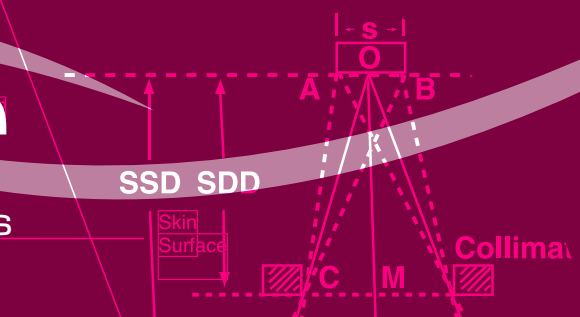


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american association of medical dosimetrists



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www.medicaldosimetry.org

Spring 2009

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34th Annual Meeting



Shifting to a New Era

Fairmont Scottsdale
Scottsdale, Arizona
June 21-25, 2009



Don't Miss the AAMD 34th Annual Meeting!

Need continuing education credits? Looking for new professional resources? Register now for the AAMD 34th Annual Meeting, June 21 - 25, 2009 at the fabulous Fairmont Scottsdale in Scottsdale, AZ. You'll earn continuing education credits, network with fellow radiation oncology professionals and sharpen your skills.

Need more reasons to attend?

- Learn the latest treatment planning techniques from leaders in the medical dosimetry field.
- Explore innovative solutions from more than 30 vendors in the exhibit hall.
- Acquire new skills and resources to take back to your radiation oncology team.
- Get insights into your job challenges from over 400 of your medical dosimetry and radiation oncology colleagues.
- Find out what AAMD has been doing to advance the medical dosimetry profession.

There's still time to register! See the AAMD website at www.medicaldosimetry.org for all the details.

See you in Scottsdale!

President's Corner



With the internet and all of its communications tools, staying connected and informed has never been easier – or more important – than right now. With economic challenges all around us, it's critical for all AAMD members to stay on top of the latest developments in our profession and to stay in touch with other medical dosimetrists who can provide important resources like job leads. I'm thrilled to say that AAMD continues to

expand our educational and networking offerings to members – from meetings to social networking sites!

It is truly amazing how successful the AAMD Annual and Regional Meetings are when they are managed by volunteer efforts of our members! If you don't already know, the recent Region I and Region V meetings were AWESOME! If you have a chance to attend a regional meeting, I would highly recommend it. We are also getting ready for our annual meeting in Scottsdale, which will prove to be an excellent educational and social networking venue. Thank you to the ACC Committee for their hard work and dedication to these events throughout the year!

The AAMD online Members Forum has been active; but we would like to see more activity from our members. Based on the annual membership surveys, the members wanted a forum not available to the public where they could share ideas and techniques. I would like to encourage everyone to use this members-only forum. There is also a library area where you can share links to published work that can be referenced to topics being discussed.

I have seen an increase in the number of medical dosimetrists joining our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. This is an excellent way to increase social networking for medical dosimetry professionals. Feel free to actively participate on those pages.

Get ready for the new and improved AAMD Store! We will soon have new merchandise available for sale in the online store. These items will also be available to purchase at the annual meeting. Things like mouse pads and shirts will be featured first with our latest contest slogans. We will then follow with items such as flash drives and calendars, and then work towards the National Medical Dosimetrist's Day event.

We had another year of unopposed candidates for board positions. I would like to welcome incoming board members: Patty Barrett (Region VI) and Matt Palmer (Recording Secretary). We are looking for names to appoint for Region II and Region V Directors.

Does anyone have ideas for promotional contests or fun things to add to our website? Feel free to pass those along. It's your professional organization – so let's hear your thoughts! Maybe you can even post them on Facebook!

Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD
AAMD President
lenards.nish@uwlax.edu



NEWSFLASH

Region IV Meeting Scheduled for October 2009

By Chris Moore, AAMD Region IV Director

We interrupt this eMonitor with exciting news breaking directly from Burlington, Vermont. It seems there will be a Region IV meeting held October 23-24 at the Courtyard by Marriott overlooking scenic Lake Champlain. This educational meeting will offer up to 12 MDCB credits from a variety of scientific lectures. We urge you to mark your calendar and check for updates on both the AAMD website and eMonitor. Burlington is absolutely gorgeous at that time of year with many quaint restaurants and shops to choose from after a day of lectures.

