. I knew the effort would be rewarded by a great learning experience as well as an opportunity to meet some incredible colleagues.

**CJM** – Can you briefly describe your career to this point?

**Craig** – Entering college, my two greatest curiosities (or perhaps fears) were radiation and cancer. This eventually led me to school for Radiologic Technology. One of the next educational opportunities from there was Radiation Therapy Technology. So I attended the Medical University of South Carolina for my BS degree. From the time I first learned of the field of Radiation Oncology, I knew I wanted to become a Medical Dosimetrist. After working as a therapist for 8 years, I decided to make the switch. I received my CMD in 2005 and soon afterward began working in proton treatment planning. I have no regrets about my path because it has given me an interesting experience to learn from and to share.

**CJM** – What is your current employment environment?

**Craig** – I currently work at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute as Lead Proton Dosimetrist. I have the privilege of working with eight fantastic dosimetrists and a dynamic group of physicists, MDs and therapists. We are fortunate to offer both proton and conventional photons to our patients in our department.

**CJM** – Can you describe growth opportunities that you envision for Medical Dosimetrists?

**Craig** – Aside from the ever developing advancements made in planning and delivery, I see each dosimetrist having the opportunity to represent our profession to the medical community and the public as a group of compassionate, motivated, educated and responsible care givers. Our work is important and I know each of us is proud of our profession and our peers.

**CJM** – What are your goals as an AAMD Board member?

**Craig** – As a new Board member, I look to gain knowledge by working with the more experienced members who have so much to share. My desire is to participate in the advancement of our profession through the teaching of technical expertise provided by our educational conferences and professional relationships with other professions of the Radiation Oncology team and other medical specialties.

Each edition of *eMonitor*, we will feature a brief interview of an AAMD Board Member.

This issue features a new Board Member who took on the role of Region V Director on August 1, 2009 – **Craig McKenzie, CMD.**

## 2009-2010

### AAMD Board of Directors

President: Theresa M. Kwiatkowski, CMD  
President-elect: Melanie Dempsey, CMD  
Immediate Past President: Nishele Lenards, CMD  
Membership Secretary: Susan Cagle, CMD  
Recording Secretary: Matthew Palmer, CMD  
Treasurer: Randall Merrill, CMD  
Region I Director: Laura Earley, CMD  
Region II Director: Heather Gabrish, CMD  
Region III Director: Keitt Mobile, CMD  
Region IV Director: Christopher J. Moore, CMD  
Region V Director: Craig McKenzie, CMD  
Region VI Director: Vacant

### AAMD Staff

Executive Director: Gregg Robinson, CAE  
Administrator: Spencer Boulter  
Director of Marketing: Stacey Wilson



## Region I and AAPM San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Spring Meeting

By Laura Earley, CMD  
Region I Director

The AAMD Region I and AAPM San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Spring Meeting promises to be an exciting educational opportunity for dosimetrists, physicists, therapists and other members of the radiation oncology team. This two-day event will be held at the Napa Valley Marriott Hotel and Spa in Napa, California on March 19-20, 2010.

We are expecting a great turnout, and encourage you to register. The speaker agenda can be found at the AAMD website, and offers 14 hours of continuing education for dosimetrists, therapists and physicists.

While in Napa, you might also explore the events held during the annual Mustard Festival, which runs through the end of March.

For complete meeting details, visit the AAMD website at:  
<http://www.medicaldosimetry.org/meetings/regional.cfm>



## Region III Meeting Speakers Needed

By Jennifer Buskerud, CMD  
Region III Meeting Co-Chair

Interested in presenting at an upcoming AAMD meeting? If so, the organizers of the AAMD Region III Meeting, September 9-10, 2010 in Lexington, KY want to hear from you. For more information, please contact Jennifer Buskerud at [jennifer.buskerud@aspirus.org](mailto:jennifer.buskerud@aspirus.org) or 715-847-2867.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join your colleagues in Lexington in September!

## Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

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Leo Jenkins Cancer Center

# Spring Cleaning...In February!!!

Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD  
Historian Committee Chair

**N**ow is the time to look around your home and office for AAMD relics. You know those really old items from various AAMD functions stashed away in nooks and crannies that you just couldn't make yourself throw out. Well, I'm here to help! I have just accepted the committee chairmanship of the Historian Committee and I'm looking for past issues of the AAMD Newsletter and Treatment Planning – the precursors to our Journal. Other items I am interested in are agendas and items from previous annual or regional meetings, historical references or publications pertaining to the origination of our organization such as minutes of early Board of Director conferences, etc.

