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## Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee

*Tom Buhl, CHP, Committee Chair*

The Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee (TP-PR) is the newest of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) eight standing committees and is now in its second year. It was incorporated into the AAHP Bylaws by the AAHP membership during a special election in 2006.

### Activities to Date

The current program began in 2003 when the Health Physics Society (HPS), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and the AAHP met to discuss jointly pursuing title protection and professional recognition (TP-PR) for its members. The AIHA had had a TP-PR program for some time and had obtained TP-PR in some 19 states. It was interested in amending that legislation to include two additional categories. In the proposal, the AIHA's already-established Government Affairs Office would reopen existing legislation, or propose new legislation, to include these additional categories. The AAHP and HPS would provide TP-PR text to the AIHA that included categories for certified health physicists (CHPs), health physicists, and registered radiation protection technologists (RRPT) in the modified (or new) legislation.

The results of these meetings were formalized in the December 2004 "Tripartite Agreement" of the three organizations. The AAHP TP-PR Committee has the responsibility for the CHP portion of the program. The Tripartite Agreement had its first success in February 2005 when Georgia officially enacted a law giving health physics title protection and professional recognition.

In 2006 two states were initially approached to reopen legislation. During the early part of the year, however, the American Board of Industrial Hygiene discontinued one of the two additional categories. Legislative efforts slowed while this issue was under consideration and also because 2006 was an "off year" for many legislatures when only state governors could introduce new legislation.

During 2007 the draft legislation was sent to four state legislatures, and to date one has indicated interest in considering the legislation during the next term.

The committee chair wrote to the chair of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) asking that the CRCPD endorse the TP-PR program. After careful consideration, the Conference endorsed the CHP portion of the program. The committee feels that obtaining this endorsement from the state radiation control programs is an important step in eventually obtaining legislative approval for TP-PR and is very appreciative to the CRCPD for its support.

### What the Committee Does

The committee primarily deals with the TP-PR program as it relates to CHPs and with the AAHP's responsibilities under the Tripartite Agreement. It supports similar efforts for health physicists and RRPTs for which the HPS has the lead. In summary, the committee maintains and develops draft model legislation on TP-PR, supports local CHPs and health physicists in preparing testimony for legislative hearings, and coordinates our program both with the AIHA Government Affairs Director, who has the overall lead for the program, and with the HPS. A more detailed list of the committee's activities appeared in last August's "CHP Corner."

### Committee Members

The other current committee members are Kathleen Dinnel-Jones, Kenny Fleming, Judson Kenoyer, Scott Kirk, and Jay Maisler. The AAHP greatly appreciates all the effort these individuals have provided in supporting the Academy and the TP-PR program, and their willingness to serve on the committee.

The committee also wishes to thank Aaron Trippler, director of the AIHA Government Affairs Office, for his help and support throughout the year.