We are still looking to fill a few remaining speaker slots so if you reside in close proximity to Burlington and have an appealing topic, please contact Chris Moore (cjmaamd@comcast.net) or Mark Reid (Mark.Reid@vtmednet.org). We welcome any questions, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

We now return you to your regularly scheduled eMonitor!

What Can Social Networking Sites Do for Medical Dosimetrists?

By Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD

AAMD President / Public Relations Committee Co-Chair / IT Committee Co-Chair

Social Networking Sites (SNS) are interactive opportunities to connect with other medical dosimetry professionals to help improve patient care or simply network with colleagues. In fact, SNS can serve as a communication tool to connect with patients, the public and prospective students.

So what is an SNS? An online place to share ideas, support causes, and create new communities based on a mutual interest rather than a geographic location. This is a great way to connect our professional interests in medical dosimetry. Examples of SNS include Facebook and LinkedIn.

Medical Dosimetrists use SNS to help search or recruit for jobs, advertise information about a facility or even professional organizations, and connect with other colleagues for personal or professional purposes. The AAMD has made its own Web 2.0 presence with **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** sites. The primary goal is to post events and provide a social networking forum. This is open to those who have an interest in medical dosimetry as well. This provides a venue to raise awareness about the profession and answer questions that others may have.

As with any online SNS, there are concerns such as loss of privacy or perceptions of colleague interactions in the online environment. Your Facebook account can be adjusted to have the privacy settings at a level you are comfortable with. You have the ability to control who views your page. LinkedIn is also an invitation-based SNS. When you join a SNS, the most important message is to remember that whatever you post online can be read by other colleagues, professionals, patients, families and prospective students.

Take the time to join the AAMD **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** sites. These are great tools to connect with colleagues... similar to what we do at meetings. We must be the advocates for our own profession. What better way than with a presence on Web 2.0?!



Radiological Society of North America Associated Sciences Consortium Update

By Gregg Robinson, CAE, AAMD Executive Director

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Associated Sciences Consortium notified the AAMD in late April of the AAMD's acceptance into the Associated Sciences Consortium. This presents AAMD with the opportunity to work with several radiology and radiation oncology related groups throughout the year and to participate in the development of educational opportunities through the Associated Sciences course offerings at the RSNA annual meeting. The Associated Sciences Consortium is a working group within the RSNA representing 10 professional societies in the radiological

sciences, technology and administration which conducts workshops, symposia, and refresher courses as part of the RSNA Annual meeting program.

Melanie Dempsey, RT(T), CMD will serve as the AAMD liaison representative to the consortium. Her involvement will consist of committee meetings throughout the year and attendance at the RSNA meeting. We are excited about the AAMD's participation and look forward to increasing our involvement with the Consortium and collaborating with the other organizations.

2009 CMD Exam Offered at Sites Around the World

By Felicia Lembesis
MDCB Executive Director



Three hundred ninety-four candidates have been approved to sit for the 2009 Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) Certified Medical Dosimetrist Exam administered on Sunday, June 21 at the AAMD annual meeting site and in 13 other locations in the United States, Toronto, Canada and Hong Kong.

MDCB is the recognized certifying agency for Medical Dosimetry in the United States and administers the exam one time per year. Upon fulfillment of the eligibility criteria established by the MDCB, an individual may apply to take the certification exam.

An exam overview, including exam eligibility information, a comprehensive exam handbook and study guide, are posted on the MDCB Web site, www.mdcb.org. Medical Dosimetrists planning to sit for the 2010 exam should visit the website for updated eligibility requirements.

The MDCB requires those holding certificates from the MDCB and those applying for examination and certification by MDCB to comply with all ethical standards set forth.

AAMD Membership Survey Update

The Membership Committee would like to thank all AAMD members who responded to the recent online membership survey. Results are being analyzed and plans for changes and/or additions to the AAMD member programs and services will be discussed at the Membership Luncheon at the AAMD Annual Meeting in Scottsdale. We appreciate everyone's participation in the survey. Your input will help make AAMD even stronger!