Please send me an email at [cjmoore@virtua.org](mailto:cjmoore@virtua.org) indicating what you have and I will let you know if it is something I need. Your efforts will benefit us all. You get a cleaner home/work environment while I get to compile information on the history of our great organization. It's a win-win situation! Thanks for your help.

## 2010 Writing Competition Reminder

If you have submitted your abstract for the AAMD Writing Competition or the CIVCO/AAMD Student Writing Competition, remember to submit your final manuscript by March 1. For more information, visit the AAMD web site at: <http://www.medicaldosimetry.org/members/writing.cfm>.

## Career Services Committee Needs Co-Chair

Looking for a way to get involved in AAMD activities? Volunteer to be a co-chair of the Career Services Committee. This committee provides oversight of the AAMD employment opportunities listings and other career oriented resources for members. If you're interested in learning more or participating, send an email to: [aamd@medicaldosimetry.org](mailto:aamd@medicaldosimetry.org).

## DJR Quiz Changes

The DJR answers will no longer be posted in the *Medical Dosimetry* journal. This change is due to the quizzes being offered online which allows the participant, upon the completion of a passed test, to view the answers online. The amount of continuing education credits received upon completion of a passed quiz will remain the same for the ARRT and the MDCB.

## Tax Time Reminder Declare Your Profession

AAMD is working hard to gain formal recognition for the medical dosimetry profession by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). So as you begin working on your 2009 tax returns, please remember to declare "medical dosimetry" as your occupation on your returns.

The BLS collects data on occupations which can be of great value to the medical dosimetry profession. We are currently grouped with radiation therapists because we are not yet large enough to have a distinct tracking category.

Once the BLS begins tracking medical dosimetry, those statistics will provide an independent validation of the salary component of the AAMD Salary and Workforce Survey. The information collected will also complement our survey with regards to workforce trends and possibly give projections of future medical dosimetry staffing needs. These projections would be valuable for gaining increased funding for medical dosimetry scholarships and for creating more formal educational programs. These statistics may also help to draw attention to medical dosimetry as a potential career which would increase the number of people entering the profession.

## Foundation Scholarships Announced

By Mark Reid, CMD  
President, AAMD Education and Research Foundation

The AAMD Education and Research Foundation are now accepting applications for the first Gunilla Bentel Scholarship, which will be awarded in the spring of 2010. This scholarship will be awarded to an AAMD student member who is enrolled in a JRCERT accredited program. The Foundation is very excited to be awarding this scholarship honoring one of the pioneers of treatment planning and an accomplished author and mentor to many practicing dosimetrists. The Foundation will also be taking applications for the AAPM Accreditation Grant for dosimetry programs seeking JRCERT accreditation. These two offerings by the AAMD Education and Research Foundation are just the beginning of the Foundation's effort to impact the profession's need to address workforce issues and educational standards.

The Foundation would like to thank those who helped make this initiative possible, AAMD members and its Board of Directors, the MDCB, AAPM, AAMD Regional Meeting attendees and individual donors. Additional and continuing support is critical in order to continue to fulfill the goals of the Foundation. Efforts are underway to accomplish fundraising goals, but as everyone knows these are tough economic times. Please consider making a donation today. Any level of support is welcome and donations are tax deductible.

Although the Foundation website is under construction, please go to the AAMD web site at [www.medicaldosimetry.org](http://www.medicaldosimetry.org) and follow the link on the home page to get more information on the Foundation, scholarships and applications.

The Foundation welcomes comments and suggestions. Please contact Foundation President Mark Reid at: [Mark.Reid@vtmednet.org](mailto:Mark.Reid@vtmednet.org)

## MDCB 2010 Exam Update

By Felicia Lembesis  
Executive Director, MDCB

The 2010 Medical Dosimetry Certification Board Exam is scheduled to be administered at the AAMD Annual Conference and approximately 12 other sites nationally and internationally on June 13. The late application deadline with penalty fee imposed is March 1. For a copy of the exam handbook and an exam application, please visit:

[www.mdcb.org/examinfo/overview.htm](http://www.mdcb.org/examinfo/overview.htm).

