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ABHP Meeting

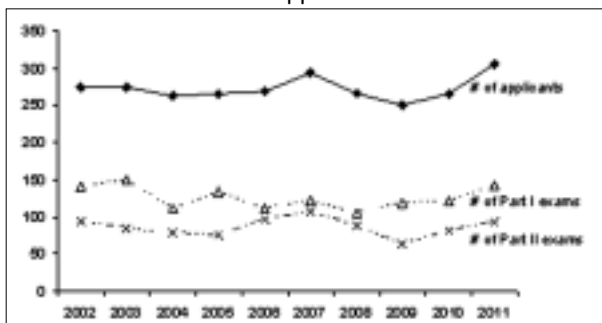
Kent Lambert, ABHP Chair

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) held its summer meeting 25 June 2011 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Members starting their terms in 2011 (and continuing through 2015) are Charles (Gus) Potter and Pat LaFrate. ABHP officers for the 2012 calendar year were selected as follows: Chair Gus Potter, Vice Chair Govind Rao, Secretary George MacDurmon, and Parliamentarian Sharon Dossett. The exam panel officers for 2012 are Part I Panel Chair Jay Tarzia, Part I Panel Vice Chair William Rhodes, Part II Panel Chair Glenn Sturchio, and Part II Panel Vice Chair Wayne Gaul.

The Board recommended, and the Academy endorsed, adding nonionizing radiation as a specialty topic for Part II of the certification examination. Prior to this action, nonionizing radiation was a part of the “general” specialty topic (yes, an oxymoron). The specialty topics from which candidates taking Part II of the exam may choose to answer four of eight questions are accelerator, environmental, fuel cycle (can include waste management), medical, nonionizing radiation, reactor (including research and/or power reactors), university/research, and general.

There were more applicants this year than in any of the previous 10. Purely speculative explanations were offered at the ABHP meeting, but none were convincing. Below is a chart showing the numbers of applicants and the numbers of Part I and Part II exams administered over the last decade.

Number of Applicants vs Year



Finally, there was a bit of extra excitement for a few examinees. Early in the morning of the exam (it was 12:45 a.m., so some might say late the night before), Nancy Johnson was contacted by Michael Mallet, the proctor administering the exam in Los Alamos. The site had been closed due to a forest fire. Nancy Johnson, Kathy Shingleton, and I retreated to Nancy’s hotel room to address the issue. With the help of Michael and Tom Buhl (whom we woke at 6:00 a.m.), we arranged an alternate site for the exam, contacted all involved candidates, and coordinated administration of the exam. Special thanks go to all involved, but especially to Mike and Tom; I owe the former a drink of his choosing and the latter a large, gourmet, caffeinated beverage.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Ruth E. McBurney, Chair

The purpose of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is to define the Standards of Professional Responsibility for certified health physicists (CHPs) and to review all complaints about ethical practice referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. The activities of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee were, fortunately, very limited this past year. This is a good sign that suggests that our colleagues are continuing to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.

The committee is also responsible for selection of the Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award winners. This award is given in memory and honor of Joyce P. Davis in recognition of her dedication to the advancement of health physics and her humanitarian efforts to uphold the ethics of the profession. A call was issued for nominations for the 2011 Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award. Unfortunately, no nominations were received and the award was not presented this year. A call for nominations will be published in a later edition of the “CHP Corner.” I encourage all CHPs to begin thinking about those among our ranks who are deserving of this prestigious award.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee members, in addition to the chair, are Jack Fix, Nancy Kirner, Paul Rohwer, and Tim Taulbee.