AAMD Education and Research Foundation Receives Tax Exempt Status

By Mark Reid, CMD

President, AAMD Education and Research Foundation

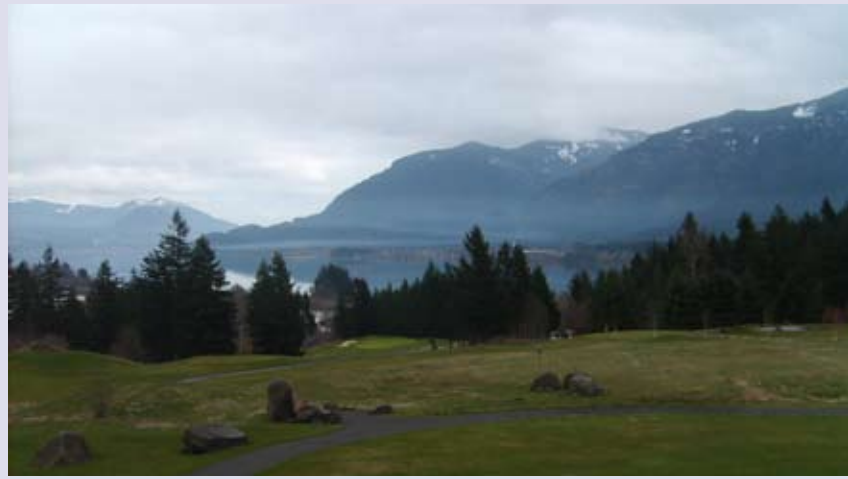
The AAMD Education and Research Foundation recently received word on the acceptance of its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. As a result, the Foundation will move ahead with its efforts to meet new educational needs and workforce issues of the profession. The Foundation will be providing scholarships to medical dosimetry students, supporting formal medical dosimetry education programs and funding medical dosimetry research programs.

The Foundation is dedicated to the promotion and support of education and research for medical dosimetrists and will be focusing on two primary efforts - Education and Research.

Education efforts will contribute to funding educational initiatives in medical dosimetry according to the Foundation's principles, with the goal of increasing formal medical dosimetry graduates by 75% over the next few years.

The Foundation will also be involved with research and will contribute funding to research in medical dosimetry by clinical medical dosimetrists with the goal of maintaining an annual rate of increase of 10% in the amount of published material, educational tools, treatment devices, or presentations over the next 3 years.

The Foundation will have a presence at the AAMD Annual Meeting, and we hope to see you there.



AAMD Region I and Northwest Chapter AAPM Spring Meeting Breaks Attendance Records

By Kristen Johnson, RT(T), CMD, AAMD Region I Spring Meeting Co-Chair and Laura Earley, CMD, AAMD Region I Director

The grand Skamania Lodge in Stevenson Washington was the pristine setting for the AAMD Region I and AAPM Northwest Chapter Spring Meeting March 20 - 21, 2009. We had record-breaking attendance by both the dosimetrists and the physicists with 150 total attendees. The excellent support from the corporate community made for a lively, overflowing exhibit hall. In addition, we not only had brilliant speakers from the Northwest, but also attracted some renowned speakers from around the country – California, Missouri, Florida and Alaska. Sessions were approved for 18 hours of continuing education by both MDCB and CAMPEP.

The diverse cast of speakers set the stage for interesting topics of current trends and technologies in our changing field. Attendees took home new understanding and ideas to implement in their own departments such as the various ways to approach going paperless following the Paperless Department Panel discussion. Dr. Kenneth Stevens provided a wonderful historical review of the development of radiation therapy in the Northwest. His humorous, heartfelt talk during the Friday evening reception was an extraordinary addition to our meeting.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the AAMD/AAPM volunteers, attendees, and all others who made this meeting possible. We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2010 Region I meeting in beautiful Napa California.