### ELIGIBILITY CHANGES COMING IN 2013

Effective for 2013 exam applications, Route 2 and 3 eligibility criteria will change and merge into a single eligibility route. Route 2 candidates will be required to have:

- A minimum of a bachelors degree in any field or hold an active registration with the ARRT in radiation therapy or foreign equivalent;
- At least 36 months of clinical medical dosimetry experience (before March 1, 2013) under the direction of a certified medical dosimetrist or medical physicist or radiation oncologist and;
- 24 CE credits approved by the MDCB during their 36 months of clinical experience.

Currently there are no plans to change Route 1 eligibility in 2013.

### REVISED ETHICAL STANDARDS

The MDCB Board of Directors recently approved revised ethical standards that were recommended by legal counsel. The revised standards provide for imposing sanctions "when a CMD is found to be not in compliance with MDCB rules, regulations and/or the foregoing ethical standards." A copy of the MDCB Ethical Standards can be viewed at the MDCB web site.

# Seeking Clinical Observation Sites

The AAMD has joined the efforts to assist incoming applicant students with finding clinical sites to complete the observation time typically required before applying to a Medical Dosimetry program.

It has become more difficult for applicant students to find clinical sites that will allow them to observe in Medical Dosimetry. The hesitation of the departments may be H1N1, TB, or HIPAA concerns.

We need medical dosimetrists to volunteer their department as a clinical observation site. You would be the contact person. The AAMD will list your facility, contact information, and required paperwork on the AAMD web site. We are in need of sites throughout the entire U.S. Typical observation time is 40 hours.

Students should have required paperwork from the program, but if the facility has additional paperwork to be completed—this is not a problem.

Contact your administrator today and join this effort to help our future Medical Dosimetry professionals!

To volunteer your site, please contact the AAMD at: AAMD Board of Directors & Education Committee  
aamd@medicaldosimetry.org  
703-234-4063

## Member Communications Upgrade

AAMD has moved to a new broadcast email system that will allow us to better communicate with our members. To ensure that you will receive AAMD emails, please log in to your spam/email filters and make sure that aamd@medicaldosimetry.org is white listed.



# News

TARGETING CANCER CARE

By Katherine Egan Bennett  
Director of Communications, ASTRO

### ASTRO COMMITS TO SIX-POINT PATIENT PROTECTION PLAN

ASTRO's Board of Directors spent much of its winter meeting held in January reviewing ongoing patient safety and quality assurance projects. Through this process, an action plan emerged consolidating all of our efforts into a unified endeavor. Specifically, the Board voted to work with regulators to create a database for reporting linac and CT medical errors; launch a significantly enhanced practice accreditation program; expand ASTRO's educational training programs to include more focus on quality assurance and safety; further develop IHE-RO to improve connectivity and reduce chances for medical errors; and advocate for new and expanded federal initiatives to further help protect patients. Read the ASTROnews Web exclusive at [www.astro.org/astronews](http://www.astro.org/astronews).

### ASTRO SENDS LETTER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

ASTRO's Chairman Tim R. Williams, M.D., wrote a letter to the *New York Times* in response to their article on January 26. You can read his letter at <http://cs.astro.org/blogs/astronews/archive/2010/01/25/web-exclusive-letter-to-the-new-york-times-january-25-2010.aspx>.

### HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE HEARING ON SAFETY ISSUES

In response to recent *New York Times* articles, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing February 10 in Washington, DC, to learn more about quality and safety protocols in radiation oncology. A number of stakeholders testified, including ASTRO's Chairman Tim R. Williams, M.D. Read the reports on the hearing at [www.astro.org/astronews](http://www.astro.org/astronews).

### REGISTRATION, HOUSING NOW OPEN FOR ASTRO'S IMRT, IGRT AND SBRT MEETING

The Current State of the Art Techniques for IMRT, IGRT and SBRT Symposium is scheduled for May 14-16, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. For more information and to download the application, visit [www.astro.org/meetings](http://www.astro.org/meetings). Also, don't forget to register and book your housing. This is a great meeting for all members of the radiation therapy treatment team to come together to learn how to use these new technologies.

### ASTRONEWS WEB EXCLUSIVE: IHE-RO RECEIVES FLORIDA GRANT

The Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise - Radiation Oncology program was awarded a two-year Florida Biomedical Research Award to expedite IHE-RO's interoperability and interconnectivity goals. Visit ASTROnews online to read the Web exclusive story. You can keep up to date on all ASTRO news by visiting [www.astro.org/astronews](http://www.astro.org/astronews) regularly.