AAMD Region V Meeting Draws Big Crowd and Raises Money for AAMD Education & Research Foundation

By Anjenette Milligan, MS, CMD, Region V Director

The AAMD Region V hosted a fantastic meeting in North Myrtle Beach, SC, April 3 – 4, 2009. The meeting offered temperatures of 78 degrees, sunshine and ocean views. There were over 110 attendees and 14 exhibitors. Region V would like to thank the sponsors that supported our meeting: Aktina Medical, Best Medical International, .decimal, Elekta-CMS, Oncology Data Systems-MUCheck, Philips Healthcare, Physics and Computer Planning, Radiation Oncology at Brody School of Medicine, Radiation Oncology Resources, Revenue Cycle, TomoTherapy, Varian Medical Systems – Brachytherapy, and Varian Medical Systems – Oncology.



The Co-chairs were Cara Sullivan, CMD and Anjenette Milligan, CMD. Additional Committee members were Courtney Stark, CMD, Damien Pusey, CMD, Loretta Hulse, CMD and Mark Russell. Thanks to the efforts of this committee, the meeting was a great success. The AAMD Executive Director, Gregg Robinson, gave the opening remarks. Stacey Wilson from AAMD Marketing also assisted with registration and the exhibit hall area.



The attendees came from various locations, including California, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York and Maryland. The meeting was approved for 16 Florida State and MDCB credits. The speakers covered a wide variety of innovative topics. The Audio Visual Coordinator was lauded by the speakers for his expertise in assisting with movie clips and animated slides. For a taste of what you missed, you may view some of the presentation data on the AAMD website. Once again, “Students Helping Students” offered chair massages to attendees with donations going to the AAMD Education and Research Foundation. With these donations plus speakers electing to donate their honoraria, the total donation to the Foundation was over \$1,200. The meeting evaluations were very positive with requests for another meeting in the spring and one in the fall every year!



Effective July 1, I will be resigning as Region V Director. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position that has allowed me to meet many new members and grow professionally. I want to thank the Region V members for supporting me over the last six years.

NOTE: If you would like to be considered for the Region V Director position or know someone who might be interested, please forward the information as soon as possible to the AAMD headquarters c/o Spencer Boulter: 703-234-4063 (phone) or sboulter@drohanmgmt.com. The Regional Directors guidelines and qualifications may be reviewed on the AAMD website at: www.medicaldosimetry.org

AAMD Student Membership Opens Doors

By Cara Sullivan, CMD

AAMD Membership Committee Co-Chair

The membership committee would like to take this opportunity to inform all interested parties that the AAMD offers a discounted membership rate for Medical Dosimetry students currently enrolled in a JRCERT accredited program. As a student member, individuals will receive the quarterly AAMD journal, have access to the AAMD website and its members-only content, be eligible to serve in committee positions and receive discounted rates for both the AAMD annual meeting and all regional AAMD meetings.

By joining AAMD, student members will have more accessibility to MDCB credits, which are required by the Medical Dosimetry Certification Board prior to taking the certification exam. We would like to suggest that all AAMD members encourage dosimetry students to join our organization so they can enjoy the benefits that the AAMD currently offers all its esteemed members. Please visit the AAMD website at www.medicaldosimetry.org to see all student member requirements and print an application for membership.

Have a New Email Address?

If you've changed email addresses, be sure to keep your AAMD membership record up-to-date. That way, you won't miss out on any of the news and updates from AAMD. Simply visit the AAMD website at www.medicaldosimetry.org and log in with your username and password to update your email address. And if you have colleagues who've recently changed email addresses, encourage them to update their information with AAMD too.

CORNER

STUDENT

What's New in Medical Dosimetry School?

By Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Medical Dosimetry Program Director and AAMD President

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Medical Dosimetry students recently completed an online Wiki project for their online Brachytherapy course. The objective of the project was to work in small groups and research specific items for their assigned radioactive isotope. Previously, students were assigned a research paper for a radioactive isotope, but the project was changed this year to focus on group collaboration and creation of an online study guide to be used for board preparation.

Prior to this project, students had collaborated online with Google Docs to create clinical oncology worksheets, but this was a new endeavor for them as they were creating their own Wiki site that is open to the public for viewing and can be used for their own study guide in the future.

This was a very useful and successful project for the students and one they can be proud of. To see their Wiki site, visit this link: <http://uwlbrachyclass0809.wetpaint.com